

Representative Frank Dermody



Frank Dermody grew up with four brothers and sisters in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. His father worked in nearby coal mines but died when Frank was only 7, forcing Frank's mom, Bessie, to work full-time to support the family.

Frank was a talented three-sport athlete in high school and went on to play football at Columbia University in New York City. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Columbia in 1973 and then worked in sales in New York while saving money for law school.

In 1982, he received his law degree from Indiana University School of Law-Bloomington and married his law school classmate Debra Hewetson.

Dermody worked as an assistant public defender in Harrisburg and then as assistant district attorney in Allegheny County for five years, prosecuting rape, murder and child abuse cases.

In 1989, Gov. Robert P. Casey appointed Dermody to complete an unexpired term as District Justice for Oakmont and Verona. Dermody also acted as legal advisor to Allegheny County's 55 District Justices in 1989-1990.

He is a former instructor at the Community College of Allegheny County and former faculty member of the PA Bar Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

Dermody succeeded in his first try at elected office, joining the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1990. He has been re-elected from the 33rd District every two years since then and served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Courts in the Judiciary Committee, chairman of the Allegheny County Democratic Delegation, Caucus Secretary from 2006 to 2008 and chairman of the Urban Affairs Committee in 2009.

In 1994, Dermody was selected by House leaders for the sensitive task of leading the investigation into charges against Supreme Court Justice Rolf Larsen. That work led to Larsen's impeachment, with Dermody serving as the lead prosecutor in a trial before the State Senate which resulted in Larsen's removal from office.

Criminal justice and sentencing reform have been enduring legislative interests for Dermody. He served on the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing from 1991 to 2010, including 14 years as commission chairman.

In 2009, his Democratic colleagues elected him to be Majority Whip. He was unanimously elected to be Democratic Leader for the 2011-12 session.

Frank and Debra Dermody reside in Oakmont. They have two children, Frank and Cara.

Rep. Jordan Harris' Biography



State Representative Jordan Harris was elected to the State Legislature on Nov. 6, 2012, representing the 186th Legislative District in Philadelphia. On Nov. 15, 2016, Harris was sworn in as chairman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus. Prior to being elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Harris was appointed as the Executive Director of Philadelphia's Youth Commission where he advised the Mayor, City Council and other key decision-makers on issues relating to the city's youth and young adults. In this office, Harris spearheaded initiatives that helped address and ultimately end Philadelphia's outbreak of nuisance flash mobs, including extending the hours of the city's recreation centers and creating alternative activities.

Harris earned his Bachelor's Degree from Millersville University in Governmental and Political Affairs. He also holds a Master's Degree in Education from Cabrini College and is currently a Doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership at Neumann University. Before pursuing a career in public service, he worked as an educator in the Philadelphia Public School System for several years. He was also instrumental in designing Slam Dunk, a summer program that assisted over 600 high school students in meeting credit requirements for graduation.

Named one of The Philadelphia Tribune Magazine's "10 People Under 40 to Watch in 2011," Representative Harris is sought after to discuss youth leadership and development at universities, churches and on other platforms across the nation. Harris was selected as Talk Magazine's 101st person on their 2017 Most Influential Person list in PA. He is also a recipient of Odunde365's 2017 Community Service Award for Positively Impacting Lives. Harris is an informed advocate for the improvement of the educational system. He is passionate about a myriad of issues that affect the District he serves, including equal and quality education; employment and job creation; vocational training and job readiness programs; the rights and care of senior citizens; minority inclusion; bidding reform; and prison system reform. In 2017, Representative Harris was named one of the 100 Most Influential People in Philadelphia by Philadelphia Magazine.

Representative Harris has championed several issues since being elected to serve the residents of the 186th Legislative District, but one of his most notable victories was getting Pennsylvania Clean Slate signed into law. A first in the nation, the legislation allows automatic sealing of records for second- or third-degree misdemeanor offenses that included a less than two-year prison sentence if a person has been free from convictions for 10 years, as well as sealing of criminal history records related to charges that resulted in non-convictions.

This legislation, which Representative Harris has been working on since he was sworn into office, will allow many who have made mistakes in the past to move on and get a true second chance without being held back in job interviews or on higher education applications. Representative Harris joined Governor Tom Wolf as he signed the bill into law in June 2018.

Harris also welcomed Gov. Wolf to his district to discuss an executive order to "Ban the Box." The governor announced he would update state employment applications to no longer ask about criminal history. Harris co-sponsored H.R. 296, which urged the Office of Administration to adopt a "Ban the Box" policy relating to certain state agency employment applications.

Harris has been instrumental in the work against gun violence in Pennsylvania. Working hand-in-hand with Gov. Wolf, the state is now approaching gun violence as a public health issue. The declaration will

help the state drastically expand its response to the gun violence crisis. As part of the 2018-19 budget package, the General Assembly created a \$60 million block grant program for school and community safety, making Pennsylvania a national leader in this fight.

Representative Harris championed a crackdown on nuisance businesses, known as “stop and gos” in Philadelphia and throughout Pennsylvania. He sponsored H.B. 1547, which offered provisions to be enforced by the state Liquor Control Board. Language from Harris’ bill made it into the Fiscal Code enacted with the 2017-18 state budget.

His work was essential in creating a partnership between Cheyney University and Starbucks aimed at improving access to higher education for African Americans and promoting the school's legacy as the nation's oldest historically black college.

Representative Harris is currently President of the Board of Directors at Lincoln Day Educational Center, the oldest continuously operating African American Day School in the country. Harris currently serves as a member of the Council of Trustees at his alma mater – Millersville University. He serves as a Member of the Board of the Hardy Williams Education Fund, the Christian Street YMCA, and the Knight Foundation. Harris is also the Co-Chair of the Oil and Gas Caucus. He is a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Nu Sigma Chapter and Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons Cephas Lodge #98.

Representative Joanna McClinton



Joanna McClinton, Esquire, took the oath of office to serve the people of the 191st Legislative District on Aug. 25, 2015 after winning a special election two weeks prior.

The election to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives continues Rep. McClinton's lifelong devotion to bettering the lives of others.

A lifelong resident of southwest Philadelphia and graduate of Grace Temple Christian Academy, she became active in the community while completing a two-year internship with the radio station WDAS. Later, she studied Political Science and Leadership in Global Understanding at La Salle University where she was a Dean's List student, student leader and neighborhood tutor.

Immediately after graduating from LaSalle, she enrolled at Villanova University School of Law where she used her legal training to serve the public. She was an intern at Regional Housing Legal Services, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office and the Defender Association of Philadelphia.

She was an assistant public defender for seven years. She became the assistant chief of the East Zone during her last year at the public defender's office and helped attorneys with case preparation.

In 2013, Rep. McClinton combined her passion for the community and love of the law by becoming chief counsel to state Sen. Anthony Hardy Williams. She worked behind the scenes in the senator's Harrisburg and Philadelphia offices, developing policy and legislation. She also organized expungement fairs and public policy forums, and helped constituents with problems.

Rep. McClinton is active in the community. She was a youth leader at her West Philadelphia home church, Open Door Mission for more than 10 years. As a youth ministry leader, she organized positive programs for children, mentoring them and reminding them that their dreams can come true. She is a volunteer with Outreach to Youth and Hands of Compassion American Sign Language Ministry. She was an elected Board Member of the La Salle University Alumni Association Board of Directors, where she

helped initiate the Minority Alumni Advisory Group. She has served as the secretary of the Philadelphia Barrister's Association, the city's bar association of African American attorneys, and as president of the La Salle University African American Alumni Association.

Rep. McClinton has been acknowledged for her commitment to public service and enhancing the quality of life for residents in Philadelphia and Delaware Counties by receiving several awards. They include: City and State PA's 40 Under 40; the Barristers' Association of Philadelphia's Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year award; Successful Women Achieving Goals' Women of the Year award; Fun Time Magazine's Women of Influence Award; the PRE-K for PA Champion award; the Spirit of a Dove Community Servant award; the Lucien E. Blackwell Guiding Light Community award; and the Black Gala Women of Excellence award.

Representative Rosita C. Youngblood

State Representative Rosita C. Youngblood was first elected to serve in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on April 19, 1994. Throughout her tenure, Youngblood has focused on serving the constituents of the 198th Legislative District by introducing several issue-specific pieces of legislation and sponsoring a variety of community outreach programs and activities.



Educational background:

B.A., Antioch University

In 2011, Representative Youngblood was appointed Democratic chairwoman of the House Gaming Oversight Committee.

Other positions and membership Youngblood holds in various other organizations include:

- First Vice Chairwoman, Philadelphia Democratic party
- Founder of Women for Women
- First Vice Chairwoman of the Philadelphia County Democratic Executive Committee for eight years
- Elected President of the National Foundation of Women Legislator in 2008, and sworn-in in 2009
- Board Member, Lucien Crump Educational Foundation
- Board Member of (CUES) Creative Urban Education Systems
- 2000 African American Women
- Philadelphia Political Congress of African American Women
- Block Captain of 4600 Block of Morris Street
- Friends of Fernhill Park

Representative Youngblood's community involvement stems from a number of community outreach programs and activities she has hosted, such as:

- Student college fair
- Annual Halloween Children's Fair
- Thanksgiving and Christmas basket giveaways
- New Year's holiday party
- Women for Women Gulf Relief Effort 2005

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- Various community meetings focusing on senior issues, drugs and violence in Philadelphia, eminent domain and gaming

Since Representative Youngblood has taken office, she has been an advocate in state government for the residents of the 198th Legislative District and all Pennsylvanians through sponsoring and co-sponsoring legislation on the following issues:

- Kinship Care Program (Act No. 25 of 2003)
- Mass transit funding
- Domestic violence
- Public welfare
- Health services
- Distal Arthrogyrosis
- Property tax provisions
- Personal insurance
- Anti-counterfeiting

Representative Youngblood is also a member of the following House caucuses:

- Agriculture
- Arthritis & Osteoporosis
- Arts & Cultural
- Asthma
- Autism
- Cancer
- Early Childhood
- Legislative Hunger
- LGBT Equality
- Lupus
- Non-Profit Organizations
- PA Charities

Representative Matt Bradford



State Rep. Matt Bradford represents the 70th Legislative District in central Montgomery County and is no stranger to the issues most affecting working families.

In fact, not only does Bradford understand the issues confronting our communities -- as an attorney, activist, municipal official and now state representative -- Bradford also has a proven record of fighting for the people of Montgomery County. Additionally, as a husband and father of four young children, he knows that the decisions made in Harrisburg today have a real impact on our communities for years to come. That's why Bradford has taken the lessons he has learned while serving his community with him to Harrisburg where he is fighting for his constituents in the state House.

Bradford was raised in nearby Chester County, the youngest of three boys and the proud son of Marguerite and David Bradford. Marguerite served her country in the United States Naval Reserve and, later, her family as a working mom. David, though traveling extensively as a salesman while Bradford was young, instilled in Bradford a deep sense of duty and sacrifice for the betterment of one's family.

Later, Bradford's parents opened a small family business where Bradford frequently worked after school, on weekends and during the summer. From that experience, Bradford learned the importance of hard work. While continuing to work to help pay for school, Bradford earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Villanova University. While an undergraduate, Bradford was active in numerous charitable organizations as well as a volunteer as a youth basketball coach for the local C.Y.O. In law school, Bradford spent the summer working for the United Steelworkers Union's General Counsel's Office, the United States Attorney's Office and a federal district court judge.

After law school, Bradford was an associate in the law firm Drinker Biddle's litigation department. Bradford took a leave from his practice when he was appointed municipal administrator and chief executive officer of Norristown Borough, serving alongside Gov. Ed Rendell's special advisor to Norristown, Joseph C. Vignola.

In the wake of a municipal corruption scandal and with a state takeover looming, Bradford worked hand-in-hand with Vignola and local elected officials to navigate the financially distressed community away from bankruptcy. As a result of uncovering hundreds of thousands of dollars of waste, fraud and abuse, as well as from debt restructuring and contract concessions, Norristown -- after nearly a decade of red ink -- has seen a return to balanced budgets, a tremendous increase in public and private investment, and massive improvements in public services.

Bradford is Of Counsel at a municipal law firm and continues to assist local public officials in confronting the pressing policy issues that are most affecting our families and communities. Bradford previously served as a solicitor for several Montgomery County communities and a school board, where he found another outlet to serve while also advocating for better schools, better jobs and stronger communities.

Since being elected to the House, Bradford has built a reputation as a bipartisan consensus builder both locally and in Harrisburg.

Bradford resides in Worcester Township with his college sweetheart and wife, Renee, and their quickly growing family. Renee, having worked for an international trading company after graduating from

Villanova University, is currently a full-time mom and is busy raising their four children: Katherine Sophia, or "Kate"; John Patrick, or "Jack"; Zachary Matthew; and William, or "Will."

Representative Mike Sturla



P. Michael Sturla, state representative for the 96th Legislative District (Lancaster County) was born and raised in Lancaster County. He graduated from Garden Spot High School in 1974 and from the University of Kansas in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Design. While still in college, Mike started a small painting and renovating business with his brother that later became Sturla Brothers, Inc. Construction and Contracting. Mike would later form Aarchitrave, an architecture and design business with several partners.

Mike began his public service in 1987 when he was elected to Lancaster City Council. He also served as a member of the Lancaster County Planning Commission in 1990 until his election to the Pennsylvania House of

Representatives in 1991. For the past 28 years, Mike has diligently served the citizens of the 96th District, which includes Lancaster City and parts of Lancaster Township and Manheim Township. He also volunteers in the community and serves on various boards, including the Shreiner-Concord Cemetery, Lancaster County Workforce Investment Board and the Stevens College Community Advisory Council.

Throughout his legislative career, Mike has served on a variety of House standing committees, including Appropriations, Transportation, Health, Education, Urban Affairs, and Aging. As chairman of the Professional Licensure Committee in the 2007/08 session, he shepherded through 22 laws. He also has been a member of the Capitol Preservation Committee and the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

In the 2009/10 legislative session, Mike was elected by his Democratic colleagues to the leadership position of Democratic Policy Committee chairman. He has been re-elected to this post for each subsequent session. In this role, he is instrumental in crafting the caucus' policy agenda.

Representative Neal P. Goodman



State Representative Neal P. Goodman is serving his seventh term representing residents of Schuylkill County's 123rd Legislative District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

He is part of the House Democratic leadership team, elected by his colleagues to a third term as caucus administrator. In that role, he is responsible for ensuring caucus operations run smoothly.

A graduate of East Stroudsburg University, Goodman has served the public through state government for more than two decades.

He started his career in public service with the House Democratic research office, and served as chief of staff to former state Representative Edward J. Lucyk from 1993 to 2002. During his tenure as top aide, he served as executive director for the Veterans Affairs Committee, as well as the Tourism and Recreational Development Committee.

Goodman served in the United States Marine Corps from 1982 to 1988 when he was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant.



A combination of military and state government experience enabled Goodman to become an integral part of his home community. From 1988 through 1996, he served as a Mahanoy City borough councilman and served as council president from 1995 to 1996. He also served as director of the Schuylkill County Visitors Bureau and board member to MAJIC Corporation.

At the state level, he is the proud recipient of the American Legion's State Adjutant General's Award, the VFW's State Distinguished Service Award, the Chapel of the Four Chaplains Award, the 2005 Pennsylvania National Guard Commendation Medal, and the 2012 SEIU Thomas Zuber Memorial Award.

Locally, he received the 2016 Friend of Education award from the Mahanoy City and Schuylkill County Education Associations, the 2012 Mahanoy Area Outstanding Alumni of the Year, the 2007 Mahanoy City Elks Citizen of the Year, the 2006 Schuylkill County Joint Veterans Service to Veterans Award, and the 2005 Schuylkill Women in Crisis Leadership Award.

His legislative priorities include property tax reform, funding for public schools, protecting PACE/PACENET prescription-drug coverage for seniors, delivering funding to local fire and ambulance companies, and programs that benefit our veterans and their families.

Goodman resides in Mahanoy City with his wife Victoria. They have three children, Megan, Shannon and Neal Patrick.

The representative is an active member in many community organizations.