

**JOIN THE FIGHT
FOR MORE
FUNDING FOR
OUR SCHOOLS**



WINTER 2024

Serving the 7th Senatorial District

State Senator

**VINCENT
HUGHES**



Reports to the People

FUND OUR SCHOOLS: NOW!!!

In February 2023, a Commonwealth Court judge issued an 800-page court decision that said Pennsylvania funds its schools **unconstitutionally and inadequately**. Now, it's time for lawmakers to act. Pennsylvania has \$7 billion dollars in surplus revenue and \$6.2 billion dollars in the rainy day fund that can be used to fix our unconstitutional education funding system.

Scan the QR code to hear from Senator Hughes about the Commonwealth Court decision and the need to correct generations of unconstitutional and inadequate education funding in Pennsylvania.



JOIN THE FIGHT TO FIX PENNSYLVANIA'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

WHEN OUR SCHOOLS SUCCEED, OUR COMMUNITIES SUCCEED!

Senator Hughes joined the Basic Education Funding Commission for a series of 13 public meetings to hear from school districts, educators, and experts about what is needed to fully and adequately fund Pennsylvania public schools. In January 2024, the Commission issued a final report with 8 recommendations to fix Pennsylvania's public schools:

1. Reduce the volatility in the basic education funding formula
2. Calculate adequacy targets for each school district
3. Reconstitute the next BEFC in 2029 per Act 51 of 2014
4. Invest in school facilities
5. Examine charter school funding
6. Invest in our education workforce
7. Invest in student supports
8. Consider other important education issues outside the direct scope of this BEFC

This report is an important first step to fixing our schools, but we must remember it is a first step. For the 8 recommendations to truly impact students, Pennsylvania must make the investments outlined in the report. We'll first look to Governor Shapiro to prioritize these investments in his budget address on February 6th. Then, it's up to the state Senate and House to build a budget that includes these critical education investments.

I'm asking you to stay in this fight with us. Reach out to your state lawmakers to let them know you're paying attention and you want our public schools constitutionally funded!



**JOIN THE FIGHT FOR
OUR SCHOOLS**



DELIVERING MAJOR NEWS

By funding affordable housing, we are opening the door to stability, security, and the opportunity to begin building generational wealth through homeownership. – Senator Hughes

Senator Hughes helped negotiate the largest increase in affordable housing investments in Pennsylvania's history, taking the investment from about **\$55 million to \$475 million**. Several programs and initiatives have either been created or received more funding to meet the growing housing needs we're seeing in Philadelphia, Montgomery County, and across Pennsylvania.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Senator Hughes' commitment to securing more affordable housing for more people.



\$100 MILLION FOR THE NEW HOUSING OPTIONS GRANT PROGRAM



What it is: Grants made available to developers and non-profits to fund the construction of new affordable rental units, the rehab and preservation of currently existing affordable apartments, and emergency repairs to existing affordable rental units. Recipients of these grants must agree to keep rental units affordable to access the funds.

This grant program offers a major solution to combating gentrification.

Housing is fundamental.
– Senator Hughes

\$175 MILLION FOR THE NEW WHOLE-HOME REPAIRS PROGRAM

What it is: The Whole-Home Repairs Program creates a one-stop shop for home repairs and weatherization for residents in each county in Pennsylvania.

In Philadelphia, a portion of Whole-Home Repair investments are being used to fund the **Rental Improvement Fund**. \$7 million is available to help small landlords make repairs on their units in exchange for keeping rent affordable.



V FUNDING FOR HOUSING

AFFORDABLE HOUSING INVESTMENTS AT WORK IN DISTRICT 7

TRIANGLE SENIOR HOUSING

Senator Hughes was proud to announce **\$12 million dollars** in state funding to support a new affordable housing building for seniors in Mantua, at 38th and Parrish Street. The building will offer 40 units for low-income seniors. This project represents the work that can be done for affordable housing if we put our minds to it and drive resources to what communities need most.



MONUMENT VILLAGE

Senator Hughes was proud to celebrate the ribbon cutting of Monument Village, a 60-unit affordable housing rehabilitation project in West Philadelphia. The **\$16 million dollar** renovation was funded with a variety of support from the state and city, as well as private loans. The project was led by Mission First and Methodist Services, two organizations who also provide individuals and families with comprehensive social services.

“
This project is a tremendous commitment to affordable housing. It shows that if we are working together and we are really committed, we can do transformational change. We can create more housing for more folks who certainly deserve it.
– Senator Hughes
”

MT. VERNON MANOR CDC AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Senator Hughes hosted a check presentation at 39th and Brown in Mantua to support affordable housing in the community. **\$500,000** was presented to Mount Vernon Manor CDC for their project that will yield 3 affordable housing units and a new community office space where clients can get help and guidance on housing services.



FOOD FOR THE BRAIN

Nourishing Bodies and Minds in the 7th District

Senator Hughes and his wife, Sheryl Lee Ralph, collected food and books over the holiday season to distribute to students and families as part of his Food for the Brain campaign. Food for the Brain is a yearlong effort, but over the holidays it has extra importance. The goal is to ensure students have 1) access to healthy food to keep their bodies nourished and 2) access to books to encourage reading and learning, especially during times of the year when school is on break.

This past holiday season, Senator Hughes delivered food and books to 11 Philadelphia schools, with the help of partners including Share Food Program, DoorDash, Read to Succeed Philadelphia, Treehouse Books, West Philadelphia Alliance for Children, and Reading Recycled.



Senator Vincent Hughes, Senator Nikil Saval and Senator Art Haywood receiving the Community Development Champion award from the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHAMPION


Senator Hughes was honored to receive the Community Development Champion award from the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations. He was recognized for his commitment to affordable housing.

Senator Hughes helped negotiate Pennsylvania's investments in affordable housing from about \$55 million to \$475 million. He is continuing to fight for more resources to make quality affordable housing accessible and available to more people.

STATE SENATOR
**VINCENT
HUGHES**
DEMOCRATIC APPROPRIATIONS CHAIR

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Senator Hughes

SECURES

\$2 Million

for water infrastructure
improvements in Conshohocken
and Whitemarsh Township

Senator Hughes was proud to announce over \$600,000 dollars for improvements to stormwater systems in Whitemarsh Township, and over \$1.4 million dollars for a wastewater improvement project in Conshohocken. Both projects will support more efficient and reliable water systems for the many residents who depend on the critical infrastructure.

SERVING THE 7TH DISTRICT

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