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Please do not reply to this email. You can reach my office by emailing senatorlindseywilliams@pasenate.com.

State Senator
**LINDSEY M.
WILLIAMS**
Your District 38 Update



Save the Date for Upcoming March Events

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 25 2021
6 PM

HOW TO TALK TO LEGISLATORS
WITH SENATOR LINDSEY WILLIAMS
AND SPECIAL GUESTS



How to Talk to Legislators

Interested in how to better communicate your priorities to the government that represents you? Register [here](#) for our How to Talk to Legislators virtual event on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 6 pm. Look for details in next week's *District 38 Update*.



Housing Resources

Concerned landlords, tenants, and homeowners alike will benefit from this virtual event. Register [here](#) for our Housing Resource Session, Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 6 pm.

Legislative Update

Charter School Reform



When Governor Wolf delivered his budget address last month, he reaffirmed his commitment to building a stronger education system in this Commonwealth. And one aspect of his re-commitment to K-12 education is long overdue: Charter School Law Reform.

In 1997, the General Assembly enacted Pennsylvania's Charter School Law with the hope that through greater flexibility and choice, charter schools would improve learning opportunities and outcomes throughout the Commonwealth by introducing new and innovative teaching methods to our traditional public schools. However, after two long decades, those aspirations have yet to be fulfilled.

That's why my colleague Senator Jim Brewster and I are introducing much needed charter school reform legislation. By focusing on transparency, accountability, and funding, this legislation will, among other reforms, ensure board of trustee members are held to the same financial and ethical standards as school board members and district officials, establish a statewide performance matrix for charter schools, and finally address the inequities in charter school tuition rates.

School districts have been struggling with rising charter school costs for years. They have been passing these costs on to students by cutting services or not expanding programs such as career and technical education or hiring more school counselors to combat the mental health struggles they have always had, and will especially need going into the future. These

costs have been passed on to taxpayers by raising local property taxes. The reforms my bill proposes brings to the table requests both charter schools and traditional public schools have asked for years. This isn't about pitting one school against another, it is about fairness, transparency, and good governance in spending taxpayer dollars.

COVID-19 Update



This week Pennsylvania began vaccinating PreK-12 teachers, school staff, and childcare workers with 94,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. I was proud to support a [bill](#) that deployed members of our National Guard to administer vaccines, and I am pleased to see the Department of Health partnering with local Intermediate Units to administer the vaccine to educators across the Commonwealth to get our students and educators back to school safely.

Vaccine Resource Information

My office continues to facilitate vaccine allocations to providers and their patients. To help our constituents through this difficult time of high vaccine demand and low supply my staff continually updates this section with new vaccine appointment resources.

New!

Go to [COVID-19 Vaccine Resources for Western PA Seniors](#)

- The Facebook Group **Getting Pittsburgh Vaccinated** has compiled this comprehensive guide for Western PA seniors who need information on vaccine scheduling, provider locations, transportation, veteran vaccination, and answers to common vaccination questions.

New!

Visit [Weekly Tip Roundup 3/7-3/13 : COVID19PGH \(reddit.com\)](#)

- This curated weekly updated tips is compiled by the Facebook Group [Getting Pittsburgh Vaccinated](#). You can also join this Facebook group to receive more information and appointment opportunities that pop up throughout the week.

Go to [Getmyvaccine.org](#).

- Getmyvaccine.org aggregates CVS, Duane Reade, Rite Aid, Walgreens, and Walmart availability for COVID vaccines in your zip code to show you where you can sign up.

Go to [VaxxMax](#), an independent website that provides regularly updated **Rite Aid** and **Walgreens** vaccine slots by state. This is a grassroots website created to help streamline the vaccine process in the absence of state-wide systems.

- You must first pre-qualify on Rite Aid's scheduler [here](#) or Walgreens vaccine slot finder [here](#). When you find an available location on VaxxMax in Pennsylvania you can copy/paste on the Rite Aid or Walgreens page for scheduling.

Call PA Link for Vaccine Appointment Assistance by Phone:

- **1-800-753-8827**: PA Link provides assistance to seniors and the disabled and is taking calls from those without access to a computer. Operators will assess the caller's situation, offer guidance and transfer to a scheduling team. For callers with transportation needs, PA Link will also be able to contact partners with their local Area Agency on Aging to assist with coordinating rides.

Subscribe to Allegheny Alerts:

- You can customize your subscription to include alerts from Allegheny County's Health Department on vaccine availability. Sign up for Allegheny Alerts [here](#).
- **Note**: Allegheny Alerts now sends notifications for **telephone vaccine appointment** availability through the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania 2-1-1.

Register for UPMC's COVID-19 Vaccine Waitlist:

- By phone: 1-844-UPMCVAC (844-876-2822), 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., seven days a week.
- Online: [UPMC | COVID Vaccine Form](#). Call or register online for UPMC's vaccine waitlist. You will be contacted when a vaccine is available. Open to the general public.

Sign up for the PA Department of Health's "Your Turn" Eligibility Tool:

- Online only: [Your-Turn](#). This is not a waitlist, but a state-wide registry that alerts you when you are eligible for the vaccine.

Visit [Vaccinatepa.org](#):

- University of Pittsburgh student volunteers created this website to help Pennsylvanians get vaccinated as easily as possible. Information on specific

locations that have vaccine inventory is available to make scheduling efficient. Visit the website [here](#).

Consider joining [Getting Pittsburgh Vaccinated - COVID-19 Appointment Tip Page | Facebook](#):

- This facebook group collects information on how to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Visit the page [here](#).

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- **New:** Allegheny Alerts now sends notifications for telephone vaccine appointment availability through the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania 2-1-1.

Regularly visit [COVID-19 Vaccine Information | COVID-19 | Health Department | Allegheny County](#):

- Here you can schedule an appointment with the County Health Department's Monroeville clinic.

PA Department of Health, [Where Can I Get Vaccinated?](#):

- Use this tool to zoom in on a map of vaccine providers in your area. Click on the location for contact information to schedule an appointment.

Continually check with local health systems, pharmacies, or federally funded community clinics who are scheduling their own appointments.



HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY RELIEF PROGRAM

Application Period Opens March 15
AlleghenyCounty.us/CHIRP



COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP) Opens March 15!

If you are in the hospitality business (accommodation or food and drink establishments) in Allegheny County and you lost 25% or more in gross receipts between 2019 and 2020 you may be eligible for a \$5000 - \$50,000 CHIRP grant. The CHIRP grant program was created to alleviate revenue losses and pay eligible operating expenses caused by the pandemic to Pennsylvania's small to medium sized hospitality businesses.

Application portal opens March 15, 2021 and first, come first served funds must be dispersed by July 31, 2021. Go to [PA COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program | Economic Development | Allegheny County](#) for an overview of the program, eligibility criteria, and required documents. The 15 minute application process is simple if you have your documentation ready. Please call our office if you have any questions.



Allegheny County Emergency Rent and Utility Assistance Coming March 15, 2021

If you're a renter who has lost income due to COVID-19, you may be eligible for Emergency Rental Assistance. Applications open on March 15, 2021 at [Allegheny County Emergency Rental Assistance](#). Program details are not available yet, but preparing your eligibility documents ahead of time is recommended as funds are first come, first served:

- Eligibility includes significant loss of income, increase in your expenses or risk of being evicted. You'll be able to scan or take a photo and upload proof of residency and income like a valid state ID, paystubs or W2s.
- You'll be able to scan these documents or take a photo of them and upload along with your application when it's available.
- You'll need a valid email account to apply.
- If you do not have internet access at home, there will be seven drop-in centers open around Pittsburgh with free WiFi and computers. You will also be able to schedule an appointment to apply over the phone starting March 15th.
- You can subscribe to email or text updates on the program [here](#).

For help with immediate housing resources you can click [here](#) or call the United Way by dialing 2-1-1.

Good News



It is Fish Fry Season!

My staff and I are big fish fry fans and we like to compare our favorites. To find your new favorite click on the articles linked here: [Good Food Pittsburgh](#) and [Pittsburgh City Paper](#).

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have by phone at 412-364-0469 (Ross Office), 724-224-2131 (Harrison Office) or by email at SenatorLindseyWilliams@pasenate.com. My staff will return your call/email within 24 hours (Monday-Friday).

Senator Lindsey Williams

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