

This book comes on the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. Since then, women have taken their rightful place alongside men in crafting the laws that govern our land.

We hope this effort honors all the women who have dedicated themselves to serving the people of the Commonwealth in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

From the first eight women who were elected after the passage of the 19th Amendment, to the record number of women who took office in the House in the 2019-20 Legislative Session — all of their dedication and leadership have inspired Pennsylvanians for a century.

*Bryan Cutler
The Speaker*

Introduction

One hundred years ago, women in Pennsylvania and across the country were given the right to vote. The 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified on August 26, 1920. Two years following this historic event, on November 22, 1922, eight women were elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Today there are 55 female legislators comprising one-quarter of the chamber's population. This book commemorates and celebrates nearly a century of women's involvement in the legislature by providing a biography of every woman who has served.

Pennsylvania's Provincial Assembly, today known as the House of Representatives, was created by William Penn in 1682. It is difficult to imagine that for the first 238 years of the legislature's existence, women were not permitted to vote, let alone hold public office.

As you will read in this book, women began mobilizing in the 1830s. Initially their efforts focused on anti-slavery, and later, on the right to vote. For nearly a century, women marched, held peaceful demonstrations, met with elected officials, went on hunger strikes and went to prison to secure their rights.

Since 1922, 185 Black women have been elected to the Pennsylvania State House. In 1938, Crystal Bird Fauset became the first African-American woman to be elected. Since then, 23 additional Black women have been elected, as have women of Asian and Latin American descent. The women you will read about each have a unique story preceding their rise to public office. Coming from a wide variety of backgrounds and communities, the circumstances which prompted each to run for public office are both intriguing and inspiring.

To date, women have represented 48 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. Since 1922, 11 women have been elected to Republican and Democratic Caucus Leadership positions and 21 have chaired committees.

This book was printed under the guidance and support of House Republican Whip, Rep. Donna Oberlander; House Republican Caucus Chair, Rep. Marcy Toepel; House Democratic Caucus Chair, Rep. Joanna McClinton; House Democratic Caucus Secretary, Rep. Rosita Youngblood; and the Chairs of the Women's Caucus, Rep. Karen Boback and Rep. Margo Davidson.



The Suffrage Movement in
Pennsylvania and Beyond

The Suffrage Movement in Pennsylvania and Beyond

From the very beginning of suffrage efforts in the United States, the women of Pennsylvania played an important part in gaining the vote for women across the nation. The roots of women's rights activism in Pennsylvania began with anti-slavery efforts as far back as the 1830s. Women who spoke publicly during abolitionist activities were often criticized as being "unwomanly" for their efforts.¹ The core beliefs of the women's suffrage movement, that all people were created equal and therefore deserving of respect and rights, can be attributed to early Pennsylvania's Quaker roots.²

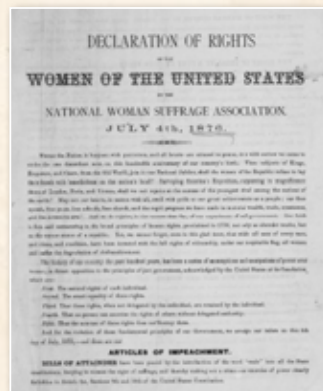
The first national gathering dedicated to gaining rights for women, including the right to vote, was in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848. Organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton of New York and Lucretia Mott of Philadelphia, the convention yielded the "Declaration of Sentiments, Grievances, and Resolutions," which was stylized after the preamble to the Declaration of Independence. The declaration stated: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal," and called for civil, social, and political rights for women.³

In 1876, Philadelphia took center stage for one of the country's earliest women's suffrage protests. The U.S. Centennial Exhibition took place in the city to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. After being sidelined by the event's coordinators, the women of the National Woman Suffrage Association, including Susan B. Anthony, took the stage after the reading of the Declaration of Independence and delivered a statement of their own while distributing copies of their declaration to the large crowd.⁴

Women in Pennsylvania staged a number of public demonstrations aimed at rallying support for the suffrage cause. On July 8, 1913, the Erie suffrage march was held during the centennial



Source: Library of Congress
Lucretia Mott helped found the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society in 1833, and later was one of the principle organizers of the famous Seneca Falls Convention in New York.



Source: Library of Congress
Susan B. Anthony and other suffragettes distributed tracts such as this to the crowds at the U.S. Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia.



The Suffrage Movement in Pennsylvania and Beyond

celebration of Commodore Perry's victory at the Battle of Lake Erie. Hundreds of women, dressed in white and wearing blue Pennsylvania sashes, marched and carried signs with messages such as "Taxation Without Representation is Tyranny."⁵ One of the most famous demonstrations took place in Philadelphia in 1914. Women protested at Rittenhouse Square and then marched down Market Street to Washington Square where they concluded their protest.⁶

In the early 20th century, many suffragettes saw amending Pennsylvania's Constitution as the best way to gain voting rights for women in the Commonwealth. To accomplish this, the passage of a joint resolution through two sessions of the legislature as well as approval by the state's voters was necessary. Beginning in 1911, efforts to achieve this began in earnest. Resolutions successfully passed Pennsylvania's legislature and the measure was put to the voters of Pennsylvania for ratification in 1915.

In an effort to gain support for the proposed amendment, Katharine Wentworth Ruschenberger commissioned a replica of the Liberty Bell. Referred to as the Justice Bell, its clapper was chained so that it would remain silent until victory for women's suffrage was achieved. Ruschenberger, a member of the Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association, took the Justice Bell around the state to rally support for the cause. Despite this, the amendment was rejected by Pennsylvania's male voters.⁷



Source: Library of Congress

The Justice Bell toured across Pennsylvania to bolster support for a proposed amendment to Pennsylvania's Constitution allowing women to vote.



The Suffrage Movement in Pennsylvania and Beyond

Throughout the women's suffrage movement, both in Pennsylvania and the rest of the United States, African-American women were often marginalized and overlooked. African-American women faced not only societal discrimination based on their gender, but also their race. This reality made their work towards equality even more challenging.

Despite these obstacles, many African-American women worked tirelessly to gain their right to vote. One such woman was Frances Ellen Walker Harper of Pennsylvania, a noted abolitionist and supporter of women's rights. Harper was a member of the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA), which did not explicitly exclude African-American women like some other suffrage organizations. Speaking at the closing of an AWSA convention, Harper explained, "Much as white women need the ballot, colored women need it more."⁸

While many women focused their attention to affecting change at the state level, other suffragettes took their demands to Washington, D.C. The National American Woman Suffrage Association organized a march down Pennsylvania Avenue on March 13, 1913. The demonstrators hoped to rally support for the Susan B. Anthony Amendment to the United States Constitution. The proposed amendment, which was first proposed in 1878, read: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."⁹



Source: Library of Congress
Frances E.W. Harper: noted abolitionist, poet, and advocate of women's rights.



Source: Library of Congress
Cover of the program distributed by the National American Woman Suffrage Association at the procession.

The Suffrage Movement in Pennsylvania and Beyond

On June 4, 1919, Congress passed the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote. In order to add the amendment to the United States Constitution, three-fourths of the states were required to ratify it. Pennsylvania's legislature voted to ratify the 19th Amendment on June 24, 1919. On August 18, 1920, the 36th state required for ratification approved the amendment. The 19th Amendment was certified by the U.S. Secretary of State on August 26, 1920.



*Source: Library of Congress
Governor Sproul signing the 19th Amendment.*

The Justice Bell rang for the first time on September 25, 1920, on Independence Square in Philadelphia. Women were able to legally vote in Pennsylvania for the first time the following November. The women in Pennsylvania wasted no time exercising their new right and quickly sought public office. In the 1922 general election, eight women from across the Commonwealth won seats in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.¹⁰



WOMEN
of the
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
1923-2020

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Sarah McCune Gallaher

Born: June 8, 1864, New Washington, Clearfield County, Pennsylvania. Died: July 23, 1964, Spangler, Cambria County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Cambria County's 2nd District, 1923-1924. Affiliation: Republican.

Sarah McCune Gallaher was born on June 8, 1864 in New Washington, Clearfield County, Pennsylvania. She studied at Indiana Normal School (now Indiana University of Pennsylvania) and earned her Bachelor of Education degree in 1884, and an M.S. in 1888. In 1895, she earned her Bachelor of Philosophy degree from Cornell University. Gallaher continued her education abroad, studying at Oxford University and Berlin University. After returning to Pennsylvania, the University of Pennsylvania awarded Gallaher the Bennett Fellowship in American History, and she earned her M.A. from the university in 1902. Gallaher has the distinction of being the first American permitted to conduct research using the historical records of William Penn at the Library of London.

In addition to her own academic pursuits, Gallaher became a distinguished educator. From 1888 to 1893, she was an Instructor at the Indiana State Normal School, and was an Associate Principal at the College Preparatory School in Birmingham, Pennsylvania. In 1904, Gallaher established the Ebensburg Elementary Boarding School, which she operated until 1942. She also established a school in Puerto Rico. In addition to teaching, Gallaher was a professional reader – considered to be an authority on Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and William Penn – who would perform at both institutions and private events.

Gallaher began her engagement with politics as a member of various civic and political groups such as the Mothers' Assistance Board of Cambria County, the Republican Women's Organization of Cambria County, and the State Teachers' Association. She was also a founder of the Ebensburg Free Public Library.

Gallaher was one of the first eight women elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1922. She was elected as a Republican and served Cambria County's 2nd District from 1923 to 1924. During her only session in office, Gallaher was the prime sponsor of two bills dealing with highway maintenance. Gallaher did not run for reelection in 1924



and when media asked about her single session in office, she explained, "I only ran the first time because women were given the right to sit and most of them were timid about running. I did it to give them an example."¹¹

After Gallaher's time in office, she continued her work as an educator.

Sarah McCune Gallaher died on July 23, 1964 at the age of 100 in Spangler, Cambria County, Pennsylvania. She is interred in New Washington Cemetery, New Washington, Clearfield County, Pennsylvania.





Sarah Gertrude MacKinney

Born: March 29, 1874, Chicora, Butler County, Pennsylvania. Died: May 1, 1966, Butler, Butler County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Butler County, 1923-1924. Affiliation: Republican.

Sarah Gertrude MacKinney was born on March 29, 1874 in Chicora, Butler County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Grove City High School and earned an M.A. from Grove City College in 1898. She taught in public schools in Crawford, Mercer, Butler, and Allegheny counties before returning to Grove City College as the librarian. In 1909, she returned to Butler County and engaged in the manufacturing business.

MacKinney began her career in politics as a member of civic and political groups. She served as president of the Women's Club of Butler and as vice president of the 14 county southwestern district of the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women. MacKinney strongly advocated for the cause of women's suffrage. She organized and was president of the League of Women Voters in Butler County.

MacKinney was one of the first eight women elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1922. She was elected as a Republican to represent Butler County from 1923 to 1924. During her time in office, MacKinney was the prime sponsor of three bills, one to amend the state constitution, another to regulate the incorporation of certain charitable institutions, and a third to provide living wages to women and children workers. She was also the author of a resolution to reduce the number of people employed by the House.

After her time in office, MacKinney was appointed the State Librarian of Pennsylvania. She served in this role from 1931 to 1935. MacKinney was also a member of the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Elections Association.

Sarah Gertrude MacKinney died May 1, 1966 in Butler, Butler County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at North Side Cemetery, Butler, Butler County, Pennsylvania.





Martha G. Speiser

Born: May 15, 1884, Belfast, Ireland. Died: September 22, 1968, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Philadelphia County's 1st District, 1923-1924.

Affiliation: Republican.

Martha Speiser (née Glazer) was born on May 15, 1884 in Belfast, County Antrim, Ireland. In 1900, she married Maurice J. Speiser, and the couple had two sons: Herbert and Raymond. Maurice J. Speiser was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1913-1914 session, but resigned June 27, 1913 when appointed assistant district attorney of Philadelphia.

Martha Speiser was active in her community, and was a well-known patron of the arts. She chaired the Philadelphia district of the Red Cross and the Liberty Loan drive during World War I. She was a member of the Art Alliance, Philadelphia Orchestra Association, and the Philadelphia Council of the Performing Arts.

Speiser was one of the first eight women elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1922. She was elected as a Republican to represent Philadelphia's 1st District. During her single session in office, Speiser proposed several pieces of legislation aimed at prison welfare — two of which were enacted. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 203 of 1923, which directed that prisoners could not be deprived of tobacco for longer than two weeks, as well as Act 306 of 1923 which required that two hours of physical activity was to be provided for inmates daily.

Following her time in the House, Speiser continued her patronage of the arts. Her home in Philadelphia was well-known for hosting musicians, painters, writers, and other artists. She donated art from her personal collection to the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. She and her husband also made a large donation of theater-related books to the University of Pennsylvania, as well as a portrait of conductor Leopold Stokowski to the Academy of Music upon the death of their son Herbert.

Martha Speiser died September 22, 1968 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She was cremated at Cheltenham Hills Cemetery in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.





Rosa de Young

Born: April 3, 1881, Baltimore, Baltimore County, Maryland. Died: June 21, 1955, New Hope, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Philadelphia County's 17th District, 1923-1924. Affiliation: Republican.

Rosa de Young (née Stein) was born on April 3, 1881 in Baltimore, Maryland. She attended Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland from 1897 to 1898. On June 10, 1901 she married Bertram I. de Young in Baltimore, Maryland. The couple had one daughter: Elizabeth.

After relocating to Philadelphia, de Young became active in political and civic organizations. She was a member of the 34th Ward Branch Civic Club, the Philadelphia Orchestra Association, the Public Education and Child Labor Association, the Juvenile Aid Society, and the Philadelphia Council of Jewish Women.

Rosa de Young was one of the first eight women elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1922. She was elected as a Republican to represent Philadelphia's 17th District. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 131 of 1923, which required that parents be notified within 10 days of the registration of their child's birth certificate by the Department of Health. She did not run for reelection in 1924. When asked about returning to the House, de Young replied that she "would like to go back, but you see I have a family, and I don't believe it's exactly fair to — but I think I'll never really lose touch."¹²

Following her time in office, de Young remained active in politics as a member of the League of Women Voters, the Child Study Association, and the Planned Parenthood Association. In 1936, de Young was elected chair of the Philadelphia Theater Control Board.

Rosa de Young died June 21, 1955 in New Hope, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Mount Sinai Cemetery, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.





Martha Gibbons Thomas

Born: February 13, 1869, Whitford, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Died: June 26, 1942, West Chester, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Chester County's 2nd District, 1923-1926. Affiliation: Republican.

Martha Gibbons Thomas was born on February 13, 1869 in Whitford, Chester County, Pennsylvania. She spent her early life on a farm that was part of her family's estate which her ancestors purchased from William Penn. Thomas graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1889 as part of the school's first graduating class after its founding in 1885. Thomas continued to be affiliated with the college after her graduation, serving as a residence hall warden and member of the scholarship and loan fund committees.

Thomas worked for women's rights prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. She was the chair of the Women's Committee of the Council of Defense for Chester County from 1917 to 1919. She was also a board member of the Chester County Hospital and School of Horticulture for Women in Ambler, Pennsylvania. Thomas was an active member of the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters beginning with their first meeting in 1920 until her resignation in 1927.

Thomas was one of the first eight women elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1922. She was elected as a Republican to serve Chester County's 2nd District, and was reelected for one subsequent session. During her time in office, Thomas had numerous legislative successes and consistently championed issues regarding agriculture and public health — securing several appropriations for those causes. She was also invested in child welfare issues, and was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 411 of 1923. This legislation created a commission that would review all laws relating to child welfare, as well as government records from institutions/societies that worked with children in order to make recommendations for further legislation.

During her time in office, Thomas also served as the State's Official Hostess at the Sesquicentennial International Exposition in Philadelphia in 1926, which celebrated the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



Thomas stayed active in politics following her House tenure. She served as the president of the Women's Republican Club of Chester County from 1930 until her death. Thomas also served as an associate chair of Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate William A. Schnader's campaign committee in 1934.

Martha Gibbons Thomas died on June 26, 1942 in West Chester, Chester County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at the Downingtown Friends Meetinghouse Cemetery, Downingtown, Chester County, Pennsylvania.



Alice M. Bentley

Born: April 12, 1859, Wayne Township, Crawford County, Pennsylvania. Died: August 6, 1949, Conewango Township, Warren County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Crawford County, 1923-1928. Affiliation: Republican.



Alice M. Bentley was born April 12, 1859 in Wayne Township, Crawford County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Northwest State Normal School (now Edinboro University) in 1883, and completed a Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle course of study in 1887.

Following her studies, Bentley was a teacher in Guys Mills and Meadville elementary schools for 20 years. She attended summer teacher retreats at the Chautauqua Institute, and traveled throughout Europe to study educational practices in other countries. These efforts earned her the reputation as one of the most distinguished educators in Crawford County. Her dedication to quality education led her to put her name forward as a candidate for superintendent of Crawford County public schools in 1902. Despite not winning the election, she did receive several endorsements, including one from the Meadville School Board. After her time as an educator, she worked as a solicitor for the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.

Bentley was one of the first eight women elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1922. She was elected as a Republican and served as Crawford County's only Representative for the 1923-1924 session. She was reelected for two subsequent sessions. On February 28, 1923, Bentley was the first woman to act as Speaker Pro Tem. The Shamokin News-Dispatch described this historic occasion by writing that Bentley "was the unanimous choice for the honor of the other seven women members."¹³ While in office, Bentley sponsored legislation aimed at furthering educational opportunities in Pennsylvania. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 117 of 1925, which called for free evening classes in school districts where large numbers of students wanted to learn reading, writing, and mathematics – but could not attend school during the day. She was also an early champion of a tenure system for teachers in Pennsylvania. From 1925 to 1928, Bentley served as the Majority Chair of the Education Committee, making her the first woman to chair a House committee.

In addition to her own work in the House of Representatives, Bentley was actively engaged in work on other political campaigns. United States Senator George Wharton Pepper selected her as the vice chair of his reelection campaign committee in 1925.

Alice M. Bentley died August 6, 1949 in Conewango Township, Warren County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Mount Hope Cemetery, Mount Hope, Crawford County, Pennsylvania.





Helen D. Grimes

Born: March 25, 1871, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Died: May 17, 1957, Sewickley, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Allegheny County's 12th District, 1923-1930. Affiliation: Republican.

Helen D. Grimes was born on March 25, 1871 in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

Grimes was actively involved in the preservation efforts for Pennsylvania's forests. She was a member, and eventual leader, of the New Era Club of Pittsburgh – an organization that promoted education on forestry issues and was known for planting hundreds of trees each year. In addition to the New Era Club, Grimes served on the board of the Civic Club of Allegheny County and on the Mothers' Assistance Board. In 1917, Grimes was elected president of the Congress of Clubs of Western Pennsylvania, a position she held for four years. This organization, comprised of clubs from Western Pennsylvanian counties, sought to unite various women's social and political groups to foster cooperation between the numerous clubs that existed in the early 20th century. In addition to her civic work, Grimes worked as a librarian and president of the Women's Library Club of Knoxville and established the library's first children's department.

Grimes was one of the first eight women elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1922. She was elected as a Republican to serve Allegheny County's 12th District, and was reelected for three subsequent terms. During her first term in office, she was the prime sponsor of three bills that became law, including Act 15 of 1923, which amended previous legislation that created the Allegheny County Court and prescribed its duties and powers. She also was the prime sponsor of Act 98 and Act 189 of 1923, both of which dealt with land use in second-class cities.

During her time in office, Grimes frequently made headlines. In 1923, she was censured by the Congress of Clubs of Western Pennsylvania for her lack of support regarding legislative prohibition enforcement efforts. In 1928, Grimes was again in the news when she proposed legislation to exclude chiropractors from regulations requiring them to acquire a license from the state medical board – an effort that the Allegheny County Medical Association



adamantly opposed.

Following her time in office, Grimes continued her interest in civic affairs. In 1934, she headed a survey on milk consumption in Pittsburgh schools as part of a 63 city wide study aimed at emphasizing the nutritional value of milk by the United States Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Helen Grimes died on May 17, 1957 in Sewickley, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. She was cremated at the Herman Crematory, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.





Lillie F. Hance Pitts

Born: June 2, 1870, Hackettstown, Warren County, New Jersey. Died: April 21, 1960, Monterey, Monterey County, California. Member of the House: Philadelphia County's 21st District, 1923-1932. Affiliation: Republican.

Lillie F. Pitts (née Hance) was born on June 2, 1870 in Hackettstown, Warren County, New Jersey. She graduated from the Wilkes-Barre Female Institute and from the West Walnut Street Seminary in Philadelphia. In 1894, she married Robert A. Pitts. Following her education and marriage, Pitts was a homemaker.

Pitts was one of the first eight women elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1922. She was elected as a Republican to represent Philadelphia's 21st District, and was reelected for four subsequent sessions. During her first term in office, Pitts was the prime sponsor of legislation that led to Act 138 of 1923, which created new regulations for the installation of sprinkler systems in new construction. She also introduced legislation appropriating \$4 million for the Mother's Assistance Fund. The bill did not pass, but Pitts' legislation showed her dedication for children and women.

Pitts died on April 21, 1960 in Monterey, Monterey County, California. She is interred in Mission Memorial Park, Seaside, Monterey County, California.





Maud B. Trescher

Born: December 28, 1876, Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

Died: May 6, 1940, Greensburg, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Westmoreland County's 1st District, 1925-1926. Affiliation: Republican, Prohibition.

Maud Mellon Trescher (née Byers) was born on December 28, 1876 in Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Jeannette High School in 1898. She married John H. Trescher on March 1, 1898 in Westmoreland, Pennsylvania and had four children: John Jr., Fred, Helen, and William.

Trescher and her husband published the Jeannette Dispatch until John's death in 1917. Maud Trescher continued to act as a reporter for the newspaper and assumed the role of manager in 1918. In addition to her journalistic work, Trescher also served as the first woman member of the Jeannette school board in 1921. She also was an organizer of the Jeanette Women's Club and the Jeanette Union Aid Association.

Maud Trescher was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1924. She represented Westmoreland County's 1st District in the 1925-1926 session. During this session, she was the primary sponsor of two bills, both pertaining to roadways in Westmoreland County. Trescher did not win the nomination for the Republican Party in 1926, and unsuccessfully ran for reelection as a Prohibition Party candidate in 1926 and 1928.

Following her time in office, Trescher continued to be active in her community. She was a trustee for the Torrance State Hospital, the treasurer and publicity chairman for the Westmoreland County chapter of the American Red Cross, committee member of the Women's Association of the Westmoreland Hospital at Greensburg, and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She also acted as vice president of the Pennsylvania School Directors' Association in 1937 and served as Westmoreland County's first female juror.

On April 24, 1940, Trescher was awarded first prize in the New York Herald Tribune Press and Publicity Contest for a 500-word essay on women's clubs.

Maud Trescher died May 6, 1940 in Greensburg, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Union Cemetery, Irwin, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.





Martha M. Pennock

Born: June 21, 1890, Union County, Pennsylvania. Died: unknown. Member of the House: 17th District, Philadelphia County's 17th District, 1925-1934. Affiliation: Republican.

Martha Maitlan Pennock (née Walters) was born June 21, 1890 in Union County, Pennsylvania. She attended school in New Berlin, Union County, and in Mahoney City, Schuylkill County. She married William C. Pennock.

Pennock was employed in the executive offices of a Philadelphia department store for seven years. Active in local politics prior to her time in the House, she was secretary of the 24th Ward Republican Woman's Committee.

Pennock was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Republican in 1924 to represent the 17th District of Philadelphia County. She was reelected for four subsequent sessions. While in office, Pennock was appointed to a special committee to study unemployment in Pennsylvania. She was also on the Subcommittee to Study Marathon Dances in 1933. She secured multiple appropriations for the Home for Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic and Wives in Philadelphia throughout her time in Harrisburg.

Pennock's date of death and burial location are unknown.





Ella Louella Collier Adams

Born: August 7, 1865, Georges Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Died: September 14, 1944, Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House, Fayette County's 2nd District, 1927-1930. Affiliation: Republican.

Ella Louella Adams (née Collier) was born on August 7, 1865 in Georges Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. She attended Beaver College (now Arcadia University). She married Jacob B. Adams in 1901.

Following her studies, Adams was employed at the Uniontown Post Office as a registry clerk and money order clerk. During World War I, Adams was a second lieutenant in the local Canteen Service – providing refreshments and meals to troops passing through local railway stops. In 1920, the Women's Republican Committee of Fayette County appointed her chair of the organization. Additionally, Adams was a charter member of the Republican Women of Pennsylvania. In 1924, she was elected as an alternative delegate to the Republican National Convention.

Adams was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1926. She was reelected for one subsequent session. For the 1929-1930 session, Adams served as the Majority Chair of House Law and Order Committee. During her time as chair, Adams was at the center of a heated debate over the modification of Pennsylvania's Sunday blue laws. Adams strongly opposed a bill which sought to allow amateur sports and the sale of newspapers and gasoline on Sundays. While many Members of the House supported the bill, Adams' decision to withhold the legislation from a floor vote was vindicated when a resolution to discharge the bill was defeated with 26 in favor and 126 opposed to forcing the bill out of committee. This legislation received considerable news coverage due to Adams' husband's position as president of a golf club where members were known to play golf on Sundays. However, Adams denied she and her husband had ever participated.¹⁴

In addition to her role as a committee chair, Adams was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 310 of 1927, which repealed previous legislation allowing forced apprenticeships for some orphans. She also secured appropriations for the Uniontown



Hospital.

Following her time in office, Adams continued her engagement in politics and civic affairs. She served as a member and vice chair of the Fayette County Republican Committee. She was also a member of the Great Meadows Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the Uniontown Library.

Ella Louella Adams died September 14, 1944 in Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Oak Grove Cemetery, Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.





Mabelle Mills Kirkbride

Born: February 12, 1889, Lancaster, Schuyler County, Missouri. Died: February 6, 1976, Buffalo, Erie County, New York. Member of the House: Montgomery County's 2nd District, 1929-1932. Affiliation: Republican.

Mabelle Mills Kirkbride (née Mills) was born on February 12, 1889 in Lancaster, Schuyler County, Missouri. She attended Mrs. Smallwood's School and graduated from Kirksville Teacher's College in 1907. After graduation, Kirkbride taught English at Kirksville High School from 1907 until 1910, when she moved to Norristown, Pennsylvania. She married Harry C. Kirkbride, and they had three children: Harry C., Jr., Jane, and Catherine.

Kirkbride was involved in the fight for women's suffrage and worked to organize recently enfranchised women on state and local levels.

Kirkbride was an active member of the Republican Party. In 1922, she was elected as a Republican committee member for Montgomery County, and the next year she became the first female vice chair of the Republican Committee of Montgomery County. She continued her growing involvement in public service in 1925 when she became president of the Mother's Club of Stewart Junior High School. In that capacity, she helped raise \$2,000 for the library and established a scholarship loan fund for students. In 1926, Kirkbride was an organizer and eventual president of the Montgomery County Council of Republican Women.

Kirkbride was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1928 to serve Montgomery County's 2nd District. She was reelected for one subsequent session. During her two terms, Kirkbride introduced legislation regarding public health and women's rights. In 1929, she acquired appropriations for Montgomery Hospital and the Eagleville Sanatorium for Consumptives. She also introduced legislation that became Act 8 of 1929, which provided for an additional judge in the Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania's 38th Judicial District.

Following her time in the House, Kirkbride remained active in the public sphere. She served on the YWCA's local board for 15 years. She was employed in the Montgomery County Records Department from 1935 until her retirement in 1963. From 1942 to 1944, Kirkbride



was elected president of the Norristown Business and Professional Women's Organization where she directed wartime drives for scrap metal, bonds, and blood donations. In 1959, she received the organization's award for Woman of the Year. Kirkbride also sat on the advisory board of the Salvation Army for 25 years.

In addition to her public service, Kirkbride was also passionate about genealogy and published a book in 1963 titled "The Mills, Payton, Mott, and Butler Families", which discusses her family's roots.

Mabelle Mills Kirkbride died on February 6, 1976 in Buffalo, Erie County, New York. She is interred in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Cemetery in Lancaster, Schuyler County, Missouri.





Mary Thompson Denman

Born: June 1, 1899, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Died: October 19, 1975, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Westmoreland County's 1st District, 1931-1932. Affiliation: Republican.

Mary Denman (née Thompson) was born on June 1, 1899 in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Peabody High School in 1916 and earned a B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1920. In 1922, she graduated from the University of Pittsburgh Law School and was admitted to practice law before the Allegheny County bar and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court that same year. She became the first woman admitted to the Westmoreland County bar in 1924 and was admitted to practice law before the United States District Court in 1929.

On June 30, 1924, she married David N. Denman, also an attorney in Westmoreland County. They had two sons: David Jr. and Richard.

Denman began her engagement with politics as a member of various civic and political groups, such as the Republican County Committee, the Greensburg Community Council of Republican Women, and as president of the Westmoreland County Federation of Women's Clubs. Denman was also a member of the National Business and Professional Women and the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women.

In addition to her club work, Denman was an active public speaker, and addressed groups across Western Pennsylvania. During the 1924 and 1928 presidential elections she worked for the Speaker's Bureau of the Republican State Committee.

Denman was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1930. She served Westmoreland County's 1st District in the 1931-1932 session. Denman received media attention with the birth of her eldest son, becoming the first Representative to become a mother while in office. Members of the House celebrated the event by electing Denman's son the 209th member of the Pennsylvania Legislature.

During her time in office, Denman actively supported legislation benefitting labor, including establishing a minimum wage for paid labor on state jobs. She was also the prime sponsor



for a bill which would have required local labor be used for all state projects.

After her time in office, Denman remained active in public life. She worked as an attorney, legislative analyst, and public speaker. Denman was a member of many organizations, including the Pennsylvania Public Charities Association, Pennsylvania Citizens Council, and Pennsylvania Citizens Association. She worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare and was active in the preparation of Pennsylvania's first public welfare code. Denman also lectured at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work. She was the first woman appointed to the State Milk Marketing Board, where she represented the voice of consumers. In 1965, Governor William W. Scranton named her a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania. This honor was in recognition of Denman's work with the Pennsylvania Citizens Council and with the Juvenile Court Act.

Mary Thompson Denman died October 19, 1975 in Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Saint Clair Cemetery, Greensburg, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.





Lilith M. Wilson

Born: September 13, 1886, Dublin, Wayne County, Indiana. Died: July 7, 1937, Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Berks County's 1st District, 1931-1936. Affiliation: Socialist.

Lilith M. Wilson (née Martin) was born on September 13, 1886 in Dublin, Wayne County, Indiana. She graduated from the Rand School of Social Science in New York, New York in 1918. She married L. Birch Wilson in 1921 and the couple settled in Reading, Pennsylvania.

Following Wilson's studies, she became an active lecturer and organizer for the Socialist Party. She was elected to the Socialist Party's National Executive Committee in 1921. Just a year later, Wilson became the first woman to run for governor in Pennsylvania after earning the Socialist Party's nomination. She also ran for state treasurer in 1928. That same year, she chaired the National Women's Committee Chapter in Reading, Pennsylvania, which received recognition from the Socialist Party as one of the most active chapters in the country. Wilson was well known for her efforts to better working and living conditions for women and children as a member of the League for Industrial Democracy, the Old Age Security League, and board of directors of the Birth Control League of Berks County.

Wilson was elected as a Socialist to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1930 and reelected for two subsequent sessions. Wilson was the first woman to be elected as a Socialist to any legislative body in the United States. She represented Berks County's 1st District. Alongside fellow Berks County Representative and Socialist Darlington Hoopes, Wilson represented a large Socialist movement in Reading, Pennsylvania. Socialist candidates had success in winning seats not only in the state legislature, but also on the city council and school board. Reading's Mayor J. Henry Stump was also a member of the Socialist party.

While in office, Wilson was concerned with labor issues. She introduced legislation calling for a 30-hour work week, as well as legislation that aimed to expand employment opportunities available for women.

Lilith M. Wilson died July 7, 1937 in Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Aulenbach Cemetery, Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania.





Anna M. Brancato

Born: January 17, 1903, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Died: August 22, 1972, Lower Merion, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Philadelphia County's 5th District, 1933-1940 and 1945-1946. Affiliation: Democrat.

Anna M. Brancato was born on January 17, 1903 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from the Academy of the Sisters of Mercy, and attended Banks Business College and Temple University. She married A. Augustus Wood.¹⁵

Following her studies, Brancato served as the advertising manager of the Spector newspaper of Philadelphia. She also worked as a photographer's assistant. After her time working in the media, she was engaged in the real estate and insurance businesses. She was also the proprietor of a telephone answering service. In addition to her career, Brancato was active in Philadelphia politics as the chair of the Women's Democratic Club of South Philadelphia and president of the Young Women's Democratic Club of Philadelphia.

Brancato was elected as the first woman Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1932. She represented Philadelphia's 5th District, and was reelected for four more nonconsecutive sessions in 1934, 1936, 1938, and 1944. Prior to the Speaker's election for the 1935-1936 session, Brancato had the opportunity to be the first woman to preside at the formal organization of a House session.

A champion of New Deal era programs, Brancato introduced legislation aimed at improving the lives of the working class. One of her most noteworthy pieces of legislation was a bill that led to Act 64 of 1935, known as the Hasty Marriage Act, which required a three-day waiting period to receive a marriage license after applying. Brancato was quoted saying the law made "marriage a little more safe and sane," and "allows for the hangover to clear up and prevents many hasty alcoholic marriages which begin in a fog and end in disaster."¹⁶ She also authored the legislation that led to Act 51 of 1937, or the Pawnbrokers Act, which called for the licensing and regulating of pawn shops in Pennsylvania. This legislation was significant during the Great Depression, because it protected people from excessive interest rates for loans from pawnbrokers. From 1937 to 1938, she was appointed to a Joint



Legislative Commission which investigated governmental spending in Philadelphia. After an unsuccessful primary campaign for her House seat in 1940, Brancato continued working in Harrisburg as Assistant to the Chief Clerk for the 1941-1942 session, before returning to the House for the 1945-1946 session.

Following her time in office, Brancato continued to be active in politics. In the 1950s, influential Democrats such as Eleanor Roosevelt solicited Brancato to lend her name in support of other Democratic candidates. In 1958, she founded More Women on the Ballot, Inc., which she said sought to “raise women politically from the status of second-class citizens.”¹⁷

Brancato’s success in the legislature and continued involvement in Philadelphia politics earned her several honors in her district as well as national recognition. In 1937, she was sworn in by Philadelphia Mayor Samuel D. Wilson as an honorary member of the Philadelphia police force after introducing bills calling for shorter hours for firemen and creating a tax on foreign insurance companies to fund police pensions. The Philadelphia Women’s Political Caucus created the Anna Brancato Wood Award for women who significantly contribute to Philadelphia politics. Even long after her time in office was over, Brancato was celebrated. Mayor Frank Rizzo proclaimed March 3, 1972 as Anna Brancato Wood Day in Philadelphia. Rizzo described Brancato as a “modern pioneer who made political and social history.”¹⁸ In 1979, the Smithsonian Institution honored Brancato in an exhibition highlighting her contribution to politics and government. Her memorabilia is part of their permanent women’s history collection.

Anna M. Brancato died August 22, 1972 in Lower Merion, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Yeadon, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.





Ruth Grigg Horting

Born: January 31, 1900, Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Died: October 7, 1988, Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Lancaster County's 1st District, 1937-1938. Affiliation: Democrat.

Ruth Grigg Horting (née Grigg) was born on January 31, 1900 in Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Horting graduated from Stevens High School in 1918. Horting then attended Millersville State Teachers College (now Millersville University) and graduated in 1920. Horting was married to John Horting, also of Lancaster. The couple had one son: Arthur Lionel.

Following her studies, Horting worked as a teacher. She was also actively engaged in local politics and civic affairs. She was member of the Lancaster County Federation of Women's Clubs, as well the Women's Missionary Society of Lancaster.

Horting was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1936 to represent Lancaster County's 1st District. During her only term in office, she was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 551 of 1937, which authorized the Department of Property and Supplies to acquire the Seventh Day Baptists property in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, also known as the Ephrata Cloister, for the Pennsylvania Historical Commission.

Following her time in the House, she was elected five times as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. She was also the vice chair for the Pennsylvania Democratic Committee from 1944 to 1955. Horting also served as the Pennsylvania Secretary of Public Assistance. Governor David Lawrence appointed her to be the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, a position she held from 1959 until 1962. Her role as secretary required her to travel across the Commonwealth to visit health facilities and attend related events. She was often named in newspapers, which detailed her attendance as the guest speaker at a nurses' cap ceremony in 1959 at Hazelton State Hospital and at a hospital groundbreaking ceremony at Passavant Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her efforts pushed for the transformation of the Thorn Hill School for Boys into a rehabilitation facility for juvenile delinquents.

For her continued civic work on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth, Horting received numerous accolades. She was named a "Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania" in 1957, and received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Gettysburg College in 1961.

Ruth Grigg Horting died October 7, 1988 in Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. She is buried in Riverview Burial Park, Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.





Crystal Bird Fauset

Born: June 27, 1893, Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland. Died: March 28, 1965, New York, New York. Member of the House: Philadelphia County's 18th District, 1939-1940. Affiliation: Democrat.

Crystal Fauset (née Bird) was born on June 27, 1893 in Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland. The youngest of nine, Fauset moved to Boston to live with an aunt at the age of six when both of her parents passed away. Fauset graduated from Boston Normal School in 1914 and taught at public schools for four years. In 1918, she became a field secretary for African-American girls in the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) for eight years. She subsequently joined the Interracial Section of the American Friends Service Committee, or Quakers, in 1925. Fauset received her B.A. from Columbia University's Teacher College in 1931. That same year, she married Arthur Huff Fauset, and the couple relocated to Philadelphia.

Fauset was active in the fight for both women's and African-Americans' rights. In 1933, Fauset became the executive secretary for the Institute of Race Relations at Swarthmore College. When discussing race relations, Fauset stated that her goal was to "...lift the curtain that separates the white people and the colored people, to lift the curtain of misunderstanding that is so dividing us."¹⁹ She received her first political position in 1935 when she was appointed director of the Women and Professional Projects division of Philadelphia's Works Progress Administration (WPA) following her support for President Franklin Roosevelt's campaign. Fauset also organized Philadelphia's Democratic Women's League in an effort to engage more women in politics.

In 1938, Fauset became an adviser to Philadelphia's Housing Authority, as well began her campaign for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Throughout her campaign, she discussed the African-American community's needs for better relief, better housing, and more Works Progress Administration involvement. Fauset was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1938 and represented Philadelphia's 18th District. She became the first African-American woman to serve in any state legislature.



While in office, Fauset drafted several bills focused on public health and housing conditions, although none of them gained traction. On January 10, 1940, Fauset resigned from Pennsylvania's House of Representatives to take the job of assistant state director of Philadelphia's WPA education and recreation programs. Because of her activism and involvement in Franklin D. Roosevelt's campaigns, Fauset developed a close relationship with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, ultimately leading to her appointment in 1941 as the special director of the Office of Civilian Defense in New York City. During her time in New York, Fauset also served as the race relations advisor to New York City Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia.

Fauset continued her efforts to improve conditions for women and African-Americans throughout the 1940s and 1950s. She was on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Committee on Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and left the Democratic Party in 1944 to become a member of the Republican National Committee's division on Negro Affairs. At this time, she felt the Republican Party was doing more for racial equality. Fauset continued to give lectures and remained politically active throughout her life. She earned two meritorious awards for her work, one of which she received in 1955 for her leadership in the American Korean Foundation.

Crystal Bird Fauset died on March 28, 1965 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She was cremated at Mt. Lawn Cemetery, Sharon Hill, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.





Jeanette M. Dye

Born: December 3, 1901, Wyoming. Died: August 17, 1952, Sandy Lake, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Mercer County, 1945-1950. Affiliation: Republican.

Jeanette M. Dye (née McOmie) was born on December 3, 1901 in Wyoming. Dye graduated from St. John's training school for nurses in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and attended the University of Michigan. She married Dr. Ralph W. Dye in 1928. They had one daughter: Norma Jean.

Following her studies, Dye was an assistant director of nurses at Mercer Cottage Hospital. She was active in local politics, serving as the assistant secretary of the Mercer County Republican Committee.

Dye was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1944 to represent Mercer County and was reelected for two subsequent sessions. While in office, Dye championed equality for women and was passionate about helping troubled youth. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Acts 543 and 544 of 1947, which regulated workplace conditions and required equal pay for equal work for women. Dye was appointed Chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and Child Welfare for the 1947-1948 session. Dye and the committee ultimately called for the creation of a Youth Conservation Board that would assist the courts with diagnosis and treatment of troubled and delinquent youth. Dye gave numerous talks on the subject of helping young people and introduced a package of eight bills the following session to create the Youth Conservation Board; however they were unsuccessful.

Jeanette M. Dye died on August 17, 1952 in Sandy Lake, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Oak Hill Cemetery, Sandy Lake, Mercer County, Pennsylvania.





Josephine C. Coyle

Born: 1889, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Died: May 18, 1960, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Philadelphia County's 10th District, 1945-1946, 1951-1954. Affiliation: Democrat.

Josephine C. Coyle (née Donnan) was born in 1889 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Coyle graduated from Cathedral High School. Coyle married John F. Coyle in 1912 in Delaware, and they had five children: Margaret, Josephine, Joseph, James, and John. Coyle was a housewife before her time in the House of Representatives.

Coyle was highly involved in her community before and after her time in the House. She was the organizer of the 15th Ward Democratic Women's Club, where she served as president for eight years. She was also a member of the 15th Ward Democratic Executive Committee for 20 years. She also served as a member of the Red Cross unit, the Civic Club, the Jefferson Women's Democratic Club, the Army War Mothers' Club, and as the president of the St. Francis Xavier Unit Alliance of Catholic Women.

Coyle was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1944 to represent Philadelphia's 10th District. During the 1945-1946 session, she sponsored the legislation that led to Act 265 of 1945, which authorized married women to mortgage property in a manner equal to men. She ran for reelection to the House in 1946 and 1948 but was unsuccessful. She successfully campaigned for reelection in 1950 and 1952. During her three sessions in office, she dedicated much of her efforts towards voting rights, where she and fellow members attempted to pass legislation removing requirements to show naturalization records while voting.

Josephine C. Coyle died on May 18, 1960 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She is interred in Holy Cross Cemetery, Yeadon, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.





Mary A. Varallo

Born: June 11, 1897, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Died: November 27, 1979, Somers Point, Atlantic County, New Jersey. Member of the House: Philadelphia County's 5th District, 1945-1946, 1949-January 4, 1960. Affiliation: Democrat.

Mary A. Varallo (née Frascone) was born on June 11, 1897 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from West Philadelphia High School, Peirce School of Business, and Charles Morris Price School of Advertising and Journalism. She also attended the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, Pennsylvania School of Criminology, and Leefson Conservatory. She married Alfred Varallo.

Following her studies, Varallo was a professional pianist and organist. She and her husband also operated a jewelry business. Varallo was actively engaged in Philadelphia politics. She was an organizer and president of the Women's Democratic Club of Philadelphia, a founder and president of the Italian-American Women's Democratic Club of Philadelphia, and a member of the 36th Ward Democratic Executive Committee.

Varallo was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1944, and again in 1948. She represented Philadelphia's 5th District and was reelected for five consecutive sessions thereafter, serving until her resignation on January 4, 1960. Varallo had a distinguished career in the House, serving in a number of leadership positions. She was elected Minority Caucus Chair for the 1957-1958 session and elected Majority Whip for the 1959-1960 session — becoming the first woman to serve in both of those positions. She was also appointed to the Joint State Government Commission, serving from 1957 to 1960. While in office, Varallo was the prime sponsor of numerous pieces of legislation that became law. One law of note is Act 265 of 1945, also known as the Women's Equal Rights Bill, which eliminated restrictions on married women entering contracts and buying or selling property.

Varallo's election to the Philadelphia City Council prompted her resignation from the House in 1960. She served on the Council until 1968. She also served as a delegate to the Democratic National Conventions of 1960 and 1964. In addition to her continued political work, Varallo was active in civic and educational organizations in Philadelphia following her time in the House. She was on the advisory board of Cabrini College, and was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters from the school in 1962. The college noted her prolific public service and dedication to issues of equality and tolerance. She also served on the advisory board of the Order of Sons of Italy in America.

Mary A. Varallo died November 27, 1979 in Somers Point, Atlantic County, New Jersey. She is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Yeadon, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.





Henrietta C. McCosker

Born: September 15, 1884, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Died: August 18, 1964, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Philadelphia County's 18th District, 1947-1948. Affiliation: Republican.

Henrietta C. McCosker (née O'Neill) was born September 15, 1884 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She married Joseph H. McCosker.

McCosker had diverse work and volunteer experience prior to her time in the House. She was employed as a clerk at the Federal Internal Revenue Office in Philadelphia, a probation officer for the Juvenile Court in Philadelphia, as well as a supervisor of the juvenile accounts for the Municipal Court of Philadelphia. During World War II she served as an air raid warden — a position which oversaw preparations for “blacking out” Philadelphia by turning off street lights and encouraging citizens to block any light coming from their homes in case enemy planes flew overhead. She also served on the State Council of Defense. Both before and after her time in office McCosker was active in civic organizations such as the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, and the Sacred Heart Free Home for Incurable Cancer.

McCosker was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1947-1948 session. She represented Philadelphia's 18th District. While in office, McCosker was the prime sponsor of legislation that led to Act 88 of 1947, which regulated the state registration of nurses. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 499 of 1947 which established detention houses for untried juvenile offenders and neglected children in first class cities of Pennsylvania.

Henrietta C. McCosker died August 18, 1964 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Yeadon, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.



Marion L. Munley

Born: August 9, 1906, Buffalo, Erie County, New York. Died: September 14, 1983, Archbald, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Lackawanna County's 4th District, October 14, 1947-1964. Affiliation: Democrat.



Marion L. Munley (née Langan) was born on August 9, 1906 in Buffalo, Erie County, New York. She graduated from St. John's High School, Marywood College (now University) in Scranton, and the Powell School of Business in Scranton. She married Robert W. Munley and had two sons: James M. and Robert W.

Following her studies, Munley became active in local politics. She was an organizer and president of the 20th Ward Democratic Women's Club, as well as a member of the Young

Democrats of Lackawanna County and the Women's Democratic Club of Mayfield. She was also active in working on political campaigns including ones for Lackawanna Judge T. Linus Hoban and Congressman Patrick J. Boland.

Munley's husband, Robert W. Munley, was a Member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1939 until his death on January 25, 1947. Marion Munley was elected as a Democrat in a special election on September 9, 1947 to represent Lackawanna's 4th District. She was sworn in on October 14, 1947, and was reelected for eight subsequent sessions. While in office Munley championed legislation related to labor, welfare, and equality for women. Some of the noteworthy legislation she was involved with include Act 355 of 1955, which expanded employer liability for employee illnesses contracted in the course of employment; Act 452 of 1955, which required further safety provisions on conveyor belts in coal mines; and Act 694 of 1959, which prohibited gender-based pay discrepancies. She was elected as the Democratic Caucus Secretary for the 1963-1964 session.

Opting not to run for reelection in 1964, Munley was appointed Secretary of the House of Representatives for the 1965-1966 session.

Marion L. Munley died September 14, 1983 in Archbald, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at St. Thomas Aquinas Cemetery, Archbald, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania.

Following her passing, Munley's sons donated a portrait of her which was received by Speaker K. Leroy Irvis on March 11, 1987. The portrait has been on display in the House anterooms since.





Susie Monroe

Born: March 4, 1889, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida. Died: November 7, 1968, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Philadelphia County's 28th District, 1949-1968. Affiliation: Democrat.

Susie Monroe (née Wallace) was born March 4, 1889 in Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida.²⁰ She graduated from St. Athanasius High School. After relocating to Philadelphia, Monroe worked as a dressmaker as well as the proprietor of a salon. She married James Talbott Monroe.

Monroe became active in Philadelphia politics and eventually became the chair of the 32nd Ward Democratic Executive Committee.

Monroe was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1948 to represent Philadelphia's 28th District. Monroe was reelected for nine subsequent sessions. While in office, Monroe was a champion of issues relating to equal opportunities in employment, public health, and housing. She sponsored the legislation that led to Act 498 of 1965, which prohibited discrimination on the basis of "race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, or national origin" by employers. She secured appropriations for Jefferson Medical College and the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

Susie Monroe died while in office on November 7, 1968 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Rolling Green Memorial Park, West Chester, Chester County, Pennsylvania.





Marian E. Markley

Born: April 8, 1906, Treichlers, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Died: January 27, 1986, Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Lehigh County's 2nd District, 1951-1968. Affiliation: Republican.

Marian Evelyn Markley (née Hall) was born on April 8, 1906 in Treichlers, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Northampton High School. She married Franklin H. Markley in 1938.

Markley began her career as a secretary for Franklin H. Lichtenwalter while he was a Member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. She continued her work with him for seven years during which he was Majority Leader, and then Speaker of the House. She was also active as a member of the Lehigh County Council of Republican Women, the Emmaus Business and Professional Women's Club, and the Allentown Free Library Board.

Markley was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1950 to represent Lehigh County's 2nd District. She was reelected for eight subsequent sessions. During her first race, Markley had the unusual experience of campaigning against Democrat candidate William A. Shoemaker, who was her fellow Sunday school teacher at Solomon's Reformed Church in Macungie.

While in office, Markley was appointed Chair of the Education Committee for the 1957-1958 session, and Chair of the Motor Vehicles and Highway Safety Committee for the 1963-1964 and 1967-1968 sessions. In 1967, she was appointed Chair of the Joint State Government Commission. She was elected Minority Caucus Secretary for the 1959-1960, 1961-1962, and 1965-1966 sessions, as well as Majority Caucus Secretary for the 1963-1964 session. Legislatively, Markley often focused on issues relating to children and persons with disabilities. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 531 of 1951, which created day care training centers for children with special needs. That same session, she sponsored the legislation that became Act 506 of 1951, which provided funding for rehabilitation efforts in schools for children with speech and hearing disabilities. In 1951, she partnered with Representative Mary Varallo to sponsor legislation that became Act 713



of 1957, which created a revolving fund for the State Council for the Blind to use in helping blind persons start small business ventures.

Markley received numerous accolades for her work. She was named a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania by the Lehigh Council of Republican Women in 1974, and earned the “Woman of the Year” award from the Pennsylvania Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs in 1968. In 1966, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Cedar Crest College.

Marian E. Markley died on January 27, 1986 in Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Greenwood Cemetery, Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Remembered as “The Lady from Lehigh,” following her death the Morning Call of Allentown noted her accomplishments in Harrisburg, and highlighted that she “helped show the way for women willing to venture into politics.”²¹





Mary Elizabeth Leiby

Born: November 20, 1888, Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Died: January 24, 1978, Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House, Lehigh County's 1st District, 1955-1956. Affiliation: Democrat.

Mary Elizabeth Leiby was born on November 20, 1888 in Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. She graduated with her B.A. from Muhlenberg College in 1924, and earned an M.A. from Columbia University in 1926.

Following her studies, Leiby began her career as an educator. She worked as a first-grade teacher at Garfield and Wolfe Elementary schools, and later taught history and geography at Central Junior High school in Allentown. She also served as a guidance counselor to students. Leiby taught for a total of 47 years before retiring in 1954.

Taking an interest in politics, Leiby was a member – and one-time president – of the Women's Democratic Club of Lehigh County. She was also active in civic groups including the Lehigh Art Alliance, the National Education Association, and the Women Teacher's Club.

After retiring from teaching, Leiby was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat in 1954 to serve Lehigh County's 1st District. While in office, Leiby focused on issues relating to teachers and education. She was the prime sponsor of three bills that led to Acts 87, 88, and 90 of 1955, which allowed for the sale of small plots of state-owned land and allocated the profits to the Motor License Fund of the State Treasury.

Mary E. Leiby died January 24, 1978 in Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Union-West End Cemetery in Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

Even after her death, her commitment to her community and education continued. In her will, Leiby endowed a scholarship for students at William Allen and Louis E. Dierruff high schools. Each year, two students who are pursuing higher education can apply for the approximately \$1,000 award. Leiby noted her "firm conviction that education leads to a fuller life, along with improved capacity to earn a living" and that she saved the money for the scholarship throughout her time as an educator.²²





Ruth S. Donahue

Born: November 19, 1891, Porter Township, Clinton County, Pennsylvania. Died: November 23, 1987, Jersey Shore, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Clinton County, 1955-1960. Affiliation: Republican.

Ruth S. Donahue (née Stover) was born November 19, 1891 in Porter Township, Clinton County, Pennsylvania. She attended the State Teachers College in Lock Haven (now Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania). She married Charles E. Donahue on June 23, 1915. Charles E. Donahue was a Member of the Pennsylvania State Senate from 1918 to 1922, and a Member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1939-1940 session.

Following her studies, Donahue was a teacher for three years in Porter and Lamar Townships. She was active in politics as the vice chair of the Clinton County Republican Organization for six years and vice chair of the Clinton County Council of Republican Women. She was also a member of civic groups including the Lock Haven Business and Professional Women's Club, as well as serving on Clinton County's education committee for the American Cancer Society.

Donahue was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1954 to serve as Clinton County's representative. She was reelected for two subsequent terms. While in office, Donahue promoted and sponsored legislation on a variety of topics. For example, she sponsored the legislation that led to Act 398 of 1955, which amended public assistance requirements, and Act 221 of 1959 which provided funds for school libraries to purchase audio-visual materials. Donahue's work was recognized by her inclusion in the first edition of "Who's Who of American Women" in 1959.

Following her time in the House, Donahue was appointed to the Pennsylvania Air Pollution Commission, on which she served from 1962 to 1969.

Ruth S. Donahue died on November 23, 1987 in Jersey Shore, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Jersey Shore Cemetery, Jersey Shore, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania.





Evelyn Glazier Henzel

Born: May 9, 1912, Atlantic City, Atlantic County, New Jersey.

Died: January 28, 1984, York, York County, Pennsylvania.

Member of the House: Montgomery County's 3rd District, 1955-1962. Affiliation: Republican.

Evelyn Henzel (née Glazier) was born on May 9, 1912 in Atlantic City, Atlantic County, New Jersey. She graduated from Abington High School in 1928 and received her B.A. from Ursinus College in 1932. She acquired her elementary teaching certificate from Temple University and graduated from Columbia University in 1934 with a master's degree. Henzel also attended the University of Pennsylvania. From 1934 to 1940, Henzel worked as a teacher. In 1939 she married her first husband, Henry C. Henzel, and they had one child

together, Henry Brentwood Henzel. After the death of her first husband in 1960, she married Charles Lowrie Crawford in 1962 and through this marriage had two step-children, James and Barbara.

Henzel was active in her community, particularly focusing on local education. She served as the administrative assistant to the Abington Township School District superintendent, and later served on Abington High School's board of directors from 1948 to 1959. Henzel also served on Ursinus College's board of directors and was elected to serve as executive director of the Pennsylvania Association of Alcoholism Programs. She was the legislative liaison for the Pennsylvania Library Association and chair of the Christian Social Action Department of the National Women's Guild.

Henzel was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1954 to represent Montgomery County's 3rd District. She was reelected for three subsequent terms. While in office, she sponsored several pieces of legislation concerning education and the powers of borough officials. In 1957, Henzel was the prime sponsor of legislation that became Act 355, which increased the limit of school districts' debt. In 1961, she sponsored legislation that became Act 303, which allowed boroughs to make appropriations for nursing services involving immunization, child health centers, family health guidance, postnatal instructive visits, and the control of communicable diseases.

In 1961, Henzel received an honorary doctorate from her alma mater, Ursinus College. After her time in office, she lobbied for the State Library Association. Henzel moved to York, Pennsylvania in 1971 and co-chaired a committee for the Reagan-Bush campaign in 1980.

Evelyn Glazier Henzel Crawford died January 28, 1984 in York, York County, Pennsylvania. Glazier donated her body to the Humanity Gifts Registry.





Margarette S. Kooker

Born: April 10, 1896, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. Died: March 22, 1990, Quakertown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Bucks County's 1st District, 1955-1966. Affiliation: Republican.

Margarette Fraley Kooker (née Sparver) was born April 10, 1896 in Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Harrisburg High School in 1914. She also studied under Professor John W. Phillips and was an accomplished vocalist. In 1919, she married Howard Kooker, Jr. The couple had one daughter: Frances K.

Prior to her marriage, Kooker worked as a stenographer in the general manager's department of the Bethlehem Steel Company. Kooker and her husband later owned and operated the Kooker Furniture Store, where she worked as a buyer and seller.

Kooker served on the Bucks County GOP Executive Committee for over 30 years. She was a member of the Bucks County Council of Republican Women, and served as president for six years. She was also an organizer of the North Penn Council of Republican Women.

Kooker was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Republican in 1954. She represented Bucks County's 1st District, and was reelected for five subsequent sessions. During her first session in office, Kooker was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 31 of 1955, which validated printed, photostated, and microfilmed records maintained by boroughs. When asked what legislation she was most proud of, Kooker noted her co-sponsorship on 1955 legislation banning the sale of obscene literature at newsstands. In 1961, she was appointed as a state delegate by Governor David L. Lawrence to a White House Conference on Aging. Kooker was also appointed Chair of the House Public Health and Welfare Committee for the 1963-1964 session.

Upon her retirement from the House, Kooker reflected on her time, as well as her ability to work cooperatively with fellow Members saying, "Women have a higher moral concept of political leadership. I think women are very apt to stick to the issues and fight for a principle."²³

Margarette S. Kooker died March 22, 1990 in Quakertown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Union Cemetery, Quakertown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.





Kathryn Graham Pashley

Born: April 3, 1911 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Died: December 2, 1981 in Longport, Atlantic County, New Jersey. Member of the House: Philadelphia County's 23rd District, 1955-1966. Affiliation: Democrat.

Kathryn Regina Pashley (née Graham) was born April 3, 1911 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She attended Catholic school and studied typing and bookkeeping. She was employed at the White Motor Company in Philadelphia as a bookkeeper. She married Wilfred Pashley in 1932, and had one son: Wilfred Jr.

A dedicated Democrat, Pashley was actively engaged in Philadelphia politics. She, along with Representative Mary Varallo, formed the Democratic Women's Club of Philadelphia in 1953. Pashley served as the first vice president of the club.

Pashley was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1954 and represented Philadelphia's 23rd District. She was reelected for five subsequent sessions. While in office, she was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 398 of 1955, which amended the Public Assistance Law and made provisions for children removed by the state from their family's care. She also served as the vice chair of the March of Dimes Campaign and as an alternate delegate to the Democratic National Conventions of 1956 and 1960 while in office.

Pashley became involved in the Longport Civic Association and Longport Democratic Club after relocating to Longport, New Jersey following her retirement.

Pashley died December 2, 1981 in Longport, Atlantic County, New Jersey. She is interred at Our Lady of Grace Cemetery in Langhorne, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.





Jeanette F. Reibman

Born: August 8, 1915, Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana. Died: March 11, 2006, Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Northampton County's 3rd District, 1955-1956, 1959-1966. Member of the Pennsylvania State Senate: 18th District, 1969-1994. Affiliation: Democrat.

Jeanette F. Reibman (née Fichman) was born in Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana. She graduated from Hunter College with a political science degree in 1937. In 1940, she earned her LL.B. degree from Indiana University School of Law. She married Nathan L. Reibman in 1943 and had three children: Joseph, Edward, and James.

Following her studies, Reibman was an attorney for the United States War Department in Washington, D.C., from 1940 to 1942, as well as for the United States War Production Board from 1942 to 1944. Following her marriage, Reibman relocated to Easton, Pennsylvania, where she became actively involved in community service. After considering a run for a local school board position, Reibman decided she could do more for education at the state level. In an interview, Reibman noted her parents' support of her ambitions at a time when few women entered politics; "I never had any hang-ups. It didn't make any difference I was a girl... [there was no reason] I couldn't do what my brothers did."²⁴

Reibman was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1954 to represent Northampton County's 3rd District. After an unsuccessful campaign for reelection in 1956, she was reelected to the House in 1958 and served from 1959 to 1966. While in the House, Reibman sponsored numerous pieces of legislation relating to schools and education including the legislation that became Act 373 of 1959, which called for kindergartens to have at a minimum two and a half hour sessions per school day, and Act 17 of 1959, which required vaccinations for children prior to beginning school. Reibman was appointed Chair of the Education Committee for the 1959-1960 and 1961-1962 sessions.

Following her time in the House, Reibman was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate, serving from 1967 to 1994. While in the Senate, Reibman was appointed to the Local Government Commission from 1969 to 1974, the board of the Pennsylvania Higher



Educational Assistance Agency from 1981 to 1992, the Commission for Women from 1981 to 1992, and the Council for the Arts from 1981 to 1992. She was elected Senate Minority Caucus Administrator for the 1993-1994 session.

After her years of public service, Reibman was awarded several honorary degrees, including ones from Lafayette College in 1969, Wilson College in 1974, Cedar Crest College in 1977, Lehigh University in 1986, and Moravian College in 1990. In 1970, she began service on the Lafayette College Board of Trustees and became trustee emerita in 1985. She was also awarded many other accolades including the American School Counselor Association Legislator of the Year Award in 1986 and the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals Excellence in Education Award in 1991. Reibman retired from political life at the age of 79 in 1994.

Jeanette F. Reibman died March 11, 2006 in Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Easton Cemetery, Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Upon her death, former Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell said of Reibman, "She was one of the first women to serve in the Pennsylvania Senate and brought dignity, class, and grace to Harrisburg. She had a tireless work ethic and a dedication to the people of the Lehigh Valley."²⁵





Sarah A. Anderson

Born: January 25, 1901, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida. Died: December 9, 1992, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Philadelphia's 25th District, 1955-1968; 193rd Legislative District, Philadelphia County's 25th District, 1969-1972. Affiliation: Democrat.

Sarah A. Anderson (née Anderson) was born in Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida. After relocating to Pennsylvania, Anderson graduated from the Philadelphia High School for Girls and later from the Philadelphia Normal School. She married Adolphus W. Anderson and the couple had six children: Mae, Sarah, Jean, Helen, Brenda, and Adolphus W., Jr.

Anderson began her career as a teacher in the Philadelphia public schools. In addition to teaching, she was very active in local Philadelphia politics. She was a member of the 30th Ward Democratic Committee, the 44th Ward Executive Committee, and the District 1 Democratic Executive Committee. She served as an inspector for the Philadelphia Elections Board, a judge on the 24th Division Election Board, and as a legislative consultant for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Anderson was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1954, and was reelected for eight subsequent sessions. She represented Philadelphia's 25th District from 1955 to 1968, and the 193rd Legislative District from 1969 to 1972. Anderson served as the Majority Chair of the Health and Welfare Committee for the 1969-1970 session. Anderson sponsored a variety of legislation including what became Act 17 of 1959, which called for children to be vaccinated prior to beginning kindergarten, as well as Act 56 of 1969, which prohibited discrimination based on race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, national origin, or sex. She also served on numerous commissions while in office including the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in 1964, of which she was an early advocate of creating.

Anderson is often remembered for her work to secure appropriations for the expansion of sickle cell anemia treatment facilities and the creation of comprehensive programming to treat the chronic illness. She even campaigned for tests to be administered by school



physicians to young African American children to detect the illness. When asked about her work on this issue, she said, “I know I am reaching for the stars, but even if I don’t reach them, I am a bigger person for trying.”²⁶

After her time in the House, Anderson remained involved in community and civic work in Philadelphia. Upon her retirement, she explained, “My mother was a community worker in Jacksonville, Florida, and every day I can help someone, I feel that I am living up to what she wanted me to be. I will always be active in causes I believe in.”²⁷

Sarah A. Anderson died on December 9, 1992 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bala Cynwyd, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.



Mary Alice Duffy

Born: October 17, 1928, Pennsylvania. Died: March 18, 2002, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House, Philadelphia County's 30th District, 1957-1958.

Affiliation: Democrat.



Mary Alice Duffy was born on October 17, 1928 in Pennsylvania. She graduated from John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. She earned a B.S. in biology from Chestnut Hill College in 1950 and an LL.B. from Dickinson Law School in 1953. Following her studies, Duffy worked as an attorney.

Duffy and her sister, Sara, who was also a practicing attorney, established their own firm, Duffy & Duffy in 1960. She was known for her work as a trial lawyer – and one of the first

women in Pennsylvania to try major civil and criminal cases. She gained media attention along with her sister over their defense of a man accused of killing a police officer in 1959. She was a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association, and National Association of Women Lawyers.

Duffy was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1956. She represented Philadelphia's 30th District for the 1957-1958 session. Though in office for just a single session, Duffy was able to make an impact. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 400 of 1957, which created a commission to study the state constitution and advise on any changes needed in light of contemporary issues. She also gained attention for fiercely opposing a Senate bill that would have given a 30-day grace period to a parent or former spouse who ignored an order for financial support before wages would be garnished. Over two days she debated the bill with its supporters during which she passionately held, "I ask those who support the bill why they have put this 30-day waiting period, and why they say we want to give the poor guy a chance. A chance to do what? A chance to starve his family to death?" While the bill passed the House, it was vetoed by Governor George M. Leader, who cited many of the same arguments Duffy made during her debate of the bill on the House Floor.

After her time in the House, Duffy continued to practice law. As one of the few practicing female trial lawyers of her day, Duffy noted the lack of female attorneys. In 1971, she spoke out against the Philadelphia Bar Association saying, "I don't think the bar association is doing anything for its female members."²⁸

Mary Alice Duffy died on March 18, 2002 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery, Marple Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.





Beatrice Z. Miller

Born: April 1, 1892, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Died: September 25, 1975, Ambler, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Philadelphia County's 15th District, 1957-1960. Affiliation: Republican.

Beatrice Miller (née Zellner) was born on April 1, 1892 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She attended the Philadelphia High School for Girls. Miller also attended the Regent Academy and the University of Pennsylvania. She married Harry B. Miller in 1915, and the couple had two children: Harry and John.

Miller was active in Philadelphia politics for many years. She was a member of the 22nd Ward Republican Women Committee from 1943 to 1960, and president from 1948 to 1960. She was a member of the 22nd Ward, 57th Division Republican Committee from 1938 to 1960. Miller also was a member of the Republican State Committee from 1950 to 1956. In 1948, Governor James H. Duff appointed her as a member of the State Board of Motion Picture Censors. She served on that board until 1955. Prior to her appointment, she was an employee of the board for nine years. This three-person board was responsible for reviewing all films shown in Pennsylvania and deciding if films would be approved, redacted in some way, or banned outright. The board faced legal challenges over issues of free expression and was eventually disbanded after the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania ruled the act that created the board was unconstitutional in 1956.

Miller was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1956. She represented Philadelphia's 15th District, and was reelected for the following session in 1958. While in office Miller sponsored several successful pieces of legislation including the bill that led to Act 295 of 1957, which allowed township supervisors to utilize funds to care for neglected cemeteries. She also sponsored legislation that became Act 389 of 1959, which created penalties for those found guilty of exhibiting fixed or moving images deemed obscene.

Miller remained engaged in civic life, and was an active member of the Hannah Penn Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Stephen Decatur Chapter of the Daughters of 1812. She also served on the board of the Auxiliary of the Salvation Army and Booth Memorial Hospital.

Beatrice Miller died September 28, 1975 in Ambler, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. She was interred at Mount Peace Cemetery, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.





Mae Kernaghan

Born: April 23, 1901, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Died: September 29, 1980, Lansdowne, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Delaware County's 2nd District, 1957-1968; 163rd Legislative District, Delaware County, 1969-1970.

Affiliation: Republican.

Mae Kernaghan (née Winter) was born on April 23, 1901 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She was educated in Philadelphia's public schools. She married Frank J. Kernaghan in 1920, and the couple had one son: Frank, Jr.

Kernaghan was active in public service committees. She believed "a woman's place is in the civic life of the community," and was a member of over a dozen committees dedicated to women's involvement in public service and public welfare.²⁹ Kernaghan served as president of the Delaware County Women's Republican Club, the Women's Republican Club of Yeadon, the Delaware County Park and Recreation Board, and the Wimodausis (wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters) Club of Yeadon. She also served three consecutive terms as state committeewoman for the Republican Party from Delaware County and was a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Yeadon and Camp Sunshine for underprivileged children.

During World War II, Kernaghan volunteered at Delaware County's Red Cross canteen and in its Prisoner of War Packaging Service. From 1944 to 1955, she was the Delaware County director of the Salvation Army annual fundraising campaign.

Kernaghan was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1956. She represented Delaware County's 2nd District from 1957 to 1968 and the 163rd Legislative District from 1969 to 1970. She was reelected for six subsequent sessions. During her time in office, Kernaghan co-sponsored legislation primarily focused on public welfare and equal opportunity for women. In 1957, she co-sponsored legislation that became Act 55A, which secured appropriations for the Sleighton Farm School for Girls. In 1965, Kernaghan was involved in legislation that became Act 376, which further regulated female employment in regards to hours of labor and conditions of their employment. She also



co-sponsored legislation that became Act 56 in 1969, which amended the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act by prohibiting discrimination based on the sex of any individual and provided a penalty.

While in office, Kernaghan was elected to leadership positions including Majority Caucus Chair for the 1967-1968 session and Minority Caucus Chair for the 1969-1970 session. She was also appointed to the Joint State Commission from 1967 to 1970.

Kernaghan received several accolades for her work in the House. In 1966, the Republican Women of Lansdowne honored her at their semi-annual candidates meeting. At this event Kernaghan said, "The absence of good women in the government is a cause for concern. At present, there are 209 Members in the House and only 12 are women."³⁰ 1963, Kernaghan was the first female to be inducted into Pennsylvania's Young Republican Hall of Fame.

Following her time in the House, Kernaghan remained active in her community. She continued to serve on the Delaware County Republican Board of Supervisors — of which she was a long-time member — until 1972.

Mae Kernaghan died on September 29, 1980 in Lansdowne, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. She is interred in Fernwood Mausoleum, Lansdowne, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.





Frances R. Jones

Born: May 18, 1911, Mt. Holly Springs, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Died: June 4, 1985, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Philadelphia County's 5th District, June 8, 1959-1966. Affiliation: Democrat.

Frances Romania Jones (née Ward) was born May 18, 1911 in Mt. Holly Springs, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. She married Albert F. Johnson in 1933 and the couple had three children: Emma, Alfred, and Sherman. Alfred died on September 11, 1944. Jones later married Granville E. Jones.

Granville E. Jones served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1949 until his death on March 7, 1959. Frances Jones was elected as a Democrat to take her husband's seat in a special election held on May 19, 1959. She was sworn in on June 8, 1959 and was reelected for three subsequent sessions. While in office, Jones had several legislative successes. She sponsored the legislation that led to Act 455 of 1965, which increased allotted funds for counties to bury indigent persons. She continually focused on issues related to healthcare including sponsoring legislation that became Act 516 of 1965, which amended the Practical Nurse Law to revise the educational requirements for nurses.

Following her time in the House, Jones worked at Philadelphia City Hall in the tax office. She was also an active member of the Zion Apostolic Church, where she was involved in the music and missionary departments.

Frances R. Jones died on June 4, 1985 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Mount Lawn Cemetery, Sharon Hill, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.





Elisabeth E. Wynd

Born: February 16, 1914, Tunkhannock, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania. Died: January 24, 1974 in Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Wyoming County, June 5, 1961-1966. Affiliation: Republican.

Elisabeth Emily Wynd (née Steele) was born on February 16, 1914 in Tunkhannock, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Tunkhannock High School. She graduated from the Dean School of Business, Wyoming Seminary in 1933. She married James Wynd, Jr. on November 4, 1935 and the couple had one daughter: Judith.

Following her studies, Wynd worked in the law office of attorney Robert W. Trembath. She had also been employed as a county reporter.

Wynd's husband, James Wynd, Jr., served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1957 until his death on March 28, 1961. Wynd was elected as a Republican to his former seat in a special election held on May 16, 1961, and was sworn in on June 5, 1961. She was reelected to serve Wyoming County for two subsequent sessions. While in office, Wynd sponsored several successful pieces of legislation including the bill that led to Act 210 of 1965, which amended the Game Law to simplify replacing lost hunting licenses and tags.

While in office, Wynd married Frank Wallace on August 28, 1965.

Following her time in the House, the Tunkhannock New Age newspaper lamented, "Another void in the life of Wyoming County will be felt as Rep. Elizabeth Wynd Wallace ends her current term in the General Assembly" and that "Elizabeth has been conscientious in her attendance at the sessions of the House and the committees on which she served. She has given to Wyoming County excellent representation and to its citizens the full benefit of personal services of her office."³¹

Elisabeth E. Wynd Wallace died on January 24, 1974 in Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Sunnyside Cemetery, Tunkhannock, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania.





Elizabeth A. Winter

Born: March 3, 1928, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Died: September 23, 1993, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Philadelphia County's 22nd District, 1963-1964. Affiliation: Republican.

Elizabeth A. Winter (née Watson) was born March 3, 1928 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Olney High School in Philadelphia. She married John A. Winter and the couple had one daughter: JoAnne.

Winter was employed as a secretary and office manager at Philadelphia University.

Winter's interest in politics began when she was just a child. Her mother, Anna C. Watson, was a longtime Republican committeewoman and would take her daughter along when canvassing neighborhoods and would have her slide flyers under front doors.³² As an adult, Winter served as a Republican committeewoman for eight years in the 38th Division of the 23rd Ward.

Bringing her enthusiasm for politics to her own campaign, Winter described her successful efforts to defeat the Democratic incumbent she ran against, "I have been ringing doorbells since September. I visited every home in 22 of the 39 divisions in my district and hundreds of others besides. A lot of people expressed surprise in opening the door and finding a candidate on their steps. No one else, apparently, had ever bothered to do it."³³

Winter was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Republican to represent Philadelphia's 22nd District in 1962. Upon her election to the House, Winter said, "I definitely feel we would all be better off if more women took an active interest in affairs of government."³⁴ During the 1963-1964 session, Winter sponsored several successful pieces of legislation. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 328 of 1963, which facilitated school employees being able to pay into the retirement system for their prior service.

Despite her enthusiasm for and success in legislating, Winter did not run for reelection in 1964 following a diagnosis of thyroid cancer.

Following her time in the House, Winter was employed by the Municipal Court in Philadelphia as the court reporter's supervisor for 27 years.

Elizabeth A. Winter died on September 23, 1993 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Lawnview Cemetery, Rockledge, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.





Lourene W. George

Born: July 1, 1913, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. Died: July 23, 2004, Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Cumberland County's 2nd District, 1963-1968; 88th Legislative District, Cumberland County, 1969-1970. Affiliation: Republican.

Lourene W. George (née Walker) was born on July 1, 1913 in Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from New Cumberland High School and later from the Germantown Dispensary and Hospital School of Nursing. Reflecting on her early career path, George said, "I always wanted to be a doctor but that took too much money so I took the nursing field. That was in 1931 and people were not millionaires. My father was a railroader."³⁵

Following her studies, George began her career as a nurse at the Carlisle Hospital in Cumberland County. George worked as a surgical nurse, and when the hospital decided to hire its first certified registered nurse anesthetist, she was offered the job pending further certification. George obliged, and earned her CRNA from the Germantown Dispensary and Hospital School of Anesthesia. She worked as a nurse anesthetist for 12 years and served a term as president of the Pennsylvania State Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

Lourene George married Arthur George on November 27, 1936. He was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1948 and was reelected for four subsequent sessions. Lourene George left the Carlisle Hospital and took a job in a doctor's office in order to have a more regular schedule in order to assist her husband with campaigning. She was also active in the Cumberland County Republican Committee and the Carlisle Council of Republican Women.

Arthur George died in office on September 24, 1962 while running for reelection. Lourene George was asked to be the Republican candidate to replace her husband on the ballot. Despite the election being so soon after her husband's passing, she decided to accept the offer. When addressing a meeting of the County Republican Women prior to the election, George explained, "When Art was alive, I was like the handle on the pitcher, but now that he has passed away, I [am] the pitcher."³⁶



Lourene George was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1962 to represent Cumberland County. She was reelected for three subsequent sessions. For the 1963-1964, 1965-1966, 1967-1968 sessions she represented Cumberland County's 2nd District, and for the 1969-1970 session she represented the 88th Legislative District. She was appointed Chair of the Boroughs Committee for the 1967-1968 session. She was also Chair of a Joint State Government Commission task force on cigarette sales to minors in 1964. Legislatively, George often focused on issues of education and public health and welfare. She was one of the prime sponsors of the legislation that led to Act 376 of 1965, which called for improved work place conditions for female employees, as well as Act 157 of 1965, which amended the Public Assistance Law to include provisions for in-home patient care in some cases.

Following her time in the House, George worked for the Department of Public Welfare overseeing state medical reimbursements. She married Dr. Robert Barto in 1983. Through her second marriage, she had three step-children: Janice, Nancy, and Robert.

Lourene W. George Barto died on July 23, 2004 in Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Mt. Royal Cemetery, Glenshaw, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.





Anita Palermo Kelly

Born: July 27, 1913, Ozone Park, Queens County, New York. Died: August 15, 1990, Lower Merion, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Philadelphia County's 28th District, December 4, 1963-1968; 192nd Legislative District, Philadelphia County, 1969-1978. Affiliation: Democrat.

Anita J. Kelly (née Palermo) was born on July 27, 1913 in Ozone Park, Queens County, New York. She graduated from John Adams High School in Ozone Park, New York. Kelly also studied abroad for three years following high school. She married William J. Kelly in 1943.

Following her studies, Kelly was employed as a currency counter for the Federal Reserve Bank for 13 years. During this time, she became involved in Philadelphia politics and was a member of the 34th Ward Democratic Executive Committee for 26 years. She was also a member and chair of the Credentials Committee of the Women's Democratic Club of Philadelphia.

William J. Kelly was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1960 and again in 1962. He passed away on July 15, 1963 while in office. Anita P. Kelly was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat in a special election on November 5, 1963 to represent Philadelphia County's 28th District. She was sworn in on December 4, 1963 and was reelected for seven subsequent sessions. From 1969 to 1978 she represented the 192nd Legislative District in Philadelphia. While in office, Kelly sponsored numerous pieces of legislation regarding children with disabilities, medical facilities, and public welfare. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 324 of 1974, which amended the Public Welfare Code, expanding provisions for blind persons. Additionally, Kelly was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 286 of 1974, which appropriated funds for the Elizabethtown Hospital for Children and Youth for the treatment of children with physical and neuro-developmental disabilities.

During Kelly's tenure in the House, Pennsylvania ratified the proposed amendment to the United States Constitution, which provided for equal rights for men and women. When speaking on the bill, Kelly said, "In short, Mr. Speaker, the 27th Amendment will not result in



any immediate sweeping changes in our society, but will provide a legal framework through which social change can take place, so that women can have the same freedom of choice and opportunity that men do in education, employment, housing, earning capacity, and justice, in all facets of life."³⁷

Following her time in the House, Kelly continued to be an advocate for persons with disabilities. She was a long-time volunteer at the Edith R. Rudolphy Residence for the Blind in Philadelphia, where she organized trips for the residents and was a prolific fundraiser. Kelly served three years as president of the board of directors at the Rudolphy Residence. Her efforts earned her the Humanitarian Award from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains.

Anita P. Kelly died on August 15, 1990 in Lower Merion, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Fernwood Cemetery, Lansdowne, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Following her death, Robert A. Brady, chair of the Philadelphia Democratic Party, remembered Kelly as "everybody's mom," and that "she was as warm as a person could be. Everything was personal with her. Every constituent who had a problem, she would have him come down and sit in her kitchen. All you had to do is knock on her door, and she'd let you in."





Jeanne D. Brugger

Born: April 12, 1916, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Died: April 7, 1992, Wayne, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Montgomery County's 1st District, 1965-1966. Affiliation: Republican.

Jeanne Griffith Brugger (née DeBow) was born on April 12, 1916 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Brugger graduated from Asbury Park High School in New Jersey in 1932. She graduated from Smith College with a B.A. in psychology in 1936 and again with an M.A. in educational psychology in 1939. While working on her master's, the college employed her as a psychologist and instructor. Brugger also conducted post-graduate studies at Harvard University and Bryn Mawr College. She married John T. Brugger on July 17, 1943, and the couple had two children, Read and Bonnie.

Following her studies, Brugger taught at Bryn Mawr College and Harcum Junior College. She was the school director of Upper Merion Township from 1961 to 1965.

Brugger was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent Montgomery County's 1st Legislative District in 1964. While in office, Brugger worked on several successful pieces of legislation. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 383 of 1965, which amended the Public School Code to provide for children with brain damage and muscular dystrophy. Brugger was also the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 436 of 1965, which provided regulations on falconry permits.

Following her time in office, Brugger was appointed to the Governor's Task Force on Field Experience Education from 1973 to 1974. She became the president of the Medical College of Pennsylvania from 1973 to 1974, and received an honorary LL.D. from the college in 1976. She was an associate dean at Drexel University.³⁸ Brugger was also a psychologist at the Timothy School from 1983 to 1991.

Jeanne Griffith Brugger died on April 7, 1992, Wayne, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Freedom, Waldo County, Maine.





Jane M. Alexander

Born: November 10, 1929, Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Died: May 6, 2020, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: York County's 2nd District, 1965-1968. Affiliation: Democrat.

Jane M. Alexander (née Lehmer) was born on November 10, 1929 in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Dillsburg High School. She also earned her B.A. from Dickinson College in 1951, and her LL.B. from Dickinson Law School in 1954. She married Paul Nelson Alexander on June 15, 1950 and they had four children: Nixon, Marstin, Lorinda, and Halvard.

Following her studies, Alexander and her husband formed the law firm Alexander & Alexander. She was a member of the York County, Pennsylvania, and American Bar Associations, as well as director of Phi Delta Delta legal fraternity's 10th province. In addition to her law career, Alexander was actively engaged in local politics. She was elected to the Dillsburg borough council in 1955 and served as president of the council from 1958 to 1959. In 1959, she was elected school director of the Northern Joint School System. She was involved in numerous civic affairs including membership in the Dillsburg Women's Club, the board of York County's Women's Clubs, and chair of the York County Cerebral Palsy Association.

Alexander was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1964 to represent York County's 2nd District. She was reelected for one subsequent session. Of her first campaign, Alexander said, "There was certainly a feeling of why are women in politics, but heavens, ... I wasn't running as a woman. I was running as an individual, mainly as a lawyer."³⁹ While in office, Alexander was a sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 376 of 1965, which called for improved work place conditions for female employees. She was also an advocate for issues relating to education and laws pertaining to local government and agriculture.

When asked what women legislators bring to the table, Alexander explained, "Women seem to pay more attention to details. Men and women often view a situation differently. It's



important to consider an issue from both [perspectives].”⁴⁰

Following her time in office, Alexander continued her legal practice, as well as taking on new political roles and business enterprises. She was appointed to a three-year term on the Children’s Services Advisory Board in 1969. She was a member and president of the General Alumni Association of the Dickinson Law School. Beginning in 1972, Alexander worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture as part of the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry. Later that year, she was appointed Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. Alexander was the owner and president of J and J Agri-Products and Services, Inc. an agricultural product distributor and consulting firm she created with her second husband, James A. McHale.

When reflecting on her long and varied career, Alexander said, “This is why we move ahead – to help others open doors. It is not about putting men down, heavens no, but it is about two brains partnering. Let’s get out and get working.”⁴¹

Jane M. Alexander died May 6, 2020 in Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. She is interred in the Dillsburg Cemetery-Mountain Road, Dillsburg, York County, Pennsylvania.





Helen Odorisio

Born: April 27, 1911, West Sadsbury, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Died: August 5, 1970, Bryn Mawr, Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Delaware County's 9th District, August 14, 1967-1968. Affiliation: Republican.

Helen Ferne Odorisio (nee Ritter) was born April 27, 1911 in West Sadsbury, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Odorisio graduated from the Hahnman School of Nursing in 1932. She married Rocco A. Odorisio on October 10, 1942.

Following her studies, Odorisio was employed as an operating room supervisor at the Bryn Mawr Hospital for 15 years. Upon resigning, Odorisio continued to work as a nurse doing part-time floor duty at the hospital as well as private nursing. In addition to her medical career, Odorisio was a member of the Republican Committee of Radnor.

Rocco A. Odorisio was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1958 and was reelected for four subsequent sessions. He passed away April 5, 1968 while in office. Helen Odorisio was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent Delaware County's 9th District in a special election on July 25, 1967. She was sworn in on August 14, 1967. While campaigning, Odorisio said, "I know that [my late husband] would be pleased that I was given this opportunity."⁴² While in office, Odorisio co-sponsored legislation that led to Act 367 of 1967, which provided for employee retirement provisions in second class counties.

Following her time in office, Odorisio served as a member of the Radnor Republican Committee of the 6th Ward, 1st Precinct until her death.

Helen Odorisio died August 5, 1970 in Bryn Mawr, Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Valley Forge Memorial Gardens, King of Prussia, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.





Helen D. Gillette

Born: March 23, 1919, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Died: November 25, 1991, Harrison Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: Allegheny County's 15th District, 1967-1968; 31st Legislative District, Allegheny County, 1969-1978. Affiliation: Democrat.

Helen D. Gillette (née Frederick) was born on March 23, 1919 in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from New Kensington High School and attended Pennsylvania State University and the University of Pittsburgh. She married Michael J. Gillette, and they had three children: Georgia, Rebecca, and Michael.

Following her studies, Gillette worked as an insurance agent and eventually owned and operated her own insurance and accounting agency. She was elected justice of the peace for Harrison Township in 1963.

Gillette was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1966. She was reelected for five subsequent sessions. She represented Allegheny County's 15th District for the 1967-1968 session, and the 31st Legislative District from 1969 to 1978. While in office, Gillette was the prime sponsor of legislation that led to Act 65 of 1970, also known as the Institutional Safe Meat Act, which regulated meat and poultry products that were sold to institutions owned or operated by the Commonwealth. She also prime sponsored the legislation that led to Act 168 of 1975, which increased the amount of wages and benefits payable to a family of a deceased employee.

Helen D. Gillette died November 25, 1991 in Harrison Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Tarentum, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.





Patricia A. Crawford

Born: September 6, 1928, Middletown, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. Died: February 11, 2008, Leesburg, Cumberland County, New Jersey. Member of the House, 156th Legislative District, Chester County, 1969-1976. Affiliation: Republican.

Patricia Ann Crawford (née Farren) was born on September 6, 1928 in Middletown, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Murphy High School in Alabama. She also attended Keystone Business School and West Chester State College (now West Chester University of Pennsylvania). She married Robert J. Crawford on June 14, 1947 and they had two children: John and Janet.

Following her studies, Crawford was employed in the office of Blue Cross in Harrisburg. She also worked as a legal secretary.

Crawford was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 156th Legislative District in 1968. She was reelected for three subsequent sessions. While in office, Crawford focused on strengthening penalties for selling drugs and establishing treatment facilities for drug users. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 289 of 1970, which provided for a residential treatment and research center for addictive diseases. She also prime sponsored the legislation that led to Act 67 of 1974, which required vaccinations for children prior to entering school. Crawford served as Chair of the Subcommittee on Health for the Health and Welfare Committee. In 1972, Crawford spoke in favor of Pennsylvania ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution explaining, "Social and economic wrongs still persist against women in our state and in our nation," She went on, "Yes, I agree that a woman's place is in the home . . . if she chooses it that way."⁴³

The Berwyn-Paoli-Malvern Business and Professional Women's Club chose Crawford as "Woman of the Year" in 1974. She also served on the Governor's Commission on Women from 1976 to 1977.

Following her time in office, Crawford was appointed a Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth, serving from 1978 to 1986. She was a member of the Republican State



Committee from 1979 to 1980. In 1980, when Governor Dick Thornburgh appointed Crawford a member of the Crime Victim's Compensation Board, he said, "Pat Crawford has served the Commonwealth with distinction in a variety of capacities over the years. Her experience and dedication will likewise be a valuable asset to this important board."⁴⁴ Thornburgh also appointed Crawford to the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Board, serving from 1981 to 1982.

Patricia Ann Crawford died on February 11, 2008 in Leesburg, Cumberland County, New Jersey.





Charlotte D. Fawcett

Born: April 20, 1911, Delaware County, Iowa. Died: July 1, 1998, Safety Harbor, Pinellas County, Florida. Member of the House, 152nd Legislative District, Bucks and Montgomery Counties, 1971-1976. Affiliation: Republican.

Charlotte Madge Fawcett (née Durey) was born on April 20, 1911 in Delaware County, Iowa. She graduated from Lamont High School in 1929 and attended Upper Iowa College from 1928 to 1929. She married Cecil C. Fawcett on January 11, 1930, and the couple had two children: Kennedy and Kaye.

Following her studies, Fawcett was active in the effort to establish the first library in Lower Moreland Township, Montgomery County. She was the secretary, personnel chair, and president of the board of directors for the library. Fawcett was a member and president of the Huntingdon Valley Women's Club, and trustee of the Southeast District of the American Library Association and Pennsylvania Library Association. From 1960 to 1970, she was chair of the Republican Committee in Lower Moreland Township. Fawcett also served as a delegate to the 1968 Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention.

Fawcett was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 152nd Legislative District in 1970. She was reelected for two subsequent sessions. While in office, Fawcett focused on issues relating to healthcare and children and adults with disabilities. When discussing the struggle of the minority party to get legislation passed, Fawcett said, "The advice I give to all incoming freshmen is not to work on substantive bills, but to work to amend legislation in committee and to work on the Floor of the House. It's the only way."⁴⁵

Following her time in the House, Fawcett retired to Florida. She was featured in *Who's Who of American Women* in the 1977-1978 edition.

Charlotte Madge Fawcett died on July 1, 1998 in Safety Harbor, Pinellas County, Florida. Fawcett is interred in the Cremorial Garden at Curlew Hills Memory Gardens in Palm Harbor, Pinellas County, Florida.





Rose Toll

Born: June 4, 1911, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Died: May 12, 1997, Voorhees, Camden County, New Jersey. Member of the House: 200th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, 1971-1976. Affiliation: Democrat.

Rose Toll (née Ornstein) was born June 4, 1911 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Kensington High School, and later from Mt. Sinai Hospital School of Nursing in 1932. She married Herman Toll in 1936 and they had two children: Gilbert and Sheldon. Herman Toll served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1951 to 1958, and was a member of the United States Congress from 1959 to 1966.

Following her studies, Toll worked for a year as a nurse on a steamship that hosted vacation cruises on the Great Lakes. She was then employed as an obstetrical nurse at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. Toll became involved in politics through her husband's campaigns and work as a legislator. She took on more active role in her husband's campaign efforts in 1964 after he was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. During the following session, she was often by his side in Washington, even on the House Floor. Rose Toll became leader of the Democratic Party's 50th Ward in Philadelphia, a position her husband had held prior to his illness. Following her husband's death in 1967, she worked as an aide in the office of U.S. Representative Robert N.C. Nix in Philadelphia.

Toll was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 200th Legislative District in 1970. She was reelected for two subsequent sessions. While in office, Toll was the prime sponsor of legislation that led to Act 263 of 1976, which regulated industrial work performed in the home.

Following her time as a Representative, Toll was employed as assistant secretary of the House from 1976 to 1979.

Rose Toll died on May 12, 1997 in Voorhees, Camden County, New Jersey. She is interred at Roosevelt Memorial Park, Trevose, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.





Faith Ryan Whittlesey

Born: February 21, 1939, Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey. Died: May 21, 2018, Washington, D.C. Member of the House: 166th Legislative District, Delaware County, 1973-1975. Affiliation: Republican.

Faith A. Ryan Whittlesey (née Ryan) was born February 21, 1939 in Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey. She graduated from Williamsville Central High School of Williamsville, New York in 1956. She earned a B.A. in history from Wells College in 1960 and her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1963. Whittlesey also earned a Ford Foundation Grant to attend the Academy of International Law at The Hague in the Netherlands. Whittlesey married Roger Weaver Whittlesey on May 11, 1963, and they had three children: Henry, Amy, and William.

Following her studies, Whittlesey worked as an English teacher at Bok Technical High School in Philadelphia for five months in 1963. Afterwards, she worked as a research analyst for the Pennsylvania Banking Revision Project. Whittlesey received a position as a law clerk for a federal district judge, and later worked as an attorney for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. She served as Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and as special assistant in the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General.

Whittlesey was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 166th Legislative District in 1972. She was reelected for one subsequent session. While in office, Whittlesey was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 115 of 1973, which repealed provisions in the Crime Code. She resigned from the House on December 31, 1975 following her election as a Delaware County commissioner. When reflecting on her time in the Pennsylvania legislature, Whittlesey said, "I enjoyed my time in the legislature because I spent time with the brightest lights of the legislature. The Speaker, the Majority Leader, the Majority Whip, some of the brightest minds. They always invited me to join them for dinner. I thrived. We had lively discussions every night at dinner. It was fun and highly stimulating."⁴⁶

Following her time in the House, Whittlesey served on the Delaware County council



from 1976 to 1984. In 1980, she co-chaired the Ronald Reagan for President campaign in Pennsylvania. The following year, President Reagan appointed her United States Ambassador to Switzerland, which she served as from September 28, 1981 to February 29, 1983, and again from April 4, 1985 to June 14, 1988. From March 1983 to March 1985 Whittlesey served in the Reagan Administration as an assistant for public liaison in the White House. When Whittlesey left the White House for her second appointment as ambassador to Switzerland, Reagan wrote to her, "Your sacrifice and exemplary performance in the White House helped to create the enormous public support we received for a second term and for many of the policies I asked you to advocate. I have missed you since your return to Switzerland."⁴⁷

In addition to her political work, Whittlesey was a prolific writer who contributed to New York Times, Washington Times, and Wall Street Journal. She was president of Maybrook Associates from 1998 to 2018. Whittlesey served as a United States delegate to the United Nations Conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons in 2001 and as an official advisor to John Bolton, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, for the United Nations Conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons in 2006. She served as president and chair of the American Swiss Foundation from 1989 to 2006. Whittlesey also worked and traveled internationally as a corporate consultant on government issues. She was awarded honorary doctorates from Boston University, Widener University, and King's College, Pennsylvania.

Faith Ryan Whittlesey died May 21, 2018 in Washington, D.C.





Phyllis T. Kernick

Born: December 14, 1924, Penn Hills Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Died: January 21, 2009, Penn Hills Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House, 32nd Legislative District, Allegheny County, 1975-January 7, 1980. Affiliation: Democrat.

Phyllis Eleanor Kernick (née Taylor) was born December 14, 1924 in Penn Hills Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Kernick graduated from Penn Hills High School and the Robert Morris School of Business (now Robert Morris University). She also attended Duquesne University, the University of Pittsburgh, the Institute of Local Government, and Point Park College (now Point Park University). She married William Albert Kernick on August 9, 1944, and they had six children: Sally, Thomas, Cynthia, Phyllis, Richard, and William.

Following her studies, Kernick was employed as a secretary at the Reed Smith law firm in Pittsburgh. In addition to her work, Kernick was active in local politics. She served as secretary for the Citizens Committee for Fair Milk Prices in 1965. Later that year, Kernick was elected an auditor for Penn Hills Township. She was elected treasurer of Penn Hills Township in 1968 and served from 1969 to 1976.

Kernick was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 32nd Legislative District in 1974. She was reelected for two subsequent sessions. While in office, Kernick was an advocate for public accountability and transparency in government. She was the prime sponsor of legislation that led to Act 118 of 1975, which amended the Local Tax Enabling Act to require employees who owe delinquent taxes be notified that unless owed taxes are paid, their employers will be contacted to collect payment. She resigned from the House on January 7, 1980 following her election as mayor of Penn Hills in 1979.

Following her time in the House, Kernick served as mayor of Penn Hills from 1980 to 1984. She also served as a council member in Penn Hills from 1994 to 1998. Kernick explained her success in political life, "People have always come to me for help. They came because I never turn anybody down. They just feel better after they talk."⁴⁸

Phyllis T. Kernick died January 21, 2009 in Penn Hills Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Plum Creek Cemetery, Plum, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.





Carmel Sirianni

Born: September 14, 1922 in Carbondale, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. Died: April 21, 1991 in Montrose, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 111th Legislative District, Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties, 1975-1988. Affiliation: Republican.

Carmel Angela Sirianni was born on September 14, 1922 in Carbondale, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Hop Bottom High School. She earned a B.A. from Bloomsburg State Teachers College (now Bloomsburg University) in 1944. She additionally earned her master's degree in education from Bucknell University on August 16, 1952. She also attended Pennsylvania State University and Marywood College (now University).

Following her studies, Sirianni was a teacher at Hop Bottom and Mountain View schools. She also worked as a guidance counselor and assistant principal. In 1967, Sirianni became an administrative assistant to State Representative Kenneth B. Lee and worked in his office until 1974.

Sirianni was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Republican in 1974 to represent the 111th Legislative District. She was reelected for six subsequent sessions. Sirianni was appointed Minority Chair of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee for the 1985-1986 and 1987-1988 sessions. In addition to championing legislation assisting rural areas, Sirianni was the prime sponsor of several successful pieces of legislation. For example, she prime sponsored the legislation that led to Act 108 of 1980, which amended the Unemployment Compensation Law to adjust rates and amounts of benefits as well as employer contributions. Act 108 was hard won after numerous revisions between the House and Senate, as well as disagreements between organized labor and various industry representatives before the bill made it to Governor Dick Thornburgh's desk. Despite the controversy, she was successfully reelected later that year. Sirianni referred to this legislative success, "I know we have held government spending down," and that "jobs are pretty hard to find, and the economy is bad. That's what people are worried about."⁴⁹

Following her retirement in 1988, Sirianni received several accolades. At the Wyoming



County Republican Dinner that year, Sirianni was presented with citations from the House and Senate for her years of service. Representatives from the county committee, local emergency services, Keystone Junior College, and the Pennsylvania Council of Republican Women also thanked Sirianni for her work and advocacy for them during her time in the House. Sirianni responded to the tributes saying, "This district has treated me like a queen," adding that "I've tried to work hard for you, but I should. Your legislators and elected officials should work hard for you."⁵⁰

Carmel Sirianni died April 21, 1991 in Montrose, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Cathedral Cemetery, Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. Following her death, House Minority Leader Mathew J. Ryan recalled Sirianni's formidable presence in the House, "She let you know whatever was on her mind. She was outspoken and wasn't afraid of taking on whoever was Speaker of the House if she didn't agree with them."⁵¹

In 1994, Act 92, which was sponsored by her successor Kenneth E. Lee, designated a bridge in Wyoming County as the Carmel Sirianni Memorial Bridge.





Agnes M. Scanlon

Born: December 22, 1923, Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts. Died: October 3, 2018, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 177th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, 1977-1978. Affiliation: Democrat.

Agnes M. Scanlon (née Roddock) was born on December 22, 1923 in Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts. She graduated from the High School of Commerce in Massachusetts. Scanlon also graduated from the Springfield Vocational School, Philadelphia Flore Academy of Beauty Culture and the Berlitz School of Languages. She was the wife of Pennsylvania State Senator Joseph J. Scanlon, whom she married in 1947. The couple had four children: Paulette, Patricia, Marie, and Robert.

Scanlon was a beautician and tavern owner before working for the city of Philadelphia. She was an administrative assistant for the Philadelphia Register of Wills and later for the Philadelphia Parking Authority. Scanlon was a leader for the 33rd Ward Democratic Executive Committee from 1970 to 1974. Agnes Scanlon also supported her husband's political career as a Pennsylvania State Senator from 1969 until his death in 1970. She ran for Philadelphia City Council in 1971 and explained, "There are so many things I want to see done that council could explore. I'm talking about the fields of health care, the elderly, prenatal care. Having some women on council wouldn't be so bad."⁵²

Scanlon was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat in 1976 to represent the 177th Legislative District.

She died on October 3, 2018 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.





Helen D. Wise

Born: September 11, 1928, Sussex, Sussex County, New Jersey. Member of the House, 77th Legislative District, Centre County, 1977-1978. Affiliation: Democrat.

Helen D. Wise (née Dickerson) was born September 11, 1928, Sussex, Sussex County, New Jersey. She graduated from State College High School. Wise earned her B.A. in 1949, an M.Ed. in 1952, and a D.Ed. in 1968 from Pennsylvania State University. She married Howard E. Wise on September 17, 1949 and they had three children: David, Dan, and Dirk.

After earning her master's degree, Wise was a social studies teacher. She initially taught at the Unionville-Chadds Ford Jointure in Chester County, and later taught for 10 years at the State College Area Junior High School. In 1961, she earned the Freedoms Foundation Classroom Teacher Award for Excellence in social studies teaching. She was active in the Pennsylvania State Teacher's Association and served on its board of directors. In 1968, she was elected president to the Pennsylvania State Teacher's Association. In 1969, she was elected to the Pennsylvania State University Board of Trustees, and served until 1990. Wise was elected to a one-year term as president of the National Education Association in 1973. While in that office, she traveled nationally, to 26 foreign countries, as well as visits to Congress and the White House. Following her brief tenure, she returned to teaching in State College.

After her year as president of the National Education Association, Wise spoke on the importance of educators being politically active: "We are the most political of all professions. Everything we do - who we teach, what we teach, and how many hours - all those decisions are made by politically elected lay people - the school board, the state legislature, and Congress."⁵³

Wise was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 77th Legislative District in 1976. While in office, Wise sponsored a package of 26 bills aimed at eliminating sexism in Pennsylvania's laws. The bill package was supported by Governor Milton Shapp, and promoted as an effort to implement the Equal Rights Amendment to the State Constitution which passed in 1971. Wise said of the effort, "This is



a historic package of bills. We are not recommending all kinds of weird things, all the laws which protect personal privacy which is a basic right, have been retained.”⁵⁴ Many of these bills became law, including Act 174 of 1978, which changed certain provisions to provide equal rights between men and women under the Inheritance and Estate Tax Act, and Act 184 of 1978 which changed certain provisions to provide equal rights between husband and wife (or between man and woman) under the Public School Code.

Following her time in office, Wise was the executive director of the Delaware State Education Association from 1979 to 1985. In 1987, Governor Robert P. Casey appointed her Secretary for Legislative Affairs. Wise was the Secretary to the Cabinet in the Casey Administration from 1987 to 1995. She also served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs in the Office of the Governor from 1990 to 1995. Wise was a gubernatorial appointee to the board of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, serving from 1995 to 2000.

In 2017, Helen Wise was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Centre County Democratic Committee. She currently resides in Spring Mills, Pennsylvania.





Margaret H. George

Born: April 5, 1928, Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 143rd Legislative District, Bucks County, 1977-1980. Affiliation: Democrat.

Margaret Anne George (née Hewitt) was born April 5, 1928 in Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Prospect Park High School in 1945. In 1949 she earned her B.A. from Ursinus College. She married Glenn F. George on August 26, 1950 and they had three children: Philip, Barry, and Marjorie.

Prior to her marriage, George was employed as a librarian at the University of Pennsylvania. She was then a stay-at-home mother to her three children. In 1969, she was elected to the Central Bucks School Board, and served until 1976. She was also a member of the League of Women Voters.

George was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 143rd Legislative District in 1976. She was reelected for one subsequent session. Upon her election to the House, George explained she ran for the House because, "... somebody who knows what happens at the local level—my experience is in school districts—should have a voice in the legislature and in the Department of Education."⁵⁵ While in office, George followed through with her promise and sponsored legislation focused on local governmental affairs and education. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 199 of 1980, which provided for the classification for school districts.

Following her time in office, George was appointed a legislative liaison for the Pennsylvania Department of Education and served from 1982 to 1986. She later worked as a community liaison for Hatboro-Horsham School District from 1986 to 1990. George also authored two books, *Never Use Your Dim Lights, Not Even in the Fog: A Political Journey (2004)* and *We Knew We Were at War: Women Remember World War II (2006)*.

When reflecting on her time in the House, George said, "We should all remember we are standing on someone else's shoulders who helped pave the way for our successes."⁵⁶

George currently resides in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.





June N. Honaman

Born: May 24, 1920, Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Died, December 3, 1994, Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 97th Legislative District, Lancaster County, 1977-1988. Affiliation: Republican.

June N. Honaman (née Newcomer) was born on May 24, 1920 in Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Manheim Township High School in 1937. She earned her B.F.A. from Beaver College (now Arcadia University) in 1941. She also attended Lancaster Business School. She married Peter K. Honaman on November 20, 1948.

Following her studies, Honaman was a public school teacher from 1947 to 1952. She was also employed at the Armstrong Cork Company. She was the co-chair of the Women's Republican Club of Lancaster County in 1949. Additionally, she was a member of the Pennsylvania Council of Republican Women and served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1964, 1968, and 1972. Honaman was also vice chair of the Republican Party of Pennsylvania from 1964 to 1975. She was appointed a member of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women from 1964 to 1972 and was also appointed a member of the Governor's Task Force on Election Reform in 1975.

Honaman was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 97th Legislative District in 1976. She was reelected for five subsequent sessions. Honaman was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 39 of 1980, which restricted the acquisition by certain aliens of an interest in agricultural lands. She was interested in legislation that eliminated the rate of inheritance tax for certain heirs. She was also interested in legislation that would allow the state to adopt a statewide emergency telephone system. During her time in office, she served on the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts from 1981 to 1988. At the time of her retirement in 1988, Honaman explained "...it's time for new ideas. I think it's time for someone new to go up there and see what they can do."⁵⁷ Fellow legislator, Matthew J. Ryan, explained Honaman "...is one of the nicest people in the world. And besides that, with her calm, cool manner, she was one of the truly effective legislators in Harrisburg."⁵⁸

June N. Honaman died in Landisville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on December 3, 1994. She is interred in Woodward Hill Cemetery, Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.





Ruth B. Harper

Born: December 24, 1927, Hinesville, Liberty County, Georgia. Died: February 13, 2006, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 196th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, 1977-1992. Affiliation: Democrat.

Ruth B. Harper (née DeLoach) was born on December 24, 1927 in Hinesville, Liberty County, Georgia. Harper graduated from Cuyler-Beach High School. She attended Berean Institute of Cosmetology and Business, Flamingo Modeling and Charm School, Philadelphia Miniversity, LaSalle College, and Moore College of Art. She married James Harper and they had two children: Catherine and Deloris.

Harper started Ruth Harper's Modeling and Charm School, which she ran from 1963 to 2004. Her school strived to assist African-American females with dressing stylishly and taught etiquette. The school was also known for its lessons on how to "curse your husband out and still be charming."⁵⁹ Harper was also an instructor at Simon Gratz High School and at Strawberry Mansion Junior High School and columnist for the Tioga News. She was well known for her fashion and work in the modeling industry. However, friends close to Harper knew that she was an avid angler and often traveled with her fishing rod in the trunk of her car.

Harper was an active member in her community, and she became a leader for the 13th Ward Democratic Committee, 23rd Division. She was the Founder/President of the North Central Women's Political Caucus. Harper was also a member of the Democratic National Committee from 1981 to 1996.

Harper was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1976 to represent the 196th Legislative District. She was reelected for seven subsequent sessions. While in office, Harper was appointed to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency from 1981 to 1984. She also chaired the Urban Affairs Committee from 1987 to 1992. Much of her time in office was spent working with residents of Logan Township who were suffering from sinking homes. She was also concerned with civic issues such as free day care centers, dress codes in schools, and help for displaced homemakers. In 1990, she



was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 102, which provided funding for the Commonwealth Neighborhood Housing Service.

Harper continued to run Ruth Harper's Modeling and Charm School until her health declined in 2004.

Ruth B. Harper died on February 13, 2006 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She is interred in Magnolia Memorial Gardens, Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia.





Elinor Z. Taylor

Born: April 18, 1921, Norristown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Died: July 27, 2010, Stuart, Martin County, Florida. Member of the House: 156th Legislative District, Chester County, 1977-2006. Affiliation: Republican.

Elinor Taylor (née Zimmerman) was born on April 18, 1921 in Norristown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Taylor graduated from West Chester High School (now Henderson High School) in 1939. She received her B.S. from West Chester State Teachers College (now West Chester University) in 1943, Masters of Education from Temple University in 1958, and an honorary Doctor of Public Service from West Chester University in 1996. Taylor also attended Columbia University and University of Delaware. Taylor married William M. Taylor in 1947. They had one child: Barbara.

Taylor's career as an educator spanned over 30 years. She began her career as a teacher at Ridley Park High School and later taught at West Chester High School. She spent the majority of her career at West Chester University where she was an associate professor of Health and Physical Education from 1955 to 1968, assistant dean of Women in 1968, acting dean of Student Affairs in 1969, and dean of administration from 1970 to 1975.

Taylor started her political career when she was elected as a council member for West Chester Borough from 1974 to 1978.

Taylor was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1976 to represent the 156th Legislative District. She was reelected for 14 subsequent sessions. When reflecting on her first session in the House, Taylor stated, "[when] I went to Harrisburg, there were three Republican women and six Democratic women, and most of the six were wives of legislators."⁶⁰ During her time in the House she sponsored legislation focused on elder abuse, criminal background checks, student loans, and higher education. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 89 of 1981, which related to loan guarantees for students. She also prime sponsored the legislation that became Act 82 of 1996, which provided criminal history background checks for employees at facilities who work with the elderly. Taylor became a leader in her party by serving as Majority Caucus Secretary from



1995 to 2003, and Majority Caucus Chair from 2003 to 2006. She was also appointed to the Joint State Government Commission from 2003 to 2006.

In addition to her legislative work, Taylor continued her dedication to higher education while in office. She was appointed to the board of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) from 1981 to 2006. She served as Vice Chair of PHEAA from 1991 to 1994 and as Chair from 1995 to 2006. PHEAA dedicated their building in Taylor's honor in 2003 as the Elinor Z. Taylor Headquarters Building. She stated, "I'm very proud of my PHEAA work and giving young people access and choice to institutions of higher learning... An educated society is a society in which we want to live."⁶¹

As of 2019, Taylor holds the distinction of being the longest-serving female member of the House.

Elinor Taylor died on July 27, 2010 in Stuart, Martin County, Florida. She is interred in Birmingham-Lafayette Cemetery, West Chester, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Following her death, colleagues remembered Taylor as "a tough cookie..." and said "she was quite a force, somebody to be reckoned with in the state Legislature, she wasn't hesitant to call you up and give you a piece of her mind... but we always worked things out."⁶²





Rita Clark

Born: September 12, 1915, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pennsylvania. Died: May 9, 2008, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 71st Legislative District, Cambria County, 1979-1980. Affiliation: Democrat.

Rita Clark (née Pohl) was born September 12, 1915 in Johnstown, Cambria County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Johnstown Catholic High School (now Bishop McCort High School) in 1933. After attending the College of St. Francis (now the University of St. Francis) in Joliet, Illinois from 1934 to 1935, she earned her B.S. in English/social studies from the Lock Haven State Teachers College (now Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania) in 1937. In 1938, she earned her teaching certificate from the University of Pittsburgh. On June 14, 1941 she married John J. Clark and they had four children: Dennis, Sean, Mark, and Siobhan.

Following her studies, Clark was a teacher at Edgewood Elementary School in Johnstown. She also worked in a family-owned business, Clark's Dairy Store. After the birth of her children, Clark spent time as a stay-at-home mother. She was a member of the League of Women Voters of the Greater Johnstown area. In 1973, Clark was elected to the Johnstown city council and served until 1979. While on city council, Clark oversaw efforts to address the needs of her community in the aftermath of the 1977 Johnstown Flood. When advocating for using disaster-relief donations to address clogged city sewage systems, Clark said, "We decided that Johnstown itself was a victim of the flood and what we're trying to do is get free-flowing water in this city again."⁶³

Clark was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1978 to represent the 71st Legislative District. While in office, Clark was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 32 of 1979, which called for changing the name of the Rehabilitation Center at Johnstown to the Hiram G. Andrews Center. Andrews represented Cambria County in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1933 to 1962, and served as Speaker from 1959 to 1962. He successfully lobbied for the center to be built while in office.

Following her time in the House, Clark remained active in politics and community service.



In 1979, Governor Dick Thornburg appointed Clark to the Pennsylvania Commission for Women. Governor Thornburg later appointed Clark to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, where she served from 1981 to 1985. She also served as a member of the advisory board for the Salvation Army in Johnstown.

When reflecting on her political career, Clark explained, "I always liked public service – the power to do good work is a real inspiration... the legislature is a great place to make life better for people."⁶⁴

Rita Clark died on May 9, 2008 in Johnstown, Cambria County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Grandview Cemetery, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pennsylvania.





Marilyn S. Lewis

Born: July 19, 1931, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 147th Legislative District, Montgomery County, 1979-1982. Affiliation: Republican.

Marilyn S. Lewis (née Stoughton) was born July 19, 1931 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She attended Harcum Junior College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania from 1950 to 1951. She also audited classes at Ursinus College. In June 1950 she married Andrew L. Lewis, and they had three children: Karen, Russell, and Andrew. Mr. Lewis served as United States Secretary of Transportation from 1981 to 1983 in the Reagan Administration.

Following her studies and marriage, Lewis was a housewife. She was active in her local community and politics for many years. Lewis was a den mother in the Cub Scouts and chair of the local Girl Scout fund raising campaign. She served as a Republican committee member in her local district, and was an alternate delegate to the 1976 Republican National Convention. She was also involved in her husband's 1974 campaign for governor.

Lewis was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 147th Legislative District in 1978. She was reelected for one subsequent session. During her first campaign, Lewis explained why she was compelled to seek office, "I have traveled extensively throughout the state and I believe that I understand Pennsylvania politics, the needs of Pennsylvania, and most importantly, how I can best represent our district in the House of Representatives."⁶⁵ While in office, Lewis was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 98 of 1981, which authorized a land sale in Montgomery County.

Following her time in office, Lewis focused on supporting her husband's position in Reagan's cabinet. She was involved in charitable efforts, as well as the political and social life in Washington, D.C., In 1982, Lewis served as a representative to the United Nations Commission on the State of Women, and in 1983, she was appointed to the Presidential Commission on White House Fellows. Lewis also held several board of directors positions, including ones on Continental Bancorp from 1981 to 1991, the Midatlantic Corp from 1987 to 1991, and Ursinus College from 1994 to 2005.





Mary Ann Arty

Born: November 24, 1926, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Died: October 26, 2000, Bradenton, Manatee County, Florida. Member of the House: 165th Legislative District, Delaware County, 1979-1988. Affiliation: Republican.

Mary Ann Arty (née Scheid) was born November 24, 1926 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from the Philadelphia High School for Girls in 1944. Arty earned her R.N. from the Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1947. After earning her R.N., Arty was a head nurse in the pediatrics department at the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania. In 1954, Arty married Thomas B. Arty and they had three children: Janie, John, and James.

Arty returned to her studies and earned a B.S. from West Chester State College (now West Chester University of Pennsylvania) in 1966, and worked on graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania. She worked as a lecturer, a certified health officer, and a community health director for Springfield Township, as well as a registered nurse. In addition to her work, Arty was very active in local politics. She was a member of the Springfield Township Republican Committee from 1966 to 1978, served as vice chair of the Delaware County Republican Executive Committee from 1970 to 1998, and was appointed to the board of commissioners for Springfield Township in 1977. Arty also served as a member of the Health Protection and Disease Prevention Committee at the White House Conference on Children in 1970 and as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1972.

Arty was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 165th Legislative District in 1978. She was reelected for four subsequent sessions. While in office, Arty focused on issues pertaining to nursing, healthcare, mental health, and youth services. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 328 of 1982, which provided for reimbursement by hospital plan corporations for birthing facilities used by midwives. In 1980, Arty was a delegate to the White House Conference on Families. For her decade of service, the Springfield Business and Professional Women's Club named her "Woman of the Year" in 1988.





Kathrynann W. Durham

Born: July 29, 1951, Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 160th Legislative District, Delaware County, 1979-1996. Affiliation: Republican.

Kathrynann W. Durham (née Walrath) was born July 29, 1951 in Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Sun Valley High School in 1969. Durham earned her B.A. from Widener College (now Widener University) in 1973 and her J.D. in 1982 from Widener University Delaware Law School. Durham married Stephen A. Durham in 1973 and they have one child: Stephen.

Before earning her J.D., Durham worked as an English and Spanish teacher at Northly Jr. High School. After completing law school, she worked as an attorney.

Durham was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 160th Legislative District in 1978. She was reelected for eight subsequent sessions. While in office, Durham advocated issues relating to healthcare and consumer affairs. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 23 of 1995 which provided for utility companies to recover costs of fire hydrants.

In 1995, Durham was elected to the Delaware County Council. She served as both a member of the council and the House of Representatives until her House term expired in 1996. During her farewell address Durham reflected on her time in the House, "I came here wide-eyed and willing to do work with the idea that our form of government was the best in the world and that our form of government could do many wonderful things. After 18 years of being here, I still consider it a privilege, I still consider it to be a luxury, and I still believe that this is the best form of government and that we do great things here."⁶⁶

Following her time in the House, Durham continued her service on the Delaware County Council until 2001. Since June 18, 2001, Durham has served as a judge of the Common Pleas of Delaware County.





Lois S. Hagarty

Born: September 28, 1948, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 148th Legislative District, Montgomery County, April 8, 1980 to 1992. Affiliation: Republican.

Lois Sherman Hagarty (née Sherman) was born September 28, 1948 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Harriton High School in 1966. Hagarty earned a B.S. in 1970 and an M.Ed. in 1973 from Temple University. She also earned her J.D. from Temple University School of Law in 1976. She married John J. Hagarty III in June 1974, and they had two children: Matthew and Seth. They divorced in 2002.

Following her studies, Hagarty was an elementary teacher in the Upper Merion School District from 1970 to 1973. After earning her J.D., Hagarty was employed as an attorney with Wilson, Drayer, Morrow & Furber. From 1976 to 1979, Hagarty was an assistant district attorney for Montgomery County, and from 1979 to 1980 she was first assistant district attorney. Hagarty was also active in her community as part of the Lower Merion Conservancy, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and a member of the board of the Food Trust.

Following the resignation of Anthony J. Scirica, Hagarty was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Republican to represent the 148th Legislative District in a special election on March 11, 1980. She was sworn in on April 8, 1980, and reelected for six subsequent sessions. While in office, Hagarty advocated for issues pertaining to children and family issues, as well as economic development in southeast Pennsylvania. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 66 of 1985, which provided for child support enforcement. Hagarty also prime sponsored the legislation that became Act 7 of 1988, which provided for payment of intermediaries in adoption cases. She was appointed to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and served from 1989 to 1992.

When reflecting on her time in office Hagarty said, "I would like to be remembered as a leading voice on many issues - domestic violence, economic development, fairer treatment of women and children in divorce proceedings, and elevating women as serious equal voices."⁶⁷

Following her time in office, Hagarty resumed her law career. She was employed at Pepper Hamilton LLP from 1992 to 2002. Hagarty is currently employed at Saul, Ewing, Arnstein & Lehr. She serves as a principal at State Street Advisors, a public policy consultant group. She also previously served as a board member of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA).

Hagarty currently resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.





Lori Heiser

Born: April 20, 1928, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. Died: September 21, 2014, Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia. Member of the House: 29th Legislative District, Allegheny County, 1981-1982. Affiliation: Republican.

Lorraine Mary Heiser (née Rams) was born April 20, 1928 in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. She graduated from Carl Schurz High School and later earned her B.S. from Northern Illinois University in 1949. She married Richard S. Heiser on August 15, 1952 and they had two children: James and Claire.

Following her studies, Heiser was a hospital dietitian, as well as a home economics teacher in the Chicago Public Schools. After the birth of her children, Heiser was a stay-at-home mother. During this time, Heiser became increasingly active in her community through volunteering and political involvement. She served two years as president of the North Hills-McKnight Branch of the American Association of University Women, chair of the Ross Republican Committee, and was a member of the North Hills League of Women Voters. In 1976, she was an alternate delegate to the Republican National Convention. She was active in Governor Dick Thornburgh's gubernatorial campaign in 1978. Heiser was also instrumental in starting a crisis center for abused women in North Hills, as well as in leading a campaign to save the Northland Public Library.

Heiser was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 29th Legislative District in 1980. While in office, Heiser secured funding for several projects in her district, including funds to replace four bridges. Heiser said of her time in office, "I have a reputation as a person who was a problem-solver in the community. I brought results for the community. I had the experience in the community of how to get things done."⁶⁸

Following her time in office, Heiser continued to be active in her community and politics. In 1985, she was appointed to the Pennsylvania Securities Commission and served until 1992.

Lorraine Mary Heiser died September 21, 2014 in Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia. She was cremated at Bill Head Funeral Home and Crematory in Tucker, DeKalb County, Georgia.





Frances Weston

Born: September 1, 1954, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Died: December 24, 2005, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 173rd Legislative District, Philadelphia County, 1981-1990. Affiliation: Republican.

Frances Patricia Weston (née Peteraf) was born September 1, 1954 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from St. Hubert's High School in 1972. In 1977, she graduated with a B.A. in political science from Temple University. She married Edward Weston and they had two children: Bridget and Kaitlyn.

Following her studies, Weston was an accounting supervisor at J.C. Penney.

Weston was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 173rd Legislative District in 1980. She was reelected for four subsequent sessions. While in office, Weston championed issues relating to mental health and persons with disabilities. Weston was also an advocate for auto insurance reform. In 1987 she introduced House Bill 1757, which called for proof of insurance stickers be displayed on car windshields. When reflecting on her time in office, Weston explained the most rewarding part of her career was "not any legislative agenda I was part of as much as the personal service that I was able to provide to people."⁶⁹

Following her time in office, Weston continued to be involved in serving her community and in local politics. In 1992, she was a deputy managing director specializing in environmental and economic development issues in Philadelphia under then mayor, and future governor, Edward Rendell. From 1996 to 1999, Weston served as the commissioner of the Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections. She also worked as the assistant general manager of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority from 1999 to 2005. Weston was a fundraiser for the Special Olympics and volunteered at Project H.O.M.E., which works to provide education, job training, and affordable housing for people impacted by homelessness and poverty in Philadelphia.

Following her divorce from her first husband, Weston married John Egan.

Frances Weston died December 24, 2005 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.





Ruth Rudy

Born: January 3, 1938, Millheim, Centre County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 171st Legislative District, Centre and Mifflin Counties, 1983-1996. Affiliation: Democrat.

Ruth Rudy (née Corman) was born January 3, 1938 in Millheim, Centre County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Penn Valley Area High School in 1955 and earned a certificate in radiological studies from the Carnegie Institute in 1956. Rudy also attended Pennsylvania State University from 1969 to 1971. She married C. Guy Rudy on November 23, 1956, and they had three children: Douglas, Donita, and Dianna.

Following her studies, Rudy worked as a rural development coordinator as part of a grant program, then as the legislative director for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture from 1972 to 1975. From 1976 to 1982, she served as the prothonotary and clerk of courts for Centre County. She was a member of the National Democratic Committee for 28 years.

Rudy was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1982 to represent the 171st Legislative District. She was reelected for six subsequent sessions. While in office, Rudy focused on issues pertaining to agriculture, as well as equality for women and she sponsored numerous successful pieces of legislation. Rudy was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 185 of 1990, which required restrooms be provided for women on an equitable basis. The legislation gained media attention, and was nicknamed the “potty parity bill.” During her oral history interview with the House Archives, Rudy explained, “The legislation actually did become law after a lot of notoriety and this-and-that in the newspapers. But I think it is something that has been necessary for a long, long time, because if you’ve ever attended an event in an auditorium or at a stadium or something like that, the women’s restrooms are backed up [with] much, much longer lines than what the men’s restrooms are.”⁷⁰ She also prime sponsored the legislation that led to Act 65 of 1992, which created a rural leadership training program.

In addition to her legislative efforts Rudy served on the Pennsylvania Commission for Women for four years and was a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. When reflecting on how she would like her time in office to be remembered, Rudy explained, “I was able to



puncture the 'good ole boys club' of politics to have a voice for women, rural communities, and to truly work for the people."⁷¹

Following her time in office, Rudy continued to be engaged in politics and community affairs. In 1999, she managed a successful campaign for Debra Immel, who was elected Centre County prothonotary. Rudy also served as an auditor for Potter Township for six years. She also contributed to The Centre Daily Times as a community columnist, publishing Reflections of My Life in the Valley in 2007, a compilation of her columns. She currently resides in Centre Hall, Centre County, Pennsylvania.





Alice S. Langtry

Born: June 29, 1932, Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts. Died: May 1, 2017, Barrington, Illinois. Member of the House: 40th Legislative District, Allegheny County, 1985-1992. Affiliation: Republican.

Alice S. Langtry (née Santini) was born June 29, 1932 in Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts. She graduated from North Quincy High School. Langtry also attended Boston College, Penn State University, and Allegheny Community College (now Community College of Allegheny County). She married Alfred Leigh Langtry, Jr. on October 6, 1962, and they had three children: Martha, Emilia, and Alfred Leigh III.

Following her studies, Langtry worked in corporate administration. After moving with her family to Allegheny County, Langtry became active in local politics. She served on the Republican Committee from 1977 to 1981. From 1979 to 1980, she was a member of the Traffic Safety Board of Upper St. Clair Township, and on the Principals' Advisory Committee of the Upper St. Clair High School from 1980 to 1981. In 1981, Langtry was elected a commissioner for Upper St. Clair Township and served from 1982 to 1984.

Langtry was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 40th Legislative District in 1984. She was reelected for three subsequent sessions. While in office, Langtry was a proponent of term limits and fought to limit teacher strikes. She prime sponsored House Bill 1370 of 1989, which called for both teachers and school districts facing financial penalties in the event of a strike. While this legislation was not successful, it gained media attention after statistics claiming Pennsylvania was the most teacher strike-prone state in the nation made headlines. For the 1991-1992 session, Langtry served as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Public Transportation for the Transportation Committee. In her farewell address to the House, Langtry said, "I will take this opportunity at this point to say how very honored and humbled I am by having had the opportunity to serve the people of the 40th District as well as others in Pennsylvania. It has been certainly, for me, a very singular opportunity, a singular honor from very humble beginnings, and as a matter of fact, it has been such a wonderful experience, as you all know, I would like to see many more people have the opportunity to do it."⁷²

Langtry and her husband retired to Barrington, Illinois to be near their children.

Alice Langtry died May 1, 2017 in Barrington, Illinois.





Babette Josephs

Born: August 4, 1940, Forest Hills, Queens, New York. Member of the House: 182nd Legislative District, Philadelphia County, 1985-2012. Affiliation: Democrat.

Babette Josephs was born on August 4, 1940 in Forest Hills, Queens, New York. She attended Forest Hills High School and graduated in 1958. After graduation, Josephs attended Queens College in Flushing, New York and received her B.A. in English in 1962. That same year she married Herbert B. Newberg. After college, she and her husband, who was an attorney, moved to Center City, Philadelphia. Josephs worked from 1962 to 1964 as an English teacher for the Philadelphia Public School system. After Newberg and Josephs had their two children, Lee and Elizabeth, Josephs attended Rutgers-Camden School of Law and graduated with her law degree in 1976.

As an attorney, Josephs worked from 1977 to 1979 with the private law firm Cohen, Volkert & Josephs, which specialized in women's rights cases. After two years as a private attorney, Josephs chose to fight for women's issues and overall community improvements in the public sphere. In 1979, she co-founded and co-directed the Pennsylvania chapter of the National Abortion Rights Action League, now called Pro-Choice America, and the Clara Bell Duvall Education Fund, which works to protect abortion education in medical schools. In addition to women's rights, Josephs became involved in environmentalism and served as the executive director of the Citizens Coalition for Energy Efficiency from 1980 to 1981. After working for these organizations, Josephs' interest in collective action and social change increased, motivating her to get involved in politics.

Josephs was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1984 to serve the 182nd Legislative District. She was reelected for 13 subsequent sessions. While in office, Josephs championed legislation concerning women's rights, Philadelphia's growth and prosperity, as well as civil liberties – particularly those pertaining to LGBT and reproductive rights. In 1986, Josephs prime sponsored legislation that became Act 73, which revised and consolidated the law relating to marriage license applications. Josephs was appointed to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency from 1993 to 1994,



and served as Majority and Minority Chair of the State Government Committee from 2001 to 2012.

When reflecting on her time in the House, Josephs said some of her fondest memories were “interactions with her highly skilled, always supportive staff; chatting with constituents on the street; conversations with some [Democrats],” and “making points in the Floor and in Caucus.”⁷³

Following her time in office, Josephs has remained active in her community. She co-hosted a public access television show titled “Conversations Across Time,” joined the Justice for Nizah Morris Committee, and became a board member of both the American Civil Liberties Union in Philadelphia and the Jewish Social Policy Action Network.

Joseph’s advice to women considering running for political office is, “Do it! Have confidence! ‘Housewives’ and mothers know a lot [and are] very efficient. Ignore insults. Know your value.”⁷⁴

Josephs currently resides in Albany, New York.





Shirley M. Kitchen

Born: September 18, 1946, Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia. Member of the House: 181st Legislative District, Philadelphia County, November 17, 1987-1988. Member of the Senate: 3rd Senatorial District, Philadelphia County, 1997-2016. Affiliation: Democrat.

Shirley Kitchen was born on September 18, 1945 in Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia. She graduated from Antioch University in 1979 with a B.A. in human services. She later earned certificates from Temple University in child care, behavior modification, and economic development. Kitchen is divorced and has five children: Dwayne, Henry, Shantelle, Vakiya, and Veronica.

Following her studies, Kitchen worked as a social worker in Philadelphia County, the executive director of the Ludlow Neighborhood Advisory Committee, a poll worker in North Philadelphia from 1970 to 1976, and the director of constituent services for the Philadelphia City Council from 1986 to 1987. She served as ward leader for the 20th City Ward of Philadelphia.

Following the death of Representative Alphonso Deal, Kitchen was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 181st Legislative District in a special election on November 3, 1987. She was sworn in on November 17, 1987. While in office, Kitchen worked on legislation concerning urban transportation, drug and alcohol issues, public welfare, and criminal rehabilitation.

Following her time in the House, Kitchen worked as an assistant manager of the management information system department for the Philadelphia Parking Authority from 1990 to 1992. She then resumed her role as the director of Constituent Services for the Philadelphia City Council from 1992 to 1996.

Kitchen was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania Senate to serve the 3rd Senatorial District in 1996. She served four more consecutive terms. While in office, Kitchen was the prime sponsor of legislation that became Act 139 of 1998, which renamed sections of Allegheny Avenue, Route 78, State Route 248, State Route 222, and designated the Arthur F. Detisch Memorial Bridge in Erie. Kitchen was also the prime sponsor of the legislation that



became Act 84 of 2010, which amended the Public Welfare Code of 1967. Act 84 created new limits for welfare, defined the terms “general acute care hospital” and “high volume Medicaid hospital,” and allowed for more availability and access to comprehensive trauma care systems. Upon her retirement in 2016, fellow Philadelphia Senator Mike Stack said of her, “Standing up for the little guy wasn’t just something she did every now and then. It was her purpose.”⁷⁵ Her decision to retire was not easy for Kitchen, she said, “I believe I have done all I can for the good people of the 3rd District, and now it’s time for a younger person to take the handles and lead.”





Constance Maine

Born: October 28, 1942, Brownsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 6th Legislative District, Crawford County, 1987-1990. Affiliation: Democrat.

Constance Esther Maine (née Glott) was born on October 28, 1942 in Brownsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from California High School. She attended the California State University from 1960 to 1962 and earned a B.S. in education from the Indiana State College (now Indiana University of Pennsylvania) in 1964. She additionally earned her master's degree in community studies from IUP in 1986. She also attended Penn State University and the University of Pittsburgh.

On January 18, 1964, she married Ronald Dale Tuttle. On September 16, 1978, she married Gary D. Maine. She has six children: Pamela, Robert, Aaron, Tuan, Marc, and Daniel.

Following her studies, Maine worked as a public school teacher and counselor in both Ohio and Pennsylvania for nine years. She then moved into the counseling field, where she served as the director of the Meadville Center for Families in Change.

Maine was active in her community and a member of several organizations and charities. She was a member of Business and Professional Women, the National Association of Female Executives, Women's Services, the National Education Association, the American Society of Professional Consultants, the Pennsylvania Farmers Association, Peace Links, Women's Agenda, and Zonta International. She was also selected as a Distinguished Alumna of Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1986.

In addition to her community work, Maine was an active public speaker and author. She spoke on issues of grief and loss counseling, as well as on business and entrepreneurship. She wrote several booklets including "Starting Up: Tips for Beginning Businesswomen and Tornado Aftermath".

Maine was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 6th Legislative District in 1986. She was reelected for one subsequent session. While in office, she was an advocate for education, women's rights, and local economic growth promotion. Maine stated her background in education "fed [her] desire to include,



expand, and improve learning programs⁷⁶ during her tenure. She was the prime sponsor of legislation that led to Act 183 of 1989, which provided access of certain confidential information and communications of sexual assault victims to sexual assault counselors.

Following her time in office, Maine worked for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a communications skills and stress management consultant, in which she aimed to aid new House Members transition into their roles as elected officials. She served as a member of the Pennsylvania Commission for Women from 1990 to 1992. She was also appointed to serve as a commissioner of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission from 1993 to 1995.

When asked what women bring to the table as legislators, Maine said, “Women tend to bring the basics...good schools, child care, health care, living wages, supporting small business, and new business growth. They tend to recognize that the positive functioning of a state and a nation depends on the health, wisdom, and stability of our smallest communities.”⁷⁷

Maine currently resides in Townville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania.





Karen A. Ritter

Born: February 28, 1953, Shirley, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Member of the House: 131st Legislative District, Lehigh County, 1987-1994. Affiliation: Democrat.

Karen A. Ritter was born on February 28, 1953 in Shirley, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. She graduated from Louis E. Dieruff High School in 1971 and earned her paralegal certificate from the Northampton County Area Community College in 1978. In 1990, she married Robert A. Wolper.

Following her studies, Ritter was a manager at a title insurance agency. She served on the Allentown city council from 1982 to 1986. Ritter was also a member of several clubs including the Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women, Lehigh Valley Democratic Association, and Lehigh Valley Young Democrats.

Ritter was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 131st Legislative District in 1986. She was reelected for three subsequent sessions. Her seat had previously been occupied by her father James P. Ritter from 1965 to 1982. While in office, Karen Ritter focused on abortion rights, women's rights, and family issues. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 81 of 1989, which amended the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes Title 23, Domestic Relations. Act 81 called for periodic reviews of support guidelines, as well as genetic testing in the case of paternity disputes. Additionally, Ritter was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 155 of 1992, which amended the Administrative Code of 1929 to further the rights of crime victims. Upon her reelection to the House, her father voiced his concerns about how she would be treated by the male Representatives. He said, "When I first went to Harrisburg, women were tolerated. The attitude was: 'We're going to play cards now; when we come back we'll tell you how we are going to vote.'" Karen Ritter responded, "Yeah, now they play basketball. But I can play basketball, too."⁷⁸

Following her time in office, Ritter became the co-owner of Wolper and Ritter Consulting with her husband, a position she still holds. Apart from her professional career, Ritter is also the Democratic co-chair of Pennsylvania's Campaign for Choice, a board member and former chair of the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws Pro-Choice Pennsylvania, and a board member of Planned Parenthood of Bucks County.





Elaine F. Farmer

Born: March 14, 1937, New Castle, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. Died, August 6, 2001. Member of the House, 28th Legislative District, Allegheny County, 1987-1996. Affiliation: Republican.

Elaine Farmer (née Frazier) was born March 14, 1937 in New Castle, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from New Castle High School in 1955. Farmer earned a B.A. in business administration in 1958 from the Flora Stone Mather College of Western Reserve University and an M.A. in education in 1964 from Western Reserve University (now Case Western Reserve University). On August 22, 1959, she married Sterling N. Farmer, Jr. and they had two children: Sterling Andrew and Heather.

Following her studies, Farmer worked as a supervisor at Stouffer Corporation in Cleveland. She was also a teacher and businesswoman. She also managed the Howard Hanna Real Estate Services office in Franklin Park. From 1980 to 1986, Farmer served as a member of McCandless City Council. She was also a board member of the Northland Public Library from 1981 to 1985.

Farmer was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 28th Legislative District in 1986. She was reelected for four subsequent sessions. While in office, she was the prime sponsor of legislation that led to Act 44 of 1991, which designated May 27 as Rachel Carson Day. Carson was an author and conservationist whose book *Silent Spring* helped end the use of the pesticide DDT. During the 1995-1996 session, Farmer served as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Health and Welfare for the Appropriations Committee. When reflecting on her time in the House, Farmer said, "I'm not the type of person who needs to see her name in lights. I like to see results, but I don't care who gets the credit. I guess you know you're secure with yourself when you can plant seeds and let others run with them."⁷⁹

Following her time in the House, Farmer stayed active in politics. From 1997 to 1998, she served as vice chair of the committee that drafted Allegheny County's Home Rule Charter.

Elaine F. Farmer died August 6, 2001. She is interred in Allegheny Memorial Park, Allison Park, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.





Leona G. Telek

Born: April 6, 1931, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 70th Legislative District, Cambria and Somerset Counties, 1989-1992. Affiliation: Republican.

Leona G. Telek (née Podgorney) was born April 6, 1931 in Johnstown, Cambria County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from East Conemaugh High School in 1949. She married William Telek in 1955 and the couple had seven children: William, Karen, Brian, Tracy, Rita, Robin, and Marcia.

Following high school, Telek was employed in retail. She worked as a cashier at local supermarkets, and later was the assistant manager at a chain retail store. She was employed as a keypunch operator for the National Radiator Company. Telek was also active in her community. She was a member of the Business and Professional Women of Pennsylvania, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, and a member of the Geistown-Richland Lioness Club.

Her husband, William Telek, served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1979 until his death on May 17, 1988. Following his passing, Leona Telek was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 70th Legislative District in 1988. She was reelected for one subsequent session. After her initial nomination Telek explained, "Just as he [her husband] was committed to working for men and women, so will I be committed to working for people."⁸⁰ While in office, Telek sponsored legislation aimed at protecting emergency response teams from potential loss of income. Telek was also named to a Joint State Government Commission Task Force to study proposals for compensation for Persian Gulf veterans. In her farewell address to the House, Telek reflected, "It has been an honor and a privilege to be here. I think this is one of the most outstanding educations you can get."⁸¹

Following her time in the House, Telek was elected as the Richland Township Tax Collector in 2009 and again in 2013.

Telek currently resides in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.





Jean L. Wilson

Born: June 13, 1928, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Died: January 27, 2014, Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 144th Legislative District, Bucks County, 1989-1992. Affiliation: Republican.

Jean Louise Wilson (née Terry) was born on June 13, 1928 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Frankford High School in 1945 and Pennsylvania State University in June 1949 with a B.S. in education. Wilson married Benjamin H. Wilson on July 15, 1950. Benjamin Wilson served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1967 to 1988. They had two children together: Sheryl and Denise.

Following her studies, Wilson was employed as a teacher for a year at the Columbia Institute in Philadelphia. She was an executive secretary at Publicker Industries for two years; an assistant tax collector in Warminster, Bucks County, Pennsylvania for 10 years; and an office manager at Camden Fibre Mills for 10 years. Wilson also assisted in her husband's House campaigns. Wilson replaced her husband on the 1988 ballot after his death on March 16, 1988.

Wilson was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 144th Legislative District in 1988. She was reelected for one subsequent session. While in office, Wilson focused on better funding for education, mass transit, increased daycare services for working parents, and was a strong opponent of term limits for representatives. When speaking about term limits and her own experiences in the House, Wilson said, "After you've been there for one term, you find out that experience is the best teacher."⁸²

Following her time in office, Wilson retired but remained active in her community. She was the legislative chair for the Doylestown Women's Club and the treasurer for the Bucks County Chapter of Fox Chase Cancer Center. Wilson also belonged to the Benjamin H. Wilson Senior Center in Warminster and the Center for Learning in Retirement at Delaware Valley College.

Jean L. Wilson died January 27, 2014 in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.





Susan Laughlin

Born: March 16, 1932, Sewickley, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Died: June 27, 2020, Conway, Beaver County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 16th Legislative District, Allegheny and Beaver Counties, 1989-2004. Affiliation: Democrat.

Susan Laughlin (née Bogosian) was born on March 16, 1932 in Sewickley, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Laughlin graduated from Ambridge High School of Allegheny County in 1950. She married Charles P. Laughlin, and the couple had two children: Thomas and Sally.

Prior to her election to the House, Laughlin was a homemaker. She was also active in her community as a member of the Beaver County Democratic Women's Club as well as the Fraternal Order of the Eagles.

Charles P. Laughlin was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1972 and for seven consecutive terms. He passed away on April 10, 1988 while in office. Following her husband's death just weeks before the primary election, Susan Laughlin won Democratic nomination by way of a write-in campaign, securing over 10,000 votes. Susan Laughlin was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 16th Legislative District in 1988. She was reelected for seven subsequent sessions. While in office, Laughlin worked on several successful pieces of legislation. She was an advocate for issues pertaining to organized labor, funding for education, and meeting the demands of her constituency. She was the prime sponsor of bills that became Act 63 of 1989 and Act 27 of 1991, both which addressed taxes excised during real estate tax sales. Laughlin was also the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 16 of 1993, which addressed tax issues for school districts and provided for a statewide report of racial and ethnic groupings.

When asked what female legislators bring to the table, Laughlin explained, "Women bring a more practical viewpoint, and for the most part avoid time wasting confrontations. A large percentage of PA voters are women, and their voices need to be heard."⁸³ Laughlin would like to be remembered as after "having taken office under difficult circumstances, I was able to maintain the quality level of service established by my husband for the residents of the 16th Legislative District."⁸⁴

Susan Laughlin died on June 27, 2020 in Conway, Beaver County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Beaver Cemetery and Mausoleum, Beaver, Beaver County, Pennsylvania.





Louise E. Williams Bishop

Born: June 27, 1933, Cairo, Grady County, Georgia. Member of the House: 192nd Legislative District, Philadelphia County, 1989-December 16, 2015. Affiliation: Democrat.

Louise Bishop (née Williams) was born on June 27, 1933 in Cairo, Grady County, Georgia. She graduated from West Philadelphia High School in 1953. She earned a degree in communications and radio broadcasting from the American Foundation of Dramatic Arts. Bishop is divorced and has four children: Todd, Tabb, Tamika Mezache, and James, Jr.

Bishop was a radio host on WDAS-AM. She was featured on “The Louise Bishop Program,” which was on the air in the Philadelphia area for over 49 years. It was one of the highest-rated programs at the station and focused on social, civic, and religious issues. According to Bishop, working at the station made her realize she needed to do more for her community. In 1978, she became an ordained evangelist by the Pennsylvania Baptist Association.

Bishop was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1988 to represent the 192nd Legislative District. She was reelected for 13 subsequent sessions. While in office, Bishop sponsored numerous pieces of legislation addressing domestic violence, day care, mandatory drug treatment, education, and healthcare. She also served as the Majority Chair of the House Children and Youth Committee from 2007 to 2012. She also served as the Secretary for the Philadelphia Black Caucus and Chair of the Philadelphia Delegation.

In addition, Bishop introduced numerous pieces of legislation aimed at reforming the state’s education system. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 103 of 1990, which provided for maintenance projects, project contracts, disposition of property, and nondiscrimination for the State System of Higher Education. In 2011, she told the *Montgomery News*, “The state that does not invest in a quality education by giving the schools what they need to make the young people whole is a state that has to invest in prisons.”⁸⁵

Bishop’s primary role model was Rosa Parks, and she was the prime sponsor of the legislation that designated February 4, 2001 as Rosa Parks Remembrance Day in Pennsylvania. During a 2009 speech on the House Floor honoring Parks, Bishop said, “Often,



when people stand up for what they believe in, they suffer consequences. But they do it anyway because they know that in the long term, thousands and perhaps even millions of others will benefit, and that society will be better.”

When reflecting on her time in the House, Bishop said, “It was a pleasure to be able to serve and make a contribution.”⁸⁶

Bishop resigned from the House December 16, 2015. She currently resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.





Katherine McHale

Born: June 27, 1955, Othello, Adams County, Washington. Member of the House: 133rd Legislative District, Lehigh County, June 4, 1991-1991. Affiliation: Democrat.

Katherine Marie McHale (née Pecka) was born on June 27, 1955 in Othello, Adams County, Washington. She earned a B.A. in communicative arts from Whitworth College in 1977. She earned her master's degree in telecommunications from Kutztown University in 1986.

On October 3, 1981, she married Paul F. McHale Jr. and they had three children: Matthew, Mary, and Luke. Paul McHale served as a Member of the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives from 1983 to 1991, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1993 to 1999, and as the Assistant Secretary of Defense from 2003 to 2009.

Following her studies, she worked at Air Products and Chemicals as a senior producer and manager of the Audiovisual Department from 1981 to 1985. She served in the United States Naval Reserves from 1986 to 1992. During her time as a reservist, she also founded and served as president of her own company, Script-Tech Communications, Inc., a scriptwriting and communications company. McHale was active in her community and a member of several organizations and charities. She served on the board of directors for multiple associations, including the League of Women Voters in the Allentown Area; Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley; Burnside Plantation, Inc.; and the Bethlehem Musikfest Association. She also served as a member of Lehigh Valley Childcare Association and the Lehigh County Democratic Committee.

Following the resignation of her husband, who volunteered for active duty during the Persian Gulf War, Katherine McHale was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 133rd Legislative District in a special election on May 21, 1991. She was sworn in on June 4, 1991. While in office, she was an advocate for car safety and seat belt laws. She prime sponsored legislation aimed at protecting car passengers through improved safety measures, including requiring all passengers to wear seatbelts. Speaking about her proposed bill, she said, "The time to strengthen our safety laws is here...It's time to take new steps to save the lives of the people on our highways, to eliminate the sorrowful



words of friends and families of accident victims, who all too often say, 'If only they had worn their seat belt.'"⁸⁷

Following her time in office, McHale returned to the private sector as a consultant. From 1999 to 2000, she worked as a communications consultant at Entigo Corporation. She then moved to Millennium Cell, where she served as the vice president of Marketing and Communications from 2001 to 2004. Following her time at Millennium, she worked at Booz Allen Hamilton as a senior associate from 2004 to 2015. She currently works as a principal at Satori Consulting, while also serving as a senior manager of quality transformation at Booz Allen Hamilton.

She remarried during her time as a consultant in Washington, D.C. to Hoyt Maulden. She currently resides in Virginia.





Constance McHugh

Born: December 8, 1938, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Died: September 20, 1997, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 184th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, 1991-1992. Affiliation: Republican.

Constance McHugh (née Black) was born on December 8, 1938 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She attended Hallahan High School. She married Joseph DiGrazio in 1956. She later married Francis X. McHugh. She had three children: Joseph, Kathleen, and Constance.

Following her studies, McHugh worked as a court officer in Philadelphia for 16 years. After her time in the courts, she worked as an administrator in the Pennsylvania Auditor General's Office and helped campaign for Mayor Frank Rizzo. She was appointed to the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on Women from 1980 to 1982. McHugh also served as the president of the Pennsport Civic Association and was a member of the Capitol Area Council of Republican Women. When speaking about her time with the Pennsport Civic Association, McHugh said, "The neighborhood was starting to fray around the edges. I didn't want to move out. I knew I could stay and watch it become a slum or do something about it. I decided to get the hell away from the kitchen table and stop complaining."⁸⁸

McHugh was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 184th Legislative District in 1990. While in office, McHugh focused on bettering urban housing, educational opportunities, welfare, and healthcare. She also led the movement to oppose a ramp to Interstate 95 that would have been built on Front Street in Philadelphia through a residential area. Her efforts rerouted the construction. McHugh was also responsible for securing funding for the Ralph Rizzo Ice Rink and founding the Mummers Museum in Philadelphia.

Following her time in office, McHugh worked as a legislative assistant for State Representative John Perzel. In 1994 she began working as a trial commissioner in the Philadelphia City Court.

Constance McHugh died September 20, 1997 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Arlington Cemetery, Drexel Hill, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.





Ellen A. Harley

Born: December 31, 1946, Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee. Member of the House: 149th Legislative District, Montgomery County, 1991-1994. Affiliation: Republican.

Ellen Anderson Harley (née Worley) was born December 31, 1946 in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee. She earned her B.A. in English from Monmouth College (now University) in West Long Branch, New Jersey in 1968, and her M.A. in city and regional planning from the University of Pennsylvania. She married Edwin Westbrook Harley, and they have two children: Beth and Greg.

Following her studies, Harley was employed as a city and regional planner for the American Planning Association and the Urban Land Institute. She was a consultant to the finance administration of the University of Pennsylvania, and was employed for a financial consulting firm. Harley co-authored a housing study for the Montgomery County League of Women Voters.

Harley was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 149th Legislative District in 1990. She was reelected for one subsequent session. While in office, Harley focused on issues pertaining to women's rights, land use planning, the welfare system, and animal rights. She utilized her city and regional planning knowledge as part of a 15-member House Select Committee on Land Use and Growth which, was formed to investigate and make recommendations for improved land use policy in Pennsylvania. Harley also introduced House Bill 1801, which provided for manufactured-housing community cooperatives to address problems faced when a landowner would sell land on which homes were located. She was appointed to the Pennsylvania Public Television Network Commission for the 1991-1992 session and to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts for the 1993-1994 session.

Following her time in office, Harley founded the Center for Regional Cooperation in Philadelphia and was director of the center from 1995 to 1998. Following a relocation to South Carolina, she founded and chaired the Southern Women's Campaign School in 2004, which provided training and information for women seeking to run political campaigns. Harley currently serves on the board of directors for the Sheriff Meadow Foundation and the Martha's Vineyard Preservation Trust.

When reflecting on her time in the House, Harley recalled striving to be an "honest, truthful legislator interested in leaving the world a more compassionate place," and that she wanted to be remembered for "standing up for the underrepresented."⁸⁹





Patricia A. Carone

Born: March 21, 1943, Greenville, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 12th Legislative District, Butler and Lawrence counties, 1991-1998. Affiliation: Democrat, 1991-1993; Republican 1993-1998.

Patricia Ann Carone Krebs (née Stone) was born March 21, 1943 in Greenville, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Greenville High School in 1961. Carone attended Thiel College, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science from George Washington University in 1967. In 1974, she graduated from Georgetown University with an M.A. in history. She has one child: Guy.

Following her studies, Carone was a congressional aide. She was also a high school social studies teacher, first in Washington D.C. for 15 years, and later at Seneca Valley Senior High School for 8 years. In addition to her teaching career, Carone was a member of the Lancaster Township zoning hearing board and environmental council. She was a delegate to the 1988 Democratic National Convention.

Carone was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to serve the 12th Legislative District in 1990. She was reelected for three subsequent sessions. In December 1993, Carone switched her party affiliation to Republican. While in office, Carone was an advocate for economic development in her district, as well as for issues related to education and affordable housing. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 35 of 1997, which repealed the requirement for a syphilis test before marriage. In 1996, Carone married fellow House Member Edward H. Krebs. Edward Krebs represented the 101st Legislative District in Lebanon County from 1991 to 2002. In her farewell address to the House, Carone reflected, "...I was never able to put caucus always first, because ironically, caucus for me was not family as some people see it in this House; for me, my family was my 12th Legislative District. They were my family, they were my extended family, and I would always be thinking about them as to how I should vote on issues."⁹⁰

Following her time in office, Carone served as the executive director of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges. She was an avid bicyclist and member of the Lebanon Valley Bicycle Club.





Sara Ann Steelman

Born: April 24, 1946, Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. Member of the House: 62nd Legislative District, Indiana County, 1991-1992, Indiana and Cambria Counties, 1993-2002. Affiliation: Democrat.

Sara Ann Steelman was born on April 24, 1946 in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. She graduated from Southeast High School in 1963 and from the University of Chicago in 1967 with a B.S. in zoology. She graduated from Stanford in 1976 with a Ph.D in behavior genetics. She married John Henry Steelman and they have one child: Amy.

Following her studies, Steelman taught and conducted research at different colleges in psychobiology and psychology from 1967 to 1983. From 1986 to 1990 she worked as a reporter for the Indiana Gazette as well as for the Saratogian from 1984 to 1986. Steelman was also a freelance science book editor from 1983 to 1990. She belonged to the American Association of University Women, Indiana County Historical and Genealogical Society, League of Women Voters, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Advisory Board of the Mental Health Association of Indiana County, and the board of the Indiana Symphony.

Steelman was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 62nd Legislative District in 1990. She was reelected for five subsequent sessions. While in office, Steelman was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 114 of 1994, which amended an act from 1968 to designate areas for coal refuse. Her other legislation focused on keeping a clean environment; community improvement; funding for education; and safety for youth, elderly, and animals. In improving her district's communities, she felt the first step was to create more jobs for her constituents. Concerning this, Steelman said, "We're not going to get those jobs if we don't have energetic representation in Harrisburg. I can provide that."⁹¹

Following her time in the House, Steelman served as the director of the Indiana Arts Council from 2003 to 2006 and treasurer of the New Century Club of Indiana. She was the chair of the State Advisory Board for Common Cause from 2006 to 2009.





Patricia H. Vance

Born: March 19, 1936, Williamsport, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 87th Legislative District, Cumberland County 1991-2004. Member of the Senate: 31st Senatorial District, Cumberland and York Counties, 2005-2016. Affiliation: Republican.

Patricia H. Vance (née Houston) was born on March 19, 1936 in Williamsport, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from William Penn High School in 1954 and from Harrisburg Hospital School of Nursing in 1957. Vance married Charles D. Vance in 1957, and they had two children: Charles Doran, Jr. and Eric.

Following her studies, Vance worked as a nurse, first at Harrisburg Hospital and then Bethany Village Retirement Home. She was elected recorder of wills for Cumberland County in 1977, and she held that position until 1990. Vance was also a member of the executive committee of Cumberland County Republicans.

Vance was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 87th Legislative District in 1990. She was reelected for six subsequent sessions. While in office, Vance focused on issues relating to healthcare – especially nursing and insurance. She was the prime sponsor of several successful pieces of legislation. One she was proud of is Act 24 of 1996, which prohibited insurance companies from refusing insurance to victims of domestic abuse. Vance was also the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 13 of 1997, which amended the 1987 Older Adults Protective Services Act. It defined terms such as “intimidation,” “sexual abuse,” and “serious physical injury,” as well as providing for improved ways of reporting and investigating abuse of older adults by employees. Most of Vance’s legislation focused on nursing laws and education, safety for the elderly, drug and alcohol abuse, and domestic violence. During her time in the House, Vance also served as Speaker Pro Tempore for Speakers Matt Ryan and John Perzel. When discussing running for office as a woman in Pennsylvania, Vance said, “Women in Pennsylvania have to square off not only against their political opponent, but three centuries of history.”⁹²

In 2004, Vance was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate and served until 2016. As a State



Senator, she served as chair of the Public Health and Welfare Committee. Some of Vance's legislation in the Senate was focused on streamlining foreign adoptions, continuing education for nurses, and healthcare. Vance was selected in 2010 as a member of the Health and Aging Committee by Governor-elect Tom Corbett's transition team. In 2011, Vance was named Legislator of the Year by the Arc of Pennsylvania. Vance decided to retire in 2016. When reflecting on her time in office Vance said, "I hope I am remembered for treating others fairly, representing the best interest of my district, and for making well-reasoned votes."⁹³ She also explained that she enjoyed being able to "help people, not necessarily with legislation, but by day to day help with their life problems."⁹⁴

Following her time in office, Vance has stayed active in her community. She is involved with the Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation, WITF radio station, Hospice of Central Pennsylvania, Joseph T. Simpson Public Library, Health Advisory Board, and the St. James Presbyterian Church of Mechanicsburg. In 2018, Vance was awarded the Humanitarian Award from United Way of the Capital Region.

Vance currently resides in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.





Teresa E. Forcier

Born: October 6, 1953, Meadville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 6th Legislative District, Crawford County, 1991-2006. Affiliation: Republican.

Teresa Elaine Forcier (née Fosburg) was born October 6, 1953 in Meadville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Cambridge Springs High School in 1971. Forcier also attended Alliance College in 1983, and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in 1985. She married Dale A. Brown and had two children: Christopher and Delaine.

Following high school, Forcier was employed at Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative. She was later employed as a legislative assistant for State Representative Tom Swift from 1979 to 1986, and for State Representative Jim Merry in 1987. From 1989 to 1990, she was the assistant director of the Crawford County Tax Claim Bureau. Forcier was active in her community as a member of the Crawford County GOP Executive Board, a member of the Northwest Council of Republican Women, as well as editor of the Crawford County GOP Newsletter. She served as a member of the Cambridge Springs Presbyterian Food Pantry, and as an assistant coordinator of the Cambridge Springs Little League and Little Gridders.

Forcier was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 6th Legislative District in 1990. She was reelected for seven subsequent sessions. Forcier was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 81 of 2004, which amended the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act. While in office, she was a vocal proponent of modifying Pennsylvania's motorcycle helmet law. Forcier explained, "We want to repeal the helmet law, not the helmets... It's really a freedom issue of we don't need big government, big brother telling us to wear it."⁹⁵

On March 28, 1998, she married Kevin William Forcier, Sr.





Phyllis Mundy

Born: January 31, 1948, Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Member of the House: 120th Legislative District, Luzerne County, 1991-2014. Affiliation: Democrat.

Phyllis Mundy (née Block) was born on January 31, 1948 in Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Indiana. She graduated from Kingston High School in 1966 and from Bloomsburg State College (now Bloomsburg University) with her B.S. in secondary education and French in 1970. Mundy is divorced and has one son: Brian.

Mundy worked as a business manager for Injection Molding Corporation. Mundy was known for her long history of service with the League of Women Voters in the Wilkes-Barre area, where she served as president, and also as a member of the Luzerne County Board of Elections from 1987 to 1988.

Mundy was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1990 to represent the 120th Legislative District. She was reelected for 11 subsequent sessions. While in office, Mundy sponsored the legislation that led to Act 119 of 2004, which provided grant money to the Luzerne County Historical Society. She also sponsored the legislation that led to Act 23 of 2006, which established the Ounce of Prevention Program to provide grants for home visitation for low income, at-risk, first-time mothers and children.

Mundy served as Chair of the Aging and Older Adult Services Committee from 2007 to 2010 and Chair of the Finance Committee from 2011 to 2012. She was also appointed to the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee and Pennsylvania Commission for Women. Mundy was selected as a member of the transition team for Pennsylvania Governor-elect Tom Wolf from 2014 to 2015.

During her 12th term, Mundy decided to retire at the conclusion of session to spend more time with her family. She explained, "My staff and I have worked hard and done our best to serve all who needed our help. I am humbled by the confidence and support shown to me for the past 23 years, and I am extremely grateful for the tremendous opportunity to serve."⁹⁶

Mundy currently resides in Kingston, Pennsylvania.





Lita A. Cohen

Born: December 20, 1940, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 148th Legislative District, Montgomery County, 1993-2002. Affiliation: Republican.

Lita Cohen (née Indzel) was born on December 20, 1940 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Lower Merion High School in 1958. She later graduated from University of Pennsylvania with her B.A. in political science and English in 1962 and her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1965. Cohen also attended the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. She married Stanley S. Cohen on April 2, 1966, and they have two children: Reuven and Shoshana.

Cohen started her legal career with Henderson, Wetherill, and O'Hey for one year in 1964 before transferring to Lew, Mandel, and Miller, where she worked for two years. Cohen was then employed by the Housing and Urban Development Agency (HUD) office in Philadelphia as assistant council and assistant council for the School District of Philadelphia. Cohen changed occupations when she entered the media industry as vice president of the Council of Radio Stations, WHAT and WUDB from 1976 to 1983. She also served as president of Orange Productions from 1983 to 1985 and president of Lita Cohen Radio Services from 1985 to 1993. Cohen was appointed to the Lower Merion Township Planning Commission, where she served for 12 years. She also served on the Lower Merion Board of Commissioners for eight years.

Cohen was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1992 to serve the 148th Legislative District. She served four subsequent sessions. One of her greatest inspirations was her mother, who would tell Cohen, "Women are people, too. Maybe we can't dig ditches, but as a people, we can do anything a man can do."⁹⁷ Cohen also explained that her mother, "Instilled that in me, the idea of taking responsibility for myself and my actions and my obligation as a woman to make women proud of me, but to do whatever a woman — a person — could do, so that's where it started."⁹⁸

While in office, Cohen focused on issues pertaining to healthcare for all, women's



reproductive rights, and sensible gun laws. She had several prime sponsored bills become law. Cohen was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 4 of 1994, which provided for historical preservation efforts and park improvements in Lower Merion Township. Two of her best known prime sponsored pieces of legislation were Act 98 of 2000, which increased penalties for sex offenders while mandating counseling during their prison terms, and Act 71 of 1998, which created an Osteopathic Prevention and Education Program with the Department of Health in Pennsylvania.

During her time in the House, Cohen was also the Chair of the Subcommittee on Children and Families under the Judiciary Committee and the Chair of the Education Subcommittee under the Appropriations Committee. She was also appointed to the Pennsylvania Public Television Network Commission from 1991 to 2002.

During her farewell address to the House on November 18, 2002, Cohen said that every day she would stand in the Rotunda because “standing in the Rotunda sends a message to me and makes me humble and tells me why I am here and the job that I was sent to and the job that I have to do.”⁹⁹ Cohen later reflected that she enjoyed “the opportunity to be the voice of 60,000 people and to make the quality of their lives better.”¹⁰⁰

Following her time in office, Cohen was a gubernatorial appointee for the Pennsylvania Public Television Network Commission from 2003 to 2006. She was also a board member of the Susquehanna Patriot Bank and development chair, board member and trustee for the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.





Leanna M. Washington

Born: July 28, 1945, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 200th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, November 22, 1993-2005. Member of the Senate: 4th Senatorial District, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties, 2005-2014. Affiliation: Democrat.

Leanna M. Washington was born on July 28, 1945 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She attended West Philadelphia High School. She graduated from Lincoln University in 1989, obtaining her master's degree in human services. She also attended Harvard University's

Flemming Fellows Program with the John F. Kennedy School of Government in 2002. Washington received honorary doctorates from the Philadelphia Lutheran Theological Seminary in June 2009 and Arcadia University in May 2010. She has three children: William, Edward, and Tracey.

Washington was the employee assistance program manager for the Philadelphia Parking Authority before her career in politics. She was highly involved in her community, serving as a member of the NAACP, Agape Outreach Ministries, Lincoln University Alumni Association, and the National Museum of African American History. In addition to her numerous board memberships, she also received the Woman Legislator Lobby Pacesetter Award in 2005.

Washington was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 200th Legislative District in a special election on November 2, 1993. She was sworn in on November 22, 1993 and was reelected for six subsequent sessions. During her time in office, Washington's legislative focus was on safe schools, welfare, healthcare, controlling overmedication, youth violence, and domestic violence. When asked about her position as a House Member, Washington explained, "I try to work for the community... We all have a responsibility to get out of our lives and unite around the issues that concern us."⁰¹ Washington was the subcommittee chair for First Class Cities under the Urban Affairs Committee from 1995 to 2000, and the subcommittee chair on Public Transportation under the Transportation Committee from 2001 to 2005. She was the first woman to chair the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus in 2001.

Washington resigned from the House on June 14, 2005 when she was elected in a special election to the Pennsylvania State Senate. She was sworn into the Senate on June 14, 2005. Washington resigned from the Senate on October 31, 2014.





Linda Bebko-Jones

Born: May 1, 1946, Erie, Erie County, Pennsylvania. Died: November 20, 2011, Erie, Erie County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 1st Legislative District, Erie County, 1993-2006. Affiliation: Democrat.

Linda Bebko-Jones (née Bebko) was born on May 1, 1946 in Erie, Erie County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Villa Maria Academy for Girls in Erie in 1964. She also attended the Erie Business School. She married Thomas F. Jones on May 22, 1975, and they had two children: Pamela and Bryan.

Bebko-Jones worked as a director for Women Against Sexual Harassment, as well as a caseworker for the Community House for Women. She was an administrator for Pennsylvania State Senator Buzz Andrezski and a caseworker for United States Senator Harris Wofford. She was the gubernatorial appointee for the Commission for Women from 1989 to 1990.

Bebko-Jones was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1992 to represent the 1st Legislative District. She was reelected for six subsequent sessions. Her legislation often focused on women's rights, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, domestic violence victim rights, and rights for the elderly. During her oral history interview, Bebko-Jones noted her proudest legislative successes were her work as a sponsor of the legislation that became Act 28 of 1993, which provided for the crime of stalking, as well as regulations regarding protection from abuse orders for victims. She served as the Chair of the House Subcommittee on Drugs and Alcohol for the Health and Human Services Committee, and as Chair of the House Subcommittee on Military and Veterans Facilities for the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

When asked about her legislative career, Bebko-Jones said she enjoyed meeting with her constituents at social gatherings. She elaborated, "I could be going to four spaghetti dinners in one day, and pancake breakfasts, and then when it's Lent-time, all those things. But I love it, because you get an opportunity to hear from those people, face-to-face."¹⁰²

Following her time in the House, she explained, "I tried to make a difference in people's



lives...it could have been just one person, but I truly made a difference. That's what I came down here to do. It isn't easy. I think, when you first get elected, you have all these goals. You forget you have 202 other people to deal with and—but, I would just like to be remembered as somebody that was honest, that truly listened and just truly cared about the people."¹⁰³

Bebko-Jones was involved in her community through service on numerous boards and committees in Erie, including the Slovak National Committee, Democratic Women of Erie County, and the Erie County Democratic Party, and she served dinners at neighborhood kitchens on holidays. She also won numerous awards, including the 1997 State Democratic Elected Woman of the Year by the Federation of Democratic Women and the 1994 Erie County Woman of the Year Award.

Linda Bebko-Jones died on November 20, 2011 in Erie, Erie County, Pennsylvania. She is interred at Calvary Cemetery, Erie, Erie County, Pennsylvania.





Marie A. Lederer

Born: October 24, 1927, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 175th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, 1993-2006. Affiliation: Democrat

Marie A. Lederer (née Panosetti) was born on October 24, 1927 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls in 1945. Lederer also attended Temple University. She married William J. Lederer on June 17, 1950 and they had three children: Doneda, William, and Regina.

Following her studies, Lederer was the administrative assistant to the Democratic Philadelphia County chairman and field director of the Heart Association. Lederer was the assistant to the Pennsylvania Deputy Attorney General and special assistant to Congressman Joseph F. Smith. She also taught political science classes at Temple University from 1973 to 1974. She served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention for 1976 and 1980.

Lederer was involved in her community by serving as a board member at the Balch Institute and Philadelphia World Trade Center. She was also involved with the Democratic County Executive Committee in Philadelphia, in addition to Fishtown Neighbors Association where she worked on historic preservation efforts in the area. She was also the chair of Philadelphia Voter Registration.

Lederer was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1992 to serve the 175th Legislative District. She was reelected for six subsequent sessions. After her election in 1992, Lederer explained that during her initial campaign she “campaigned for eight months personally with my canvassers night after night after night.... I wore out three pairs of Reeboks and almost wore out the fourth.”¹⁰⁴ She was one of four Lederers to hold the 175th District’s seat, as her husband, father-in-law, and brother-in-law all served as former Members. During her 14 years in office, Lederer had three prime-sponsored bills enacted into law, including Act 68 of 2006, which changed compensation to children of fatally injured workers if the children are with different guardians.

When reflecting on her time in the House, Lederer explained, “I enjoyed having the power to rectify problems I saw daily. Knowing that I could improve the quality of life those I



represented brought me much satisfaction."¹⁰⁵

Following her time in office, Lederer completed a 10-year project to convert the former St. Mary's Hospital to the Marie A. Lederer Senior Complex, a low-cost housing complex for senior citizens. She believes this was her biggest accomplishment since many of the complex residents "were born at St. Mary's Hospital and today live in the same building they were born in. Truly remarkable."¹⁰⁶

Lederer currently resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.





Sheila M. Miller

Born: May 12, 1952, Lebanon, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 129th Legislative District, Berks County, 1993-2006. Affiliation: Republican.

Sheila M. Miller (née Miller) was born May 12, 1952 in Lebanon, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Lower Dauphin High School in 1970. Miller earned her B.S. in agriculture from Pennsylvania State University in 1974. On October 11, 1975, Miller married Michael Miller and they had one child: Emilie.

Following her studies, Miller was employed as a soil conservationist for the United States Department of Agriculture from 1974 to 1979. From 1979 to 1983, she was the editor of the Lancaster Farming newspaper. Miller was the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee for the Republican Caucus from 1983 to 1992. She has also owned and operated the Deitschland Farm since 1979. Miller was a member of the Berks County Republican Women.

Miller was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 129th Legislative District in 1992. She was reelected for six subsequent sessions. While in office, Miller sponsored several successful bills, and was an advocate for issues pertaining to rural Pennsylvania and agriculture. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 99 of 1994, which provided for an agricultural land conservation assistance grant program. She was also the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 14 of 2001, which provided for agricultural security areas and for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements. Miller was appointed to the Center for Rural Pennsylvania and served from 1993 to 2006, and was the chair from 1997 to 2006.

When reflecting on her House service during her oral history interview with the House Archives, Miller explained, "I enjoyed the chess game, I call it, of getting an idea into bill form and doing everything you need to do to maneuver it to have checkmate; to get that bill on the Governor's desk. I think that is my favorite part of this job. I also liked the public service, helping people; the opportunity to have, hopefully, touched their lives in a positive way and to me, that's good."¹⁰⁷



Miller said she wants to be remembered for fulfilling her promise to work hard for her constituents, noting, “I took the role of ‘public servant’ literally and did my best to represent the people I served. While I did not always agree with the views of all the people who elected me or those I served with, I was always honest in sharing with them the ‘why and how’ I felt on the issues, which resulted in 14 years of mutual respect and many wonderful memories.”¹⁰⁸

Following her time in the House, Miller was the agricultural coordinator for Berks County from 2007 to 2014. She and her husband reside in Berks County and continue to operate Deitschland Farm.





Carole Rubley

Born: January 18, 1939, Bethel, Fairfield County, Connecticut. Member of the House: 157th Legislative District, Chester and Montgomery Counties, 1993-2008. Affiliation: Republican.

Carole Ann Rubley (née Drumm) was born on January 18, 1939 in Bethel, Fairfield County, Connecticut. She graduated from Bethel High School in Connecticut. She later graduated with her B.A. from Albertus Magnus College and received her M.A. in environmental health from West Chester University. She married C. Ronald Rubley in 1962 and they have three children: Stephen, Kristin, and Lauren.

Rubley was a high school biology teacher from 1960 to 1962 in Connecticut. She also taught biology in Waltham, Massachusetts for a year while her husband finished law school. She and her family relocated to Pennsylvania in 1970. She was a real estate agent for Henderson and Dewey from 1977 to 1981. Rubley then became a solid waste coordinator for the Chester County Health Department from 1981 to 1988, and an environmental consultant for Environmental Resources Management, Inc. from 1988 to 1992. In 1990, she wrote an article titled "Meeting Pa.'s Hazardous Waste Needs," for *Leading Pa. into the 21st Century: Policy Strategies for the Future*. Rubley was a supervisor for Tredyffrin Township from 1987 to 1992.

Rubley was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1992 to represent the 157th Legislative District. She was reelected for seven subsequent sessions. While in office, Rubley had numerous legislative successes. In 1997, she was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 39, which permitted distribution of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' topographic and geologic survey without registration of a copyright. She was also the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 139 of 2004, which provided funds for the Forest Lands Beautification Restricted Account.

Rubley served as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Parks and Forests for the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. When asked about her favorite committee, she explained, "Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, because I was working in that field before I came into office. I have been on that, really, since day one; they changed the name from Conservation to Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, but I loved



that committee and I love what we've done in that area."¹⁰⁹

Rubley retired from the House in 2008. She would like to be remembered "as someone who cared about the issues, worked with people on both sides of the aisle...I have a good working relationship with the Senate people too, and that's why I've been able to get as many bills through. I haven't gotten bogged down in partisan politics."¹¹⁰

When asked about the small number of women in the Pennsylvania House, Rubley said, "I'm trying to encourage women of all ages to get involved. It is a rewarding career. You can make a difference, and we need more women."¹¹¹

Rubley currently resides in West Chester, Chester County, Pennsylvania.





Kathy M. Manderino

Born: October 28, 1958, Monessen, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 194th Legislative District, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties, 1993-2010. Affiliation: Democrat.

Kathy M. Manderino was born on October 28, 1958 in Monessen, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Monessen High School in 1976. She earned her B.A. degree in public service from Pennsylvania State University in 1980. Manderino earned a J.D. from Temple University in 1989.

Following her studies in 1980, Manderino worked as a program developer for the Council for Labor and Industry from 1980 to 1983. She then took on a position as the director of member services for the Philadelphia Area Labor-Management Commission from 1985 to 1989. After finishing her law degree in 1989, Manderino was an attorney for Fox, Rothchild, O'Brien & Frankel.

Following in the footsteps of her late father James J. Manderino – who was a Member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, as well as a Speaker of the House – Manderino ran her first campaign for the House in 1992. Throughout both her primary and general campaigns, Manderino faced accusations of being a “carpetbagger,” despite living for nearly a decade in the district she sought to represent. Manderino responded that such rhetoric sent “a message to people who were not born here that you’re not welcome.”

Manderino was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 194th Legislative District in 1992. She was reelected for eight subsequent sessions. While in office, Manderino was the prime sponsor of several pieces of legislation that became law, including Act 83 of 2008, which amended the penal code by updating parole provisions, as well as Act 112 of 2010, which made changes to child custody legislation in an effort to make the custody process more equitable. Manderino focused on issues pertaining to education, healthcare, and economic development. She served on the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Advisory Council and the Pennsylvania Bar Association Board of Governors. She also served on the board of directors of the Bridge



Adolescent Treatment Center, the Food Trust, and Northwest Victim Services. During the 2009-2010 session, Manderino chaired the House Ethics Committee.

In a 1997 interview, Manderino explained how the House of Representatives would be different if more women were elected. She responded, “More women in the process lending a different thought process would come up with better public policy.”¹¹²

Following her time in the House, Manderino served as the senior vice president of Intercommunity Action, Inc., which provides resources for individuals who face challenges related to aging, behavioral health, or disabilities. She was appointed Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, serving from 2015 to 2017. In 2017, she was appointed to a three-year term as a Commissioner on the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.



Katie True

Born: January 16, 1941, Baltimore, Baltimore County, Maryland. Member of the House: 37th and 41st Legislative Districts, Lancaster County, 1993-2000 (37th), 2003-2010 (41st). Affiliation: Republican.



Katherine “Katie” True (née Buck) was born on January 16, 1941 in Baltimore, Baltimore County, Maryland. She graduated from J.P. McCaskey High School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1958. She is married to Peter True with whom she has three children: Peter, Christian, and Colin, as well as three stepsons.

Following her studies, True was involved with several educational organizations. She was the founder of Kids Saving Kids, a drug education program for elementary students and founder of Parents Caring About Kids. She served as a youth director for Pennsylvanians AWARE from 1990 to 1991. True authored a manual on substance abuse training for AWARE’s continual training and education.

True was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1992 to represent the 37th Legislative District. She was reelected for three subsequent sessions. She was reelected in 2002 as a Republican to represent the 41st Legislative District and was reelected for three subsequent sessions. While in office, True focused on issues relating to child abuse, adolescent drug use, and women’s health. She was the chair of the Subcommittee for Drugs and Alcohol for the Health and Human Services Committee from 1995 to 2000. True was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 139 of 2006, which established penalties for human traffickers or those who use forced labor. She was also the prime sponsor of legislation that became Act 21 of 2004, which allows a birth parent to revoke the consent to adoption of their biological child within 30 days.

When asked about advice for other women thinking about running for public office, True said, “Have a public service mentality, know the issues-then run!”¹¹³

Between her two tenures in the House, True served as the executive director of the Pennsylvania Commission for Women from 2000 to 2001. After her legislative career, she was appointed as commissioner for the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs for the Pennsylvania Department of State from 2011 to 2013. True was also the Secretary of Legislative Affairs for the Pennsylvania Office of Governor Corbett from 2013 to 2014.

True hopes that she is remembered for being “trusted and always thankful. I would hope that those I served would believe how much I tried serving. It was an honor.”¹¹⁴

True currently resides in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.





Barbara A. Burns

Born: December 3, 1948, East Allegheny, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 20th Legislative District, Allegheny County, March 7, 1994-1994. Affiliation: Democrat.

Barbara A. Burns was born on December 3, 1948 in East Allegheny, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Allegheny High School in 1966 and from Chatham College in 1982 with a B.A. in communications.

Following her studies, Burns worked as an aide for State Representative Ivan Itkin from 1983 to 1994. During that time, Burns served on the Pittsburgh Board of Education. She also worked in her community with the East Allegheny Community Council, Inc., and North Side Civic Development Council, Inc. Burns was elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Conventions of 1984 and 1988. Burns also served on the board of directors for the Carnegie Library, the Carnegie Museums of Natural History and Art, and the Buhl Science Center.

After the resignation of Representative Donald R. Walko, Burns was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 20th Legislative District in a special election on February 15, 1994, and was sworn in on March 7, 1994. During her time in office, Burns focused on children's safety, funding education, urban blight, nuisance bars, and public safety. When asked about the importance of women being in the House, Burns said, "Women are honest, hardworking, straight forward, and open to new ideas for problem solving. Women represent a majority of the population and are always underrepresented. We need a stronger voice in the issues that affect our daily lives, community, and state. If we are not present to help shape policy, men will do it for us."¹¹⁵

Following her time in office, Burns served on the Pittsburgh City Council from 1996 to 2004. In 2000 Burns became the proprietor for Sweet Time General Store and Gathering Place, a position she still holds.

Burns currently resides in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.





Rosita C. Youngblood

Born: December 20, 1946, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 198th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, April 19, 1994-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Rosita Youngblood was born on December 20, 1946 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Overbrook High School in 1964. In 1985, she earned a B.A. in human services from Antioch University. Youngblood is divorced and has three children: sons James and Stephen and daughter Senait.

Following her studies, Youngblood worked as a management improvement supervisor for the Philadelphia Housing Authority. She was employed as a special assistant for Philadelphia City Council President Joseph E. Coleman. Youngblood also worked as a credit administrator for Bank Leumi Le Israel USA in Philadelphia.

Youngblood has long been active in her community and local government. She served as ward leader of the 13th Ward Democratic Executive Committee for 34 years. She was the treasurer for the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials and was a member of Youth Leaders of Philadelphia. Active in Philadelphia civic and community groups, she served on the board of the Korean/American Friendship Society. She also chaired the Friends of Fernhill Park Committee, was a team captain in Operation Town Watch, was a founder of Women for Women, and was active in Parents United for Better Schools, as well as 2000 African American Women.

Youngblood was the deputy chair of Women in Politics for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and also served as the first vice chairwoman for the Philadelphia Democratic Party and the Philadelphia County Democratic Executive Committee for eight years.

Youngblood was elected president of the National Foundation of Women Legislators in 2008, and sworn in during 2009. She was the first African American elected to this position. She was a board member of the Lucien Crump Educational Foundation, as well as the Creative Urban Education Systems. Youngblood also was involved with the Philadelphia Political Congress of African American Women.



Youngblood was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in a special election to replace Robert O'Donnell on April 5, 1994 and was sworn in on April 19, 1994. She was reelected for 13 subsequent sessions. Throughout her time in office, Youngblood has sponsored and co-sponsored legislative initiatives dealing with domestic violence, anti-counterfeiting, employment protection for pregnant and sick employees, and equal pay for equal work. She also sponsored legislation to create the Kinship Care Program, update the Newborn Protection Act, and promote diaper need awareness. During her time as Chairwoman for the Gaming Oversight Committee, Youngblood was the leading proponent of keeping the remaining Category 2 license in Philadelphia, and she successfully fought to oppose any legislative action that would have stripped the city of its second license. As Chairwoman, Youngblood worked to ensure that Pennsylvania's gaming industry remained successful in the generation of tax revenue, as well job creation for the Commonwealth.

For the 2003-2004 legislative session, Youngblood was chosen as Minority Vice Chairman for the Children and Youth Committee. In 2011, Youngblood was appointed Democratic Chairwoman of the House Gaming Oversight Committee. Youngblood left this position in 2015 when she was selected by her peers to be part of the House leadership team as the House Democratic Caucus Secretary, a position she still holds. Youngblood was the first black female to hold a leadership post in the Pennsylvania General Assembly's history.

When reflecting on her experience as a legislator, Youngblood spoke of the challenges women face in their campaigns. She discussed a major problem in campaigning as being able "to get the support of the general populous to understand... we offer a lot besides being a mom."¹¹⁶



Colleen A. Sheehan

Born: January 7, 1956, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York. Member of the House: 149th Legislative District, Montgomery County, 1995-1996. Affiliation: Republican.



Colleen A. Sheehan was born on January 7, 1956 in Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York. She graduated from Willsboro Central School in 1973. She graduated with her B.A. from Eisenhower College in 1977 and also graduated from Claremont Graduate School (Claremont Graduate University) with her M.A. in 1979 and her Ph.D. in 1986. She is married to John A. Doody.

Sheehan was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1994 to serve the 149th Legislative District. While in office, Sheehan worked on House Bill 2686, which would have eliminated the milk marketing board in Pennsylvania to lower milk prices throughout the state. She also worked to pass legislation on school choice, which would have allowed students to attend schools of their family's choice.¹¹⁷ When reflecting on her time in office, Sheehan explained she enjoyed "policy issues and working to achieve legislative success," "working [with] so many genuinely decent [and] caring people," and "working to try to pass school choice."¹¹⁸

Sheehan has written books on James Madison, Jane Austen and other figures of the early American Federalist era, in addition to articles on similar topics. Her articles have been published in *William and Mary Quarterly*, *The Jane Austen Journal*, *American Political Science Review*, *Widener Journal of Public Law*, and *Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs*.

Sheehan was appointed to the Pennsylvania State Board of Education from 2011 to 2018, in addition to the Governor's Advisory Committee on Academic Standards. She is the director of the Matthew J. Ryan Project for the Study of Free Institutions and the Public Good at Villanova University.

Sheehan is an associate professor of political science at Villanova University, a position she has held since 1986. She was a visiting associate professor at Princeton University in 2006. She has been an instructor at the Ashbrook Center Masters' Program in American history and government at Ashland University since 2009. Sheehan also serves on numerous academic boards such as the Board of Academic Advisors at the Alexander Hamilton Institute, Board of Advisors for the REACH Foundation, and a senior scholar on the Advisory Council for the Jack. C. Miller Center for the Study of America's Principles and History.

Sheehan currently resides in Wayne, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.



Lisa M. Boscola



Born: April 6, 1962, Bethlehem, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 135th Legislative District, Lehigh, and Northampton Counties, 1995-1998. Member of the Senate: 18th Senatorial District, Lehigh, and Northampton Counties, 1999-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Lisa M. Boscola (née Stofko) was born on April 6, 1962 in Bethlehem, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Freedom High School in 1980. She graduated from Villanova University with her B.A. in political science and Russian in 1984, and her M.A. in political science in 1985. She also received her Judiciary Certification from

Wilson College in 1987. She married Edward Boscola on September 12, 1987.

Before her service in the House, Boscola was the deputy court administrator for Northampton County from 1987 to 1994. She was also the regional director for the Pennsylvania Association of County Managers. She was a member of numerous organizations throughout her community such as the League of Women Voters, Celtic Classic Board, American Business Women Association, Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women.

Boscola was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1994 to represent the 135th Legislative District. She was elected for one subsequent session. Boscola explained her parents instilled the political process in her at an early age: they “would take me to the polls and I would pull the levers...”¹¹⁹ This memory helped her make a leap of faith to run for public office in 1994. While in office, she was an advocate for the creation and retention of family-sustaining jobs. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 86 of 1996, which provided for motivational boot camps for youth offenders. During her time in the House, she was appointed to the Pennsylvania Public Television Network Commission and served from 1995 to 1998.

Boscola was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate in 1998 to represent the 18th Senatorial District. She currently serves as Chair of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, a position she has held since 2011.

Boscola advised women considering running for elected office to: “Run! Don’t have anyone tell you not to run! Don’t let anyone tell you to wait your turn! Don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t win!”¹²⁰





Ellen M. Bard

Born: January 11, 1949, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Died: October 28, 2009, San Francisco, San Francisco County, California. Member of the House: 153rd Legislative District, Montgomery County, 1995-2004. Affiliation: Republican.

Ellen M. Bard was born on January 11, 1949 in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. She graduated from West Anchorage High School in 1967. She graduated with her B.A. from Pomona College in 1971 and with her M.S. from Boston University in 1972. She also graduated with an M.S. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sloan School of Management in 1980. She was married to Robert G. Stiratelli, Ph.D., and they had one child: Allison.

Bard worked at the Massachusetts Parole Board from 1972 to 1978 and at the International Coal Refining Company. She was the founder and director of Earthright, a nonprofit company in Abington Township, and was the owner of Techlink Company, a computer supply firm from 1982 to 2000. She was also the executive secretary of the Montgomery County Lands Trust. Bard was elected commissioner of Abington Township from 1991 to 1994.

Bard was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1994 to serve the 153rd Legislative District. She was reelected for four subsequent sessions. She credits her parents for instilling community service in her, which inspired her to run for office. She explained, "Whether that would mean picking up litter, selling potholders for Girl Scouts, or whatever it was, that was always part of my upbringing of being focused on trying to make the community better."¹²¹

During her time in office, Bard introduced numerous bills that became law. In 2001, she prime sponsored the legislation that became Act 66, which provided immunity for volunteers on town watch and antidrug organizations from civil liability if they acted in good faith. She also prime sponsored the legislation that became Act 55 of 2001, which authorized the Pennsylvania flag to be used during memorials of employees or members of police departments, fire departments, ambulance services, rescue squads, or fire police. She was appointed to the Local Government Commission from 1995 to 2004, where she served



as President for her entire tenure. She also was the Chair of the Subcommittee on Energy for the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

During her farewell address on November 9, 2004, she noted that one of the highlights of her career was chairing the Task Force for the 21st Century Energy Policy in Pennsylvania and passing corresponding legislation. She also explained, "I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to be 1 of 112 women who have served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives."¹²²

Ellen M. Bard died on October 28, 2009 in San Francisco, San Francisco County, California.





Julie Harhart

Born: August 7, 1945, Northampton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 183rd Legislative District, Lehigh and Montgomery Counties, 1995-2016. Affiliation: Republican.

Julie L. Harhart (née Cihlylik) was born on August 7, 1945 in Northampton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Allentown Central High School in 1963. In 1965, she graduated from the Bethlehem Business School. She married Frank S. Harhart in 1967 and they have one child: Kim.

Harhart served as a tax collector for North Catasauqua borough from 1981 to 1988. She worked as a legislative aide for the Republican Caucus of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as an office manager and constituent liaison from 1990 to 1994.

Harhart was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 183rd Legislative District in 1994. She was reelected for 10 subsequent sessions. While in office, Harhart was dedicated to issues of children's welfare, safe schools, women's health, property tax relief for low-income seniors, and reducing government spending and waste. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 74 of 2006, which created a Cervical Cancer Task Force to raise public awareness, as well as educate women on prevention, screening, and detection of cervical cancer. She was also the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 28 of 2014, which created a funding mechanism for children's advocacy centers — established to provide treatment for victims of sexual abuse, as well as prosecute perpetrators of abuse. Harhart said of this legislation, "The work done at these centers is life-saving for many of the children who seek help, and it gives law enforcement the information needed to track suspected abusers. I am thankful my colleagues in the General Assembly recognize and support the need to fund these vital centers."¹²³ In 2005, she was appointed to the Children's Task Force, which was a two-year study of at-risk children. Harhart served as a Deputy Whip for the Republicans from 2003 through 2010. She also served as the Chair of the Professional Licensure Committee from 2011 to 2016.

When asked what women bring to the table, Harhart said, "common sense and compromise."¹²⁴ She also said she would like to be remembered for her "service to people of my community and honesty."¹²⁵

Harhart currently resides in North Catasauqua, Pennsylvania.





Sandra Major

Born: September 4, 1954, Seaford, Sussex County, Delaware. Member of the House: 111th Legislative District, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties, 1995-2002; Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties 2003-2014; Susquehanna and Wayne Counties, 2015-2016. Affiliation: Republican.

Sandra Major was born on September 4, 1954 in Seaford, Sussex County, Delaware. She graduated from Mountain View High School in 1972. She attended Keystone Junior College where she graduated with an associate's degree in 1974. Major also attended the University of Scranton. She was married to Anthony J. Cesarro, who passed away in 2017.

In Major's early life, she worked for the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad and was a secretary of the president at Lackawanna Junior College. Major's grandfather, Harold G. Wescott, was a Member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1945 to 1962, and during her adolescence, her family was very political. In her oral history interview with the House Archives, Major recalled her kitchen table conversations revolved around politics — discussing who was running for what office and current campaigns at the local, state, and national levels.¹²⁶ Major was a member of the Young Republicans National Federation growing up and was heavily involved in politics from a young age.

Major was a legislative aide to State Representative Carmel Sirianni from 1980 to 1988. She was elected treasurer of Susquehanna County, where she served from 1992 to 1995. Major was also a member of the Susquehanna County Council of Republican Women, a member of the Pennsylvania Council of Republican Women, and a member of the National Council of Republican Women.

Major was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1994 to represent the 111th Legislative District. She was reelected for 10 subsequent sessions. During her time in office, Major often focused on attending as many events in her district as she could, recalling advice she received from another Member, "Your constituents won't remember what you can do in Harrisburg, but will remember what you do in the district."¹²⁷ She served on the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency from 2003 to 2016



and as a member of the Joint State Government Commission from 2007 to 2016. Major was elected Minority Caucus Chair in 2007 and 2009, and then Majority Caucus Chair from 2011 to 2016.

Major's legislation focused in part on Marcellus Shale, addressing both environmental concerns and economic potential related to the natural gas industry. One of her most notable pieces of legislation is Act 235 of 2004, which amended the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act of 1974 to allow certain properties to receive preferential assessment for taxation. Major worked on this legislation consistently for her first 10 years in office until it finally passed in both the House and the Senate. During her oral history interview, Major recalled that she was most proud of her contribution to state budgets being passed on time in her early days as a Representative.¹²⁸

When questioned about what advice she would give to someone interested in running for public office, Major urged, "People put their trust in you and they believe in you to do the right thing. They believe that you're going to come to Harrisburg and represent them, and you are the 1 person with 62,000-63,000 constituents so you're their voice... You have to be totally committed to do the job and sometimes you have to set family aside, sometimes you have to put yourself, personal interests aside, and you have to do what's right for your constituency."¹²⁹

Major currently resides in Brackney, Pennsylvania.





R. Tracy Seyfert

Born: December 2, 1941, Bridgeport, Fairfield County, Connecticut. Member of the House: 5th Legislative District, Crawford and Erie Counties, 1997-2000. Affiliation: Republican.

Rena May “Tracy” Seyfert (née Tracy) was born on December 2, 1941 in Bridgeport, Fairfield County, Connecticut. Seyfert graduated from Mountain View Joint School in 1959. She graduated from Villa Maria College in 1966 with her B.A.; from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in 1975 with her M.Ed.; and from University of Pittsburgh in 1988 with her Ph.D. in psychology. Seyfert completed a post-doctoral fellowship from the Lake Erie Institute of Rehabilitation in Neuropsychology in 1989. She is divorced and has two children: Correna and Craig.

Following her studies, Seyfert was a psychologist and has owned her own practice since 1989. She was employed at Hamot Hospital in Erie for four years. She was elected to the Erie City Council in 1984 and served as council chair in 1996. Seyfert was the head of Erie’s Voter Registration Office in 1982. Seyfert was a member of the Local Republican Committee for 10 years and of the Republican State Committee for six years. In 1995, Erie County Firefighters Association conferred to her the Citizen of the Year Award. She was active in her professional career by serving as a member of the American Psychological Association, National Academy of Neuropsychologist International, and the Neuropsychological Society of Pennsylvania.

Seyfert was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 5th Legislative District in 1996. She was reelected for one subsequent session. While in office, she was active in providing higher education tuition assistance to volunteer emergency personnel and in providing better treatment for psychological issues in hospitals. She explained, “Some of my most enjoyable work as a state representative is securing state grant money and funding for projects and groups here in the 5th Legislative District.”¹³⁰ Seyfert resigned from the House on June 1, 2000.

Following her time in office, Seyfert continues to be self-employed.



Jane Clare Orie



Born: September 18, 1961, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 28th Legislative District, Allegheny County, 1997-2001. Member of the Senate: 40th Senatorial District, Allegheny, Butler, and Westmoreland Counties, 2001-2012. Affiliation: Republican.

Jane Clare Orie was born on September 18, 1961 in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Vincentian High School in 1980. She graduated from Franklin and Marshall College with her B.A. in 1984 and earned her J.D. from Duquesne University School of Law in 1987.

Following her studies, Orie was an assistant district attorney of Allegheny County. She also served as a deputy attorney general for the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General in the Division of Criminal Prosecution.

Orie was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1996 to represent the 28th Legislative District. She was reelected for two subsequent sessions. While in the House, Orie sponsored three bills that were signed into law. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 115 of 1998, which provided for the screening of patients who were dealing with domestic violence and established the Domestic Violence Health Care Response Program. In 2001, she prime-sponsored the legislation that became Act 77, which created the Tobacco Settlement Fund and backed tobacco use prevention efforts.

Orie resigned from the House on April 3, 2001 after her election to the Pennsylvania State Senate.

During her farewell address to the House on April 2, 2001 Orie stated that “Life as a Member of this great House differed stridently from my days as a prosecutor. Here in the vortex of the legislature, I have become a different public servant, no longer an ardent advocate but now an initiator of the laws of this great Commonwealth.”¹³¹

Orie won a special election on March 11, 2001 to serve the 40th Senatorial District. She was sworn in on April 3, 2001. She served as Majority Whip from 2007 to 2011. Orie served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 2008. She was also appointed to the Joint State Government Commission and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency from 2007 to 2010.

Orie resigned from the Senate on May 21, 2012.





Connie H. Williams

Born: June 27, 1944, Long Branch, Monmouth County, New Jersey. Member of the House: 149th Legislative District, Montgomery County, 1997-2001. Affiliation: Democrat. Member of the Senate: 17th Senatorial District, Delaware and Montgomery Counties, 2001-2008.

Constance “Connie” H. Williams (née Hess) was born on June 27, 1944 in Long Branch, Monmouth County, New Jersey. Williams graduated from Rutgers Preparatory School in 1962. She also graduated from Pine Manor College in 1964 with her A.A.; from Barnard College, Columbia University in 1966 with her B.A. in English; and from Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania in 1980 with her M.B.A. Additionally, Williams was a fellow at the Philadelphia Academy of Physicians. She married Sankey V. Williams on June 27, 1972 and they have two children: Jennifer and Elizabeth.

Following her studies, Williams was the program officer for Eisenhower Fellowships. She was also a consultant for Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers and the small business coordinator for Pennsylvania’s 13th Congressional District. Williams served as the special project coordinator for Congresswoman Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky from 1993 to 1994. Williams was the chair of the Democratic Committee for Lower Merion and Narberth Townships.

Williams was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 149th Legislative District in 1996. She was reelected for two subsequent sessions. While in office, Williams was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 161 of 2002, which prohibits peddling by minors under age 16 without adult supervision. She was active in pursuing legislation to provide better background checks in schools, ceasing unannounced childcare center inspections, as well as tracing firearm purchases. She resigned from the House on December 3, 2001. Williams explained, “I’ve had the opportunity to meet so many people I probably wouldn’t have met no matter what else I was doing. And I’ve had the most marvelous people working with me – loyal, interested, dedicated, smart people who understand what the job entails, who have represented me beautifully.”¹³²

Williams was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania Senate to represent the 17th



Senatorial District in 2001 in a special election and was reelected for three subsequent sessions. She served as Minority Caucus Administrator from 2003 to 2008. She was also appointed to the Pennsylvania Public Television Network Commission from 2003 to 2006. At the conclusion of her legislative career, she explained, "It's been a wonderful life, but it's not my whole life."¹³³

When asked what advice she would give women considering running for elected office, Williams said, "Be ready and able to devote 99% of your time to the campaign. Don't be afraid to ask for support...Practice your stump talk. Never agree to anything that is not true to your core beliefs. Understand your district."¹³⁴

Following her time in office, Williams was chair of the Philadelphia Museum of Art Board of Trustees from 2010 to 2016. She was a board member and former chair of Steppingstone Scholars, and a board member of the National Museum of American Jewish History. Williams is also a member of the Democratic State Committee. She currently serves as the vice president and director of the Hess Foundation.



Mary Ann Dailey

Born: July 1, 1948, Charleroi, Washington County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 146th Legislative District, Montgomery County, 1999-2004. Affiliation: Republican.



Mary Ann Dailey (née D'Altorio) was born on July 1, 1948 in Charleroi, Washington County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Monessen High School in 1966 and from the Presbyterian University Hospital School of Nursing in 1969. She earned her B.S.N. from the University of the State of New York. Dailey graduated from Widener University with her M.S.N. in 1988 and her Ph.D. in nursing education in 1992.

Dailey married Jacob Dailey, Jr. on May 29, 1971, and they have three children: J. Christopher, Katherine, and Matthew.

Following her studies, Dailey worked as an emergency room staff nurse from 1981 to 1992. She then began her teaching career as an assistant professor at Alvernia College from 1988 to 1989, an adjunct professor at Reading Area Community College in 1988, and an adjunct professor at Alvernia College in 1992. Dailey returned to her nursing career as a school nurse at Owen J. Roberts School District from 1989 to 1992. From 1992 to 1993, she was employed with the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center as a faculty liaison. In 1993, she started at Cedar Crest College as an assistant professor and served in that position until elected to the House. Additionally, Dailey was elected a commissioner of Lower Pottsgrove Township in 1993 and served on the board of trustees for Montgomery County Community College.

Dailey was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 146th Legislative District in 1998. She was reelected for two subsequent sessions. While in office, Dailey focused on health care legislation. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 69 of 2004, which amended the Public Welfare Code of 1967 and called for assessments of Medicaid Managed Care Organizations and Intermediate Care Facilities. Dailey has referred to herself as “the cheerleader for nursing,” and encouraged other nurses to get involved in politics saying, “The legislature makes many laws that govern the actual day-to-day duties of a nurse, and those laws may affect nursing care in a negative manner.”¹³⁵

Following her time in office, Dailey returned to her teaching career. She worked as a professor and chair of the nursing department at Kutztown University. After Kutztown, Dailey became an associate professor at Slippery Rock University. In 2006, she was elected to the Board of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association and served as its secretary in 2007. In 2018, Dailey became professor emerita at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.





Jennifer L. Mann

*Born: May 17, 1969, Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.
Member of the House: 132nd Legislative District, Lehigh
County, 1999-2012. Affiliation: Democrat.*

Jennifer L. Mann was born on May 17, 1969 in Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from William Allen High School in 1987, and from Lehigh University in 1991 with a B.A. in government and economics. She is the former owner of Instant Access, a wireless communications company.

Mann was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1998 to serve the 132nd Legislative District. She was reelected for six subsequent sessions. While in office, Mann prime sponsored several successful pieces of legislation. In 2008, Mann was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 61 of 2008, which provided funding for local school districts. Mann also sponsored the legislation that led to Act 110 of 2010, which required employees of healthcare facilities, healthcare providers, and physicians' private practices to wear photo identification (ID) tags.

Mann was appointed Majority Caucus Secretary for the 2009-2010 session and the Minority Caucus Secretary for the 2011-2012 session. As a leader, Mann explained, "We need to encourage more women to serve at the state level as elected officials. We also need to create a more open and transparent culture here in Harrisburg which gives women the tools they need to succeed."¹³⁶ Mann utilized her platform to demonstrate the need for gender equality and the need for more female representation in the state legislature.

Mann was appointed to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency from 1999 to 2004. She was also appointed to the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency from 2007 to 2012.

Following her time in the House, Mann started JL Mann Consulting, a business consulting firm, in Allentown, Pennsylvania in December 2012. Her business has partnered with government relations firm Triad Strategies of Harrisburg. She has continued her involvement in political and civic affairs. She was elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2016. Mann currently serves on the boards of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, the Arthritis Foundation of the Lehigh Valley, Associates for the Allentown Art Museum, Muhlenberg College, and Cedar Crest College.

Mann currently resides in Allentown, Pennsylvania.



Jane S. Baker

Born: July 8, 1945, Kansas City, Missouri. Member of the House: 134th Legislative District, Lehigh County, 2001-2002.

Affiliation: Republican.



Jane Kathryn Baker (née Schneller) was born on July 8, 1945, in Kansas City, Missouri. She graduated from Allen High School in 1963. From 1963 to 1965, she attended Pennsylvania State University. She graduated from Cedar Crest College in 1967 with a B.A. in English and history. On July 16, 1966, she married James William Baker, and they had three children: Adrienne, James, and Jessica.

Following her studies, Baker worked as a public school teacher at Emmaus Junior High School, teaching language arts and history. Following her career in education, she worked in politics. She was a campaign staff member for State Representative Donald W. Snyder in 1980, and served as his legislative aide from 1981 to 1982. In 1982, she served as the Northeastern Regional Coordinator for Governor Dick Thornburgh's gubernatorial re-election bid. Baker was elected to the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners in 1986, and served as chair of the commissioners in 1989. From 1994 to 2000, she was the Lehigh County Executive. In 1994, she was elected to the board of directors of the National Council of Elected County Executives. In 1996, she was appointed by Governor Tom Ridge to serve on the Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children.

In addition to her career, Baker was an active member in her community. She was a member of the Rotary Club of Allentown, and a member of the Sertoma Club, as well as the Tax Reform Committee of County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

Baker was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 134th Legislative District in 2000. While in office, she prime sponsored House Bill 2661, which called for a surcharge on the purchases of Pennsylvania inmates which, would help fund the costs of their room and board while in prison. When *The Morning Call* asked if she considered herself a role model or leader, Baker responded, "I'd like people to remember me as someone who helped other people climb."¹³⁷

Following her time in office, Baker worked as a consultant for the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She also served on the board of directors of the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority.

She currently resides Macungie, Pennsylvania.





Gayle Wright

Born: February 3, 1951, Port Huron, Clair County, Michigan. Member of the House: 2nd Legislative District, Erie County, September 5, 2001-2002. Affiliation: Democrat.

Gayle Marie Wright (née Melms) was born on February 3, 1951 in Port Huron, Clair County, Michigan. She graduated from Port Huron Northern High School in 1969. She earned her B.S. in education and geology from the University of Akron in 1973 and also studied at Cannon University. On August 4, 1973, she married Donald E. Wright, Jr., and they had two children: Jeff and Casey.

Following her studies, she worked as a public school teacher in the Millcreek and Erie school districts. Subsequently, she moved into local government, where she served as an Erie city councilwoman from 1990 to 2001.

Following the death of State Representative Italo Cappabianca, Wright was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 2nd Legislative District in a special election on August 14, 2001. She was sworn in September 5, 2001. Upon her election to the House, she said, "Italo was a champion of our city and our people...He always fought for the little guy. I will do my best to carry on that work."¹³⁸ While in office, she prime sponsored legislation that became Act 145 of 2002, which renamed a portion of the Bay Front Parkway after her late predecessor, Italo S. Cappabianca. She was also an advocate for gun control and increased firearm safety measures.

Following her time in office, she returned to her career as an educator, working as a science teacher in the Erie City School District. She currently resides in the Erie area.





Beverly Mackereth

Born: January 27, 1958, Washington D.C. Member of the House: 196th Legislative District, York County, 2001-2008. Affiliation: Republican.

Beverly Denise Mackereth (née Ehrlich) was born on January 27, 1958 in Washington, D.C. She graduated from Montgomery Blair High School in 1975 and earned a B.S. in psychology and sociology from Frostburg State University in 1979. On September 13, 1980, she married Michael Mackereth, and they had four children: Casey, Shannon, Nicholas, and David.

Following her studies, Mackereth began her career at the York County Blind Center in 1979. She was employed from 1980 to 1987 at York County Children and Youth Services as a case worker, and was eventually promoted to supervisor. From 1987 to 1997, she worked in York County's District Attorney's Office as a victim/witness coordinator, and in the Office of the Pennsylvania Attorney General as a consultant. Mackereth was elected to the Spring Grove Council and Planning Committee in 1994. She was appointed Mayor of Spring Grove by a vacancy committee in December 1995 to finish the remaining two years of the late former mayor, Richard Thieret. Mackereth was elected Mayor in 1997 and served until 2000.

Mackereth was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 196th Legislative District in 2000. She was reelected for three subsequent sessions. While in office, Mackereth was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 30 of 2001 which amended the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law and added more members, including the Secretary of Public Welfare, Secretary of Education, Secretary of Health, chair of the Board of Probation and Parole, and executive director of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Mackereth was also the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 95 of 2001 which necessitated certain immunizations for residents and employees in long-term care facilities. Throughout her legislative career, Mackereth focused on education, judiciary, aging, health and human services, and children and youth issues.

When asked how she wanted to be remembered, Mackereth said, "As one of the women who made a difference, as someone who was kind and respectful to all," and "worked with



everyone and represented [her] district well."¹³⁹

Following her time in office, Mackereth was employed as director of York County Human Services from 2008 to 2012. In 2012, she began working as the Deputy Secretary for the Office of Children, Youth, and Families in the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. In 2013, she was the Secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, and served until 2015. In 2015, Mackereth began working at Ridge Policy Group as the senior government affairs strategist, a position she still holds.

Mackereth advised women considering running for public office to "Go for it! We need more women voices at all levels of public office."¹⁴⁰

Mackereth currently resides in York, Pennsylvania.





Kate Harper

Born: April 5, 1956, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 61st Legislative District, Montgomery County, 2001-2018. Affiliation: Republican.

Catherine “Kate” M. Harper was born on April 5, 1956 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Harper graduated from Gwynedd Mercy Academy in 1974. She later graduated from La Salle University with her B.A. in political science in 1978 and from Villanova University School of Law with her J.D. in 1981. Harper was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar Association in 1981 and was also admitted to the United States Court Eastern Pennsylvania, United States Court of Appeals 3rd Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. She has been an attorney and partner with Timoney Knox LLP since 1997. Her legal work focused on land use, real estate, and civil litigation in Bucks and Montgomery counties. She is married to Paul J. Kelly III and they have two sons: Paul J. IV and Thomas.

Harper was a member and chair of the Lower Gwynedd Board of Supervisors for 13 years, chair of the Montgomery County Open Space Planning Board, member of the Montgomery County Planning Commission for six years, and member of the Montgomery County Open Space Task Force in 1993. Harper chaired the Montgomery County Green Fields/Green Towns Task Force, which helped raise \$150 million to preserve farmland, create parks, conserve natural landscapes, and preserve agricultural land in Montgomery County in 2003. She was also appointed a member of the Governor’s Conference on Trails and Greenways.

Harper was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2000 to represent the 61st Legislative District. She was reelected for eight subsequent sessions. While in office, she focused her legislative efforts on stopping urban sprawl, easing traffic congestion, and protecting environmentally sensitive areas and farms within her district and the surrounding region. Harper had several successful pieces of legislation, including prime sponsorship of the bill that led to Act 1 of 2014, which allowed fire companies to send delegates to conventions. She was also the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 84 of 2014, which allowed licensed mental health professionals to obtain volunteer licenses, and provide free mental health services to military personnel and their families outside approved clinic settings. Harper was appointed to the Local Government Commission from



2013 to 2018. She served as Chair of the Ethics Committee from 2011 to 2012 and Chair of the Local Government Committee from 2013 to 2014. Harper explained that she “loved being able to get things done—laws passed, grants obtained—making the world a better place. I enjoyed being a part of so many community events...I really felt like – and was – an integral part of my community.”¹⁴¹

Harper has won numerous awards for her efforts to improve environmental protection and curb urban sprawl including the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society’s Governmental Award in 2008. Harper also earned the Legislator Recognition Award by The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts Inc. (PACD) and Lower Gwynedd Township Citizen of the Year Award in 2006.

Harper advised other women who are considering running for elected office to “Do it! If you feel you are the best person for the job, then lace up your running shoes and go after it!”¹⁴²

Harper currently practices law with Timoney Knox LLP. She resides in Ambler, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.





Katharine Watson

Born: November 6, 1945, Danville, Montour County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 144th Legislative District, Bucks County, 2001-2018. Affiliation: Republican.

Katharine Watson (née McDowell) was born on November 6, 1945 in Danville, Montour County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Springfield High School in 1963 and earned her B.A. in English from the University of Pennsylvania in 1967. Watson took graduate courses in secondary guidance and counseling at Villanova University from 1973 to 1976. Watson married James Richard Watson. They have one son: Derek.

Watson worked as a high school English teacher at Springfield High School in Delaware County. She owned and operated Coleraine Consultants, a public relations firm.

Watson began her political career as a member of the Central Bucks School Board from 1985 to 1989. She founded and was executive director of the Bucks County Highway Safety Program from 1990 to 1996. From 1995 to 2000, Watson served as a supervisor for Warrington Township, Bucks County. Watson also served as director of public information and as deputy administrator in Bucks County.

Watson was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2000 to serve the 144th Legislative District. She was reelected for eight subsequent sessions. During her time in office, Watson focused her work on children, families and the elderly, adoption rights, healthcare, highway safety, and education. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 81 of 2011, which updated the Graduated Driver's Licensing Law. Watson received several awards for her work on that legislation, including the Legislator of the Year Award from AAA and the Children's Champion Award from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Watson explained that getting the law passed was a real challenge saying, "There is a lengthy cultural heritage in large portions of Pennsylvania that says something might be a great idea, but the government doesn't legislate how I raise my children."¹⁴³

Watson served as Deputy Whip for the 2007-2008 session. She served as Chair of the Children and Youth Committee from 2013 to 2018, where she guided more than a dozen child protection bills into law.





Tina Pickett

Born: May 28, 1943, Kingston, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 110th Legislative District, Bradford, Sullivan, and Susquehanna Counties, 2001-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Tina Pickett (née Brotzman) was born on May 28, 1943 in Kingston, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. She attended Wyalusing Valley High School, Keystone College, the Culinary Institute of America, and the Pennsylvania State University. Pickett is a “self-taught entrepreneur” whose career began when she bought a wholesale milk delivery business at age 18.¹⁴⁴ She was also the proprietor of three restaurants and hotels: the Fireplace in Tunkhannock, The Williamston Inn in Towanda, and the Windy Valley Inn in Forkston Township. She has one daughter: Lynne.

A successful entrepreneur, Pickett has also worked as a production planner with Proctor and Gamble and became involved in her community’s civic life. She served as president of the Towanda Chamber of Commerce, treasurer of the Towanda Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, and board member of the Towanda Main Street Program. Pickett later found an interest in public office and was elected a Bradford County commissioner in 1996. When asked about running, she stated she did it “to widen my own knowledge, my own mind. I thought I would be challenging myself, my beliefs, my stances.”¹⁴⁵ She served on the Bradford County Board of Commissioners from 1996 to 2000. As a county commissioner, Pickett focused on issues relating to tax reform, child welfare, agriculture, industry, and tourism.

Pickett was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2000 to represent the 110th Legislative District. She has been reelected for nine subsequent sessions. Throughout her time in office, Pickett has focused on issues concerning small businesses, taxes, healthcare reform, public education funding, and community revitalization. She has sponsored several successful pieces of legislation over the course of her career. Some of her notable achievements include prime sponsoring the legislation that led to Act 84 of 2016, which reauthorized CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program); Acts 19 and 30 of 2005 and 2006, respectively, which provided prisoners of war with the opportunity to acquire a hunting or fishing license for one dollar each; and Act 173 of 2013,



which established natural gas well reporting requirements.

From 2007 to 2008 Pickett was appointed as the Deputy Minority Whip. For the 2013-2014 session Pickett served as the House Gaming Oversight Committee Chair, and has served as the Chair of the House Insurance Committee since 2015.

When asked what female legislators bring to the table, Pickett explained, "Women comprise over half of our citizenry so of course it is important that we will legislate in the same numbers. Women bring strength, dedication, knowledge, compassion, and a sense of balance in life to legislative service."¹⁴⁶





Wallis W. Brooks

Born: July 18, 1947. Member of the House: 149th Legislative District, Montgomery County, February 27, 2002-2002. Affiliation: Republican.

Wallis W. Brooks (née Wetlesen) was born on July 18, 1947. She graduated from American University with her B.A. in English in 1969 and also graduated from Dickinson School of Law in 1973. She was married to William Brooks and they have four children: Bradley, Erica, Joanne, and Christina. William Brooks passed away in 1990.

Following her studies, Brooks was a law clerk for United States District Court Judge John B. Hannum from 1973 to 1975. She was then a federal prosecutor in the United States Attorney's Office in Philadelphia from 1975 to 1979. Brooks was a real estate agent and from 2001 to 2002 was an Assistant District Attorney for Montgomery County in the narcotics and firearms unit.

Brooks was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in a special election on February 12, 2002. She was sworn in on February 27, 2002 to serve the 149th Legislative District. During her time in office, Brooks was the prime sponsor of legislation that became Act 183 of 2002 which provided stricter consequences for those who abused guide or assistance dogs. During her farewell remarks, Brooks explained, "This is an experience that is beyond anything I ever imagined, and I would like to say, I did it as a female...I am very proud of the fact that I am female and that I am standing here today."¹⁴⁷ Brooks also stated that "Campaigning for three elections in 9 or 10 months is no small task, but I always felt up to the challenge because I know there is no greater reward than serving and helping the people and making a difference in their lives..."¹⁴⁸

Following her time in the House, Brooks was the Assistant District Attorney for Montgomery County as the Domestic Violence Unit Captain from 2003 until her retirement in 2013.





Melissa Murphy Weber

Born: September 26, 1969, Scotch Plains, Union County, New Jersey. Member of the House: 148th Legislative District, Montgomery County, 2003-2004. Affiliation: Republican.

Melissa Weber (née Murphy) was born on September 26, 1969, in Scotch Plains, Union County, New Jersey. She graduated from Archbishop Carroll High School in 1987. She earned a B.A. in economics from Denison University in 1991. She also earned her J.D. from the Widener University School of Law in 1995 and her L.L.M. from Temple University in 2002. She married Robert Weber, a fireman from Narberth, Pennsylvania.

Following her studies, Weber worked in the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office as an assistant district attorney from 1996 to 2002. During this service, she was appointed as captain of the Domestic Violence and Special Prosecutions Units. Weber was active in her community and a member of several organizations and charities. She was a volunteer at the Montgomery County Women's Center, the Colonial Exchange Council, the Lower Merion Conservancy, Riverbend, and served on the Montgomery County Commission on Women and Families.

Weber was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 148th Legislative District in 2002. While in office, she prime sponsored multiple successful bills, including legislation that led to the passage of Act 10 of 2004, which allocated state funds for improvements to water supply and wastewater infrastructure. She was also an advocate for the protection of sexual violence victims. One of her primary motivations to seek office was because she believed she could more effectively support these victims as a lawmaker than as a prosecutor. "I did a lot of victims' rights and child abuse/domestic violence cases in the D.A.'s office, work that I considered noble and rewarding...I thought if I could take that experience to Harrisburg, I could help even more people."¹⁴⁹

Following her time in office, Weber continued her life in the public sector, where she served as Whippen Township supervisor from 2012 to 2017. She also resumed her career as a lawyer, working as a business attorney at the Elliot Greenleaf firm starting in 2005, a role she currently maintains.

She currently resides with her husband in Conshohocken, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.





Jacqueline R. Crahalla

Born: October 8, 1940, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, Member of the House: 150th Legislative District, Montgomery County, 2003-2006. Affiliation: Republican.

Jacqueline R. Crahalla (née Thies) was born in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania and was raised in Oaklyn, New Jersey. She graduated from Collingswood High School in 1958. Crahalla earned her B.A. in English, Communications Component, from Gwynedd-Mercy College in 1993. She married a Pennsylvania state trooper, Benjamin R. Crahalla, on November 16, 1963 and moved to Montgomery County,

Pennsylvania. They lived in Audubon and raised two sons, Richard (deceased) and Benjamin B. After retiring from the State Police, her husband was elected Magisterial District Judge for District 38-1-20 and served 22 years in that position.

Crahalla began her career at Merck Sharp & Dohme, West Point, where she worked from 1964 to 1973, mostly as an administrative assistant in its legal department and returned full time from 1982 to 2000. During the interim years she was a stay-at-home mother and a part-time columnist for Today's Post, a local newspaper. Writing about local issues, she became interested and involved in politics. Upon returning to Merck, with the assistance of Merck's educational program, Crahalla completed her bachelor's degree. She later transferred to Astra Merck Inc. in Chesterbrook, where she created and managed their Corporate Contributions Department.

Over the years, while raising a family and working full time, Crahalla was active in local politics. A member of the Lower Providence Republican Committee for 8 years, the Lower Providence Planning Commission for 4 years, she was elected Lower Providence Township Supervisor in 1997 and served 5 years.

In 2002, Crahalla was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Republican to represent the 150th Legislative District. She was reelected for one subsequent session. While in office, she focused on issues relating to the environment, animal welfare, and consumer rights. In addition to sponsoring other legislation, she was the prime sponsor of House Bill 462, which provided for the offense of soliciting or providing support for an act of terrorism and terrorist organizations.

When reflecting on how she would like to be remembered as a state legislator, Crahalla explained that she tried to reflect the values of and serve her constituents in the 150th District. Her advice to women thinking of seeking public office: keep a sense of humor.¹⁵⁰

Crahalla currently resides in Brigantine, New Jersey.





Mauree A. Gingrich

*Born: July 10, 1946, Baltimore, Baltimore County, Maryland.
Member of the House: 101st Legislative District, Lebanon
County, 2003-2016. Affiliation: Republican.*

Mauree A. Gingrich (née Boyd) was born on July 10, 1946 in Baltimore, Baltimore County, Maryland. She graduated from Lebanon Catholic High School in 1964. She attended Hershey Junior College from 1964-1965 before transferring to Harrisburg Institute of Medical Arts (now Pennsylvania College of Medical Arts) where she graduated in 1967 with her A.S. in medical technology. She married Calvin B. Gingrich on May 11, 1968 and they have four children.

Before serving in the House, Gingrich was the regional marketing director for Omega Medical Laboratory, the director of marketing for Cornwall Manor and the owner of Mature Market Concepts. She was a member of the Palmyra Civil Service Commission from 1987 to 1989, and was elected as a council member for Palmyra Borough, for which she served 12 years, one year as president. She was also a member of the Palmyra Borough Planning Commission.

Gingrich was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2002 to represent the 101st Legislative District. She was reelected for six subsequent sessions. She noted her grandmother was her biggest inspiration in running for office. Gingrich explained, “She set a model for me that led me from community and local government leadership roles to the state legislature, where our concern for the people of Pennsylvania and the policies and programs we create are paramount.”¹⁵¹

Gingrich had several successful pieces of legislation signed into law while in office, including her prime-sponsored legislation that became Act 31 of 2014. This act provided further training in child protection and mandated reporting, as well as required schools to teach children the signs of sexual predators and victim avoidance strategies. For her work with this legislation, she received the Children’s Hero Award from the Lebanon County Sexual Assault Resources Counseling Center. Gingrich was appointed to the Local Government Commission from 2005 to 2016, and was appointed Deputy Whip for the 2007-2008 session. She also served as the Labor and Industry Chair for the 2015-2016 session.

At the end of her career with the House, Gingrich offered advice for future generations of female leaders and those in leadership by stating: “Recognize your versatility: your ability to juggle and wear many hats is an essential task in leadership...Look for other women with potential. Reach out. Be a mentor. This is how we make our community stronger!”¹⁵²





Susan Cornell

Born: July 26, 1971, Abington, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 152nd Legislative District, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties, March 23, 2004-2006. Affiliation: Republican.

Susan Eileen Cornell was born on July 26, 1971 in Abington, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Hatboro Horsham High School in 1989. She earned her A.A. in general studies from Montgomery County Community College in 1996, and her B.A. in history from Temple University in 2000. She has one child: Dylan.

Following her studies, Cornell was a manager of a local café in Hatboro. She worked as a legislative assistant to State Representative Kate Harper from 2001 to 2003. Afterwards, she worked as the regional field coordinator for the Republican Caucus of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. In 2002, Cornell was elected to the Hatboro Regional Organization, and elected in 2004 as a member of the Hatboro borough council. Cornell was also active in her local community. She was a member of the Hatboro Republican Organization, the Greater Hatboro Chamber of Commerce, and the Montgomery County Council of Republican Women.

Following the death of her father, Representative Roy Cornell on January 1, 2004 while he was in office, Susan Cornell sought election to the House. Cornell was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 152nd Legislative District in a special election on March 9, 2004. She was sworn in on March 23, 2004, and was reelected for one subsequent session. While in office, she prime sponsored legislation that led to Act 72 of 2006, which made it a summary offense to deface or damage a survey monument. She was also an advocate for restricting smoking in public places, and in 2006 she prime sponsored the Clean Indoor Air Act, which prohibited smoking in most restaurants and other public venues. Two years later, Pennsylvania passed Act 27 of 2008, or the Clean Indoor Air Act, which successfully banned smoking in most public places, including restaurants, work spaces, and other commercial establishments. Speaking on her bill, Cornell explained, "A lot of people view it as freedom of choice, but it's not...it's a health issue."¹⁵³

Following her time in office, she began work as a lobbyist at the Philadelphia Parking Authority. During her time at the PPA, she was promoted to senior director of strategic planning and administration and currently serves as the senior director of public engagement.

Cornell currently resides in Abington, Pennsylvania.





Karen D. Beyer

Born: June 15, 1962, Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 131st Legislative District, Lehigh and Northampton Counties, August 2, 2005–2010.

Affiliation: Republican.

Karen D. Beyer (née Brown) was born on June 15, 1962 in Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Hempfield Area Senior High School in 1980. She earned her A.A. in liberal arts from Sinclair Community College in 1988 and her B.A. in government from the College of William and Mary in 1991. On November 11, 1983 she married Merrill L. Beyer III, and they had four children: Michael, Tiffany, Allison, and Emily.

Following her high school graduation, Beyer joined the United States Air Force and served from 1980 to 1984. Beyer and her husband, who was an officer in the Air Force, lived in several locations where he was stationed. During this time, she completed the rest of her education, and later worked as a journalist. She was a staff writer for *The Morning Call* in Allentown and a correspondent for *The Patriot-News* in Harrisburg.

Beyer became involved in local politics after she and her family settled in the Lehigh Valley. She was a member of the Northampton County Republican Committee. In 2003, she was elected to the Saucon Valley School Board and was named its president.

Following the resignation of Representative Patrick M. Browne after his election to the Pennsylvania State Senate, Beyer was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 131st Legislative District in a Special Election on July 19, 2005. She was sworn in on August 2, 2005, and reelected for two subsequent sessions. While in office, Beyer worked to reduce state government spending, as well as advocated against raising business or personal income taxes. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 133 of 2006, which prohibited price gouging during a state declaration of disaster emergency. She was also prime sponsor of a set of bills that led to Acts 105, 106, and 107 of 2010, which repealed provisions in the Crimes Code from 1901 that were in conflict with current law. Beyer was appointed as an advisory board member of the Pennsylvania Tuition Account Program.

In her farewell speech Beyer said of her time in the House, “My life has been a journey, and I would like to remember my service to the people of the 131st as one of a mission. It was always, for me, about getting the job done. I have been honored and privileged to serve the people of my district.”¹⁵⁴





Cherelle Parker

Born: September 9, 1972, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House, 200th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, September 27, 2005-January 3, 2016. Affiliation: Democrat.

Cherelle Parker was born September 9, 1972 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Parkway High School in 1990. In 1994, Parker graduated from Lincoln University with her B.A. in English. In 2009 she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary. Parker also earned an M.A. in public administration from the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania in 2016. On July 30, 2010 she married Benjamin P. Mullins Jr. and they have one son: Langston.

Following her studies, Parker was an English teacher at Pleasantville High School in New Jersey. She also worked for Philadelphia Councilwoman Marian B. Tasco, where she began as an intern, and eventually served as a senior staff member who oversaw economic and community development projects. She also served as a member and 1st vice chair of the 50th Ward Democratic Executive Committee. Parker was also active in many community and service organizations including the Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and The Links, Incorporated.

Following the resignation of Representative LeAnna Washington upon her election to the Pennsylvania State Senate, Parker was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in a special election on September 13, 2005 to represent the 200th Legislative District. She was sworn in on September 27, 2005, and was reelected for five subsequent sessions. While in office, Parker focused on issues relating to gun safety, victims' rights, and economic development. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 75 of 2012, which allowed for expert testimony regarding sexual violence, victim responses to sexual violence, and the impact of sexual violence on victims during and after being assaulted. Parker also served as chair of the Philadelphia Delegation in the House from 2011 to 2015.



Upon receiving her Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Parker said, “In this challenging society, I aim to close the gap between the ‘haves’ and the ‘have-nots.’ I remember what it was like to be a ‘have-not,’ and this spurs my ambition to give everyone an equal opportunity in our state and in our community.”¹⁵⁵

Following her election to the city council of Philadelphia, Parker resigned from the House on January 3, 2016. She currently serves the Ninth Council District in Philadelphia. Parker is chair of the Philadelphia Council’s Labor and Civil Service Committee.

She currently resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.





Kathy Rapp

Born: February 23, 1951, Sligo, Clarion County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 65th Legislative District, Crawford, Forest, McKean, and Warren Counties, 2005-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Kathy Rapp (née Wilson) was born on February 23, 1951 in Sligo, Clarion County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Warren Area High School in 1969. She attended Brant and Stratton Business School and Slippery Rock State College (now Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania), where she received her paralegal certification. She has three children: Marnie, Daniel, and Amanda.

Rapp was a community relations representative at Beverly Healthcare and also a transition coordinator at the Parent Education Network. Rapp was employed as a compliance monitor for the Pennsylvania Department of Education. She was awarded the Pennsylvanians for Right to Work Statesman of the Year in 2008.

Rapp was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2005 to serve the 65th Legislative District. She has been reelected for seven subsequent sessions. While in office, Rapp has supported Second Amendment rights, pro-life advocacy, and her district's forest industry. She is also an advocate for veterans' issues, education, and healthcare. She has had several legislative successes while in office, including prime sponsoring the legislation that led to Act 105 of 2012, which provided for public hearings in school districts and required holders of a Pennsylvania public school certification earn 180 continuing education hours every five years. In 2016, she prime sponsored the legislation that led to Act 117, which exempted federal veterans' disability payments and state veterans' benefits from income eligibility under the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. Rapp was appointed Chair of the Health Committee in 2018 and again for the 2019-2020 session.

One of Rapp's most rewarding experiences while in the legislature was her involvement in procuring a marker in Soldiers' and Sailors' Grove in Harrisburg for Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. John Gary Gertsch, who died in combat during the Vietnam War. Rapp said, "I worked for almost a year to gather information, worked with Veteran Affairs staff, and veterans in



Warren County to finally see him recognized with a marker at the Grove with a full military ceremony. It took persistence, networking with many people and hours to accomplish, but his family and many veterans came to Harrisburg to honor him with the ceremony, and a full House resolution.¹⁵⁶

Rapp believes that her mother was her biggest influence in her life. Rapp explained, “My mother knew her children were blessed with God-given gifts and that we could accomplish whatever we chose to do in life...My mother passed away before my decision to run for office; however, the values she instilled in me definitely gave me the strength and courage to seek public office.”¹⁵⁷





Lisa Bennington

Born: January 20, 1976, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House, 21st Legislative District, Allegheny County, 2007-2008. Affiliation: Democrat.

Elisabeth “Lisa” Bennington was born January 20, 1976 in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Winchester Thurston High School in 1993. She earned her B.A. in psychology from Chatham College in 1997, and later earned her J.D. from Duquesne University Law School in 2000. She is married to Brad Korinski, and they have one child: Emma.

While in law school, Bennington volunteered at the pro-bono clinic in the Family Division of the Family Law Center and at Legal Aid for Children (now KidsVoice).

Following her studies, Bennington began practicing law and focused on issues pertaining to divorce, custody and support, and prenuptial agreements. She was also a council member of the Allegheny County Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division. In 2006, Bennington was selected as a rising star in the practice of Family Law for the Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Annual Publication.

Bennington was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 21st Legislative District in 2006. While in office, Bennington focused on issues pertaining to the environment and women’s health. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 73 of 2007, which expanded background check requirements under the Child Protective Services Law. She also introduced legislation which called for emergency contraception for rape victims and expanding the statute of limitations for victims of childhood sexual assault. In 2007, Bennington was appointed to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

After deciding to leave the House after just one session to return to practicing law full time, Bennington said, “I will always consider myself fortunate to have had this remarkable experience,” but said of her law career, “I know that I make an appreciable difference in the lives of individuals and children who are going through a very difficult time.”¹⁵⁸

Following her time in office, Bennington founded Bennington Law Firm, LLC, which specializes in divorce, custody, support, and protection from abuse, as well as in drafting prenuptial and property settlement agreements. In 2015, Bennington was appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to the Domestic Relations Rules Committee for a three-year term. The committee advises the Supreme Court on matters related to the procedural rules governing actions for divorce, support, custody, paternity, and protection from abuse.

She currently resides in Highland Park, Pennsylvania, with her husband and daughter.





Barbara McIlvaine Smith

Born: April 23, 1950, West Chester, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 156th Legislative District, Chester County, 2007-2010. Affiliation: Democrat.

Barbara McIlvaine Smith (née McIlvaine) was born April 23, 1950 in West Chester, Chester County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from West Chester Henderson High School in 1968. In 1995, she earned her B.S. in elementary education from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. She married Robert Whitney Smith, Jr., and they had three children: Kate, Thomas, and Elizabeth.

McIlvaine Smith and her husband owned and operated Brandywine Water Systems, Inc., a water treatment company which they founded in 1980. After earning her bachelor's degree, she was a fourth-grade teacher at Penn Wood Elementary School in the West Chester Area School District and as an environmental educator at the Brandywine Valley Association. She was also a baseline coordinator for the North American Land Trust. McIlvaine Smith was also active in local politics and service organizations. From 2002 to 2005, she was a member of the West Chester Borough Council, and served as vice president of the council from 2004 to 2005. She was a member of the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce, Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry, and the League of Women Voters. McIlvaine Smith is also an enrolled member of the federally recognized Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma.

McIlvaine Smith was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2006 to represent the 156th Legislative District. She was reelected for one subsequent session. While in office, McIlvaine Smith focused on issues relating to education, the environment, and healthcare. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 44 of 2008, which amended the Public Welfare Code. She also takes pride in proposing legislation to change the name of the "Department of Public Welfare" to the "Department of Human Services." While legislation to achieve the name- change did not become law until after her time in office, she still sees the effort and ultimate end result as her greatest accomplishment. McIlvaine Smith also served as the Subcommittee Chair on Special Education for the Education Committee for the 2007-2008 session.



When asked what women legislators bring to the table, McIlvaine Smith explained, “Women wear many hats in their daily lives, and if they are married and have children, they wear even more. I think we are better problem-solvers and more collaborative than men. And in my humble opinion, I think we are better listeners, more compassionate, and can better mediate a difficult situation.”¹⁵⁹

Following her time in office, McIlvaine Smith was appointed as a board member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. She has served on the board since 2016.

She currently resides in Chester County, Pennsylvania.





Chelsa Wagner

Born: July 24, 1977, Beechview, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 22nd Legislative District, Allegheny County, 2007-January 16, 2012. Affiliation: Democrat.

Chelsa Lynn Wagner was born July 24, 1977 in Beechview, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Seton-LaSalle High School in 1995. In 1999, she earned her B.A. in public policy from the University of Chicago and her J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh Law School in 2005. On December 6, 2008 she married Khari Mosley and they have two children: Thaddeus and Isaiah.

Following her studies, Wagner was an attorney for Rosen, Louik, and Perry as well as a court-appointed advocate for Allegheny County. She also worked as a business analyst.

Wagner was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat to represent the 22nd Legislative District in 2006. She was reelected for two subsequent sessions. While in office, Wagner worked on issues pertaining to government reform as well as women's health. She was the prime sponsor of House Bill 1163 of 2010, also known as the Healthy Youth Act, which proposed changes to the Public School Code to require school districts to provide sex education. Following her election as Allegheny County Controller in 2011, Wagner resigned from the House on January 16, 2012.

After her 2011 election win, Wagner said, "This is a great night for our team, and I think, as a team, we're going to do great things here. Our supporters are people who believe in government and believe in the good that government can do."¹⁶⁰ Since taking office as Allegheny County Controller in 2012, Wagner has focused on efficient and equitable spending by the county and eliminating fraud, waste, and abuse.





Michele Brooks

Born: April 4, 1964, Greenville, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 17th Legislative District, Mercer, Crawford, and Lawrence Counties, 2007-2014. Member of the Senate: 50th Senatorial District, Crawford, Erie, Mercer, and Warren Counties, 2015-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Michele Brooks (née Valesky) was born on April 4, 1964 in Greenville, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Jamestown Area High School. Brooks is a 2003 graduate of the Anne B. Anstine Excellence in Public Service Series. She married Guy Brooks in 1982 and they have two children: Brandin and Taylor.

Following her studies, Brooks was the vice chair of the Mercer County Board of Commissioners from 2003 to 2006. She was elected a member of the Jamestown Borough Council from 1996 to 2002. During her six years on the council, she was vice chair of the Jamestown Municipal Authority, and was involved in the effort to preserve and develop local infrastructure in Jamestown. Brooks served as an executive board member of the Penn-Northwest Development Corporation, where she was a liaison to numerous organizations in Mercer County.

In addition, Brooks was the past president of the United Way in Mercer County. She is also an executive member of the Mercer County Republican Committee, and former officer of the Mercer County Council of Republican Women. Brooks was the co-founder and vice president of the Jamestown Future Foundation in 2012, an organization created to enhance and expand the cultural and educational life of the community in Jamestown and surrounding areas.

Brooks was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 17th Legislative District in 2006. She was reelected for three subsequent sessions. While in office, she focused much of her legislation on the prevention of tolls on Interstate 80, Second Amendment rights, lowering taxes on small business owners, and limiting the inheritance tax on farmers. Brooks was the sponsor of legislation that became Act 21 of 2011, which amended the State Lottery Law. She was also the sponsor of the



legislation that became Act 95 of 2012, which allowed the Department of Environmental Protection to promote the planting of bioenergy crops on lands affected by surface coal mining.

Brooks was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate in 2014 to represent the 50th Senatorial District. She was reelected in 2018. Brooks explained, “The newly redistricted 50th Senatorial District is over 2,000 square miles in size. I look forward to getting to know the people throughout the district and becoming more familiar with the different organizations in the area.”¹⁶¹ She also explained, “The larger geographical area also means that I will be one out of 50 senators as opposed to one out of 203 House members, so this should give me more input in making policy decisions that affect the people of northwestern Pennsylvania.”¹⁶² She currently serves as Vice Chair of the Aging and Youth Committee, and also serves as Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. Brooks was appointed to the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee in 2015, a position she still holds today.





Deberah Kula

Born: March 22, 1949, Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 52nd Legislative District, Fayette and Westmoreland Counties, 2007-2014. Affiliation: Democrat.

Deberah Lynn Kula (née Gadd) was born March 22, 1949 in Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Fairchance-George High School in 1967. In November 1968, she married Frank B. Kula and they had three children: Frank, Amy, and Matthew.

Following her studies, Kula was employed as a secretary at the Fayette Bank and Trust Co. She was appointed as a district justice in North Union Township in 1991, and was elected in 1993 and again in 1999. She was also a court administrator for Fayette County Court of Common Pleas. Kula was a president of the Fayette County District Judges Association, chair of the Court Administration Committee of Special Court Judges Association, and a member of the Fayette County Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board.

Kula was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 52nd Legislative District in 2006. She was reelected for three subsequent sessions. While in office, Kula had several legislative successes. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 29 of 2010, which provided for drug therapy management in non-institutional settings. She was also the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 101 of 2012, which required funeral directors and crematories to notify a veterans' organization for burial arrangements of unclaimed remains of veterans.

During her farewell address to the House, Kula said of her time in the House, "When I was first elected to the House in 2006, I had one goal in mind, to represent the constituents of the 52nd Legislative District with honesty and integrity. I was determined to vote with my heart, vote with my conscience, and most importantly, vote for my district. Little did I know that this job would be so challenging and yet so exhilarating. Eight wonderful years later, I can honestly say that I tried to fulfill that goal and all of my duties to the best of my ability."¹⁶³

Kula currently resides in Uniontown, Pennsylvania.



RoseMarie Swanger

Born: October 31, 1945, Lebanon, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 102nd Legislative District, Lebanon County, 2007-2014. Affiliation: Republican.



RoseMarie Swanger (née Dohner) was born October 31, 1945 in Lebanon, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from South Lebanon High School in 1963. Swanger also attended the Thompson Institute as well as Lebanon Valley College from 1981 to 1983. In 1969, she married Leonard G. Swanger. She has one daughter.

Swanger spent many years working in municipal government. Between 1966 and 1972, she was employed as a clerk stenographer, secretary to the mayor, development coordinator, and clerk. She was an assistant city clerk from 1972 to 1974, the city clerk for Lebanon from 1974 to 1978, and a personnel officer for the city of Lebanon from 1978 to 1984. She and her husband were also the owners and operators of Quality Pin Services — a bowling lane and equipment supply company. In 1983, Swanger was elected as a county commissioner to Lebanon County and served in that position until 2004. She was also active in her community as the founder of the Lebanon County Commission for Women and as a member of the Lebanon County Community Action Partnership.

Swanger was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 102nd Legislative District in 2006. She was reelected for three subsequent sessions. While in office, Swanger was a proponent of eliminating school property taxes, equitable distribution of table game revenue, and fighting cancer by restricting teen usage of tanning beds. She also helped secure funding from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program to construct a state-of-the-art cancer treatment facility at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Lebanon.

During her oral history interview with the House Archives, Swanger spoke about how she was able to be successful even when her prime-sponsored bills did not become law, "...there are other ways to get things done. I mean, I have co-sponsored legislation and worked to get other things accomplished. I have added amendments to many bills to make them better. I have asked other of my colleagues to be prime sponsor on a bill that I felt very adamant about, and that way, I've gotten a lot of things done. And to me, it's not really important to have my name on a bill..."¹⁶⁴

Following her time in the House, Swanger retired and relocated to Tennessee.





Marguerite Quinn

Born: October 29, 1963, Alexandria, Rapides Parish, Louisiana. Member of the House: 143rd Legislative District, Bucks County, 2007-2018. Affiliation: Republican.

Marguerite Quinn (née Corr) was born October 29, 1963 in Alexandria, Rapides Parish, Louisiana. She graduated from Archbishop Wood High School in 1981. In 1985, she earned her B.A. in international relations from St. Joseph's University. She married John Quinn on January 2, 1988, and the couple has two children: Maggie and Carolyn. She is also a step mother to her husband's three children.

Following her studies, Quinn was a realtor for Weichert Co. Realtors, Class Harlan Real Estate, and Toll Brothers. She also worked as a marketing and sales director for Align Consultants. Quinn was also active in her community working with Habitat for Humanity and CB Cares Educational Foundation.

Quinn was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 143rd Legislative District in 2006. She was reelected for five subsequent sessions. While in office, Quinn had numerous legislative successes. She was the prime sponsor of legislation that led to Act 112 of 2012, which established the Portable Electronics Insurance Act. She also prime sponsored the legislation that led to Act 79 of 2018, which amended the Uniform Firearms Act and the Protection from Abuse Act to provide for relinquishment of firearms following a conviction of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence or the issuance of a protection from abuse order. This legislation was fiercely debated before its final passage, but according to Quinn, "Despite claims to the contrary, this legislation does not take firearms away from responsible gun owners. It takes guns away from people who lost their right to own a gun."¹⁶⁵

In addition to her legislative efforts, Quinn was appointed to the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee, serving from 2015 to 2018, and to the Children's Health Insurance Program Advisory Board. She was awarded an honorary LLD from Delaware Valley College in 2014. Quinn also served as a delegate to the National Republican Convention in 2016.





Karen Boback

Born: May 24, 1951, Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 117th Legislative District, Columbia, Luzerne, and Wyoming Counties 2007-2014, Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming Counties, 2015-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Karen Irene Boback (née Passarella) was born on May 24, 1951 in Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1969 and from Misericordia University in 1973 with a B.S. in elementary and special education. In 1977, she earned an M.S. in elementary school guidance counseling from Marywood University. Boback earned her Ph.D. in organizational leadership from the University of Pennsylvania in 1985. She also received an M.A. in education with a specialization in technology from Misericordia University in 2000.

Boback worked as an educator in the Tunkhannock Area School District for 33 years. She was also an adjunct professor at both Misericordia University and Wilkes University. She also served as the inspector of elections for Harveys Lake Borough.

On September 7, 1974, Boback married Bernard J. Boback. They have two children: Karen C. and Bernard.

One of Boback's earliest forays into public life was as a contestant in regional pageants while she was an undergraduate. In 1972, Boback was the fourth runner-up for Miss Pocono and her fellow contestants voted her Miss Congeniality. The following year, Boback won Miss Pocono and went on to compete in the Miss Pennsylvania Pageant.

She began her engagement with politics as a member of civic and political groups. Boback was at one time president of the Greater Federation of Women's Clubs - Harveys Lake, the Back Mountain Memorial Library Board of Directors, and the Dallas Women of Rotary. In 2006, she was named the Harveys Lake Citizen of the Year.

Boback credits her mother for instilling in her a drive to work for her community. She said "[my mother] believed that no one had the right to complain about anything unless they were willing to do something about it. My mother was always willing to be a part of the solution."¹⁶⁶ In her first campaign, she described the role of a legislator as "here to protect,



to defend our district.”¹⁶⁷ These beliefs, coupled with her experience in her community and as an educator, motivated her campaign, in which she promised to focus on fairness and equity.

Boback was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2006 to serve the 117th Legislative District. She has been reelected for six subsequent sessions. During her time in office, Boback has focused her legislative efforts on education, children, seniors, veterans, healthcare and property taxes. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 94 of 2014, which mandated pulse oximetry testing for newborns, one of the most effective ways to test for heart defects.

Boback was selected as the Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Welfare for the 2015-2016 session. She is also the Chair of the Northeast Republican House Delegation and the Republican Chair of the Ladies of the House Caucus. Governor Tom Wolf chose Boback to serve on the Pennsylvania Commission for Women in 2017. Boback is serving as the Chair of the House Children and Youth Committee for the 2019-2020 session.

When asked what women legislators bring to the table, Boback explained, “Like all legislators, women bring their personal experiences to the table. I grew up in a small, coal mining town in the ‘50s. I taught elementary and middle school students as well as college and university. I am a rural legislator representing 642 square miles in the Northeastern part of the state. My father was first generation American. In other words, we are all unique unto ourselves. That makes for a great legislature.”¹⁶⁸





Susan C. Helm

Born: December 12, 1943, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 104th Legislative District, Dauphin and Lebanon Counties, 2007-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Susan C. Helm was born on December 12, 1943 in Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Susquehanna Township High School in 1961. She later graduated from Harrisburg Area Community College in 1981 with her A.D. in liberal arts. She was formerly a manager at Capitol Blue Cross before entering the real estate industry, where she is the owner and real estate broker of Century 21 at the Helm.

Helm was elected a delegate for the Republican National Conventions in 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, and 2016. She was president of the Dauphin County Council of Republican Women in 2005, and vice chair of the Dauphin County Republican Committee from 2004 to 2006. Helm was also a member of the Republican State Committee from 1994 to 1996 and again from 1998 to 2002.

Helm was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2006 to represent the 104th Legislative District. She has been reelected for six subsequent sessions. Helm's legislative efforts focus on elimination of property taxes, promoting small business, making state government more transparent, as well as education and work force development. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 120 of 2012, which dealt with the conveyance of land in Dauphin County. Helm explained her most rewarding accomplishment to date was "having House Bill 619, now Act No. 9, signed into law by the governor. This law makes June 19th, "Juneteenth National Freedom Day", an officially observed holiday in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Juneteenth commemorates the June 19, 1865 announcement in Galveston, Texas, declaring that all enslaved persons in the state were to be freed. This event marked the completion of the abolition of slavery in the United States."¹⁶⁹

In 2009, Helm was appointed chair of the Subcommittee on Third Class Cities under the Urban Affairs Committee, and was appointed Majority Chair of the Urban Affairs Committee



for the 2019-2020 session. Regarding her work on this committee Helm said, "I am proud of the work the committee does to develop legislation that helps our municipalities create and maintain safe and vibrant communities."¹⁷⁰

Upon her first election, Helm reflected on women being elected to the House "[being a representative is] looked at as a man's job and women don't do it...But maybe with me, it may alert more women to say, 'Hey I can do that.'"¹⁷¹ Helm credits her mother for the inspiration to run for office, saying that "she instilled in me the importance and value of participating in the electoral process...I was not fully aware of the true impact of what she was doing had on our society..."¹⁷² She advises women thinking of running for office to: "... understand the requirements of the office for which they are running. Being a legislator is a full-time job, and then some, often requiring working long hours on complex issues. DO NOT be intimidated by another person's qualifications, only be concerned with your own. If you have the background, experience and knowledge, combined with the determination and desire, you can win."¹⁷³





Vanessa Lowery Brown

Born: June 22, 1966, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 190th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, 2009-December 11, 2018. Affiliation: Democrat.

Vanessa Lowery Brown was born on June 22, 1966 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Brown attended the Holy Cross parish school and graduated from the Philadelphia High School for Girls. She attended Howard University and the Community College of Philadelphia. Brown has one child: Alexander.

Following her studies, Brown worked with her father to operate a café in Philadelphia. She also ran a lunch truck and worked in a call center. During this time, Brown became active in her community and in local politics. She began working for the Philadelphia Unemployment Project and was a representative for the National Campaign for Jobs and Income Support. She was a community organizer for the West Philadelphia Coalition and for the Parent Volunteers Program. Brown was active in the community policing committee for the Weed and Seed Project. She was also a member of the 44th Ward Democratic Committee and a judge of elections for the 44th Ward.

Brown was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 190th Legislative District in 2008. She served four subsequent sessions. Brown resigned from the House on December 11, 2018. While in office, Brown worked to expand financial literacy programs, help children whose parents struggle with addiction, and to expand educational opportunities. When advocating for House Bill 1722 of 2013, Brown explained her support of the bill, which called for consideration of performance rather than seniority alone when layoffs were necessary: "This is not a partisan issue. Reforms that maximize opportunities for all children enjoy strong support among the many low-income Democratic parents I have the privilege to represent. They want their children to have access to great teachers in every classroom. They understand, as I do, that when it comes to our children's education, we have only one shot to get it right."¹⁷⁴





Sheryl Delozier

Born: April 22, 1967, Mt. Vernon, Westchester County, New York. Member of the House: 88th Legislative District, Cumberland County, 2009-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Sheryl Lynn Delozier (née McVitty) was born April 22, 1967 in Mt. Vernon, Westchester County, New York. She graduated from West Chester East High School in 1985. In 1989, she earned a B.A. in political science and domestic government from the University of Delaware and earned an M.B.A. from Pennsylvania State University in 1994. She also studied international business in European markets at the Open University of the Netherlands. She married Christopher Delozier and they have two children: Benjamin and Allison.

Following her studies, Delozier had a varied career in state government. She was employed in the Auditor General's office. Delozier then served on the transition team for Governor Tom Ridge's administration. She worked for the Ridge and Lt. Governor Mark Schweiker administrations as special assistant to the Pennsylvania Office of the Lieutenant Governor, and later director of the Pennsylvania Governor's Office of Public Liaison. Delozier also served as an adviser to the commissioner of the Public Utility Commission.

In addition to her career in state government, Delozier was active in her community. She was an advocate for victims of rape and domestic violence as a hotline volunteer, escort, and member, and co-chair of the Friends of the Board of Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties. She was a member of the Mechanicsburg and West Shore Chamber of Commerce, the Civic Club of Harrisburg, and the New Cumberland Women's Club. Delozier was also a member of the Cumberland County Republican Committee.

Delozier was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 88th Legislative District in 2008. She was reelected for five subsequent sessions. While in office, Delozier has focused on public policy. She has been an advocate for crime victims and criminal justice reform. Delozier has authored several successful pieces of legislation. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 92 of 2018, which required a petitioner for a Protection from Abuse (PFA) order to disclose any knowledge of a founded or indicated report of child abuse involving the defendant and requires the



court to inform the defendant that the issuance of a PFA may impact that investigation. An advocate for this legislation for numerous sessions, Delozier said when discussing an earlier version of the bill, "...it is clear that we must address any inadequacies relating to the laws regarding response to child abuse to ensure the victims get the assistance they need. Ultimately this bill breaks down barriers of communication in our judicial system."¹⁷⁵ She also prime sponsored the legislation that led to Act 56 of 2018, also known as the Clean Slate Law, which seals some criminal records. For the 2019-2020 session, Delozier is serving as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice for the Appropriations Committee, as well as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Family Law of the Judiciary Committee.

When asked if she is conscious of women being a minority in the House, Delozier acknowledged more men are in elected office, saying, "We have to continue mentoring, educating, and supporting strong female candidates." However, she explained, "I don't think we should vote for a woman just because of her gender. We have very smart, savvy, hard-working women that would make great candidates and we need to encourage them."¹⁷⁶

Delozier was appointed to the board of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency in 2015 and to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in 2017.





Donna Oberlander

Born: April 15, 1970, Clarion, Clarion County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 63rd Legislative District, Armstrong and Clarion Counties, 2009-2014, Armstrong, Clarion and Forest Counties 2015-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Donna Oberlander (née Coull) was born on April 15, 1970 in Clarion, Clarion County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Clarion Area High School in 1988. In 1991 she earned a B.A. in political science from Clarion University of Pennsylvania and was a fellow in the RULE Leadership program at The Pennsylvania State University in 2007. Oberlander married Derek Oberlander, and they have two children: Tori and Tanner.

Oberlander worked as a government contractor for the United States Navy, where she tracked radio communications. She began her political career by working as a legislative aide to Pennsylvania State Representative Fred McIlhattan. She also worked for the Clarion County Economic Development Corporation conducting business outreach. Prior to her election to the House, she was elected as a Clarion County commissioner. She also served on the Clarion County Republican Committee and is a member of the Council of Trustees for Clarion University.

Oberlander credits her grandmother with inspiring her civic service career. She said “she modeled the way and taught me to have a servant’s heart for my family and my community. The opportunity to serve in the 63rd District is a way to share that every day.”¹⁷⁷ When Oberlander shared her desire to run for the House with her grandmother, she replied, “we can do this together.”¹⁷⁸

Oberlander was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2008 to serve the 63rd Legislative District. She has been reelected for five subsequent sessions. She served Armstrong and Clarion Counties from 2009 to 2014 and Armstrong, Clarion, and Forest Counties from 2015 to the present.

Throughout her time in office, Oberlander has focused on small business, environmental issues, and children and youth. She was the prime sponsor of legislation that led to Act 171 of 2016, which defined diverse and disadvantaged businesses, and required that a process to



verify minority-owned, woman-owned, and veteran-owned businesses be established.

The House Republican Caucus selected Oberlander as the Majority Caucus Secretary for the 2015-2016 and 2017-2018 sessions. Regarding this position Oberlander explained, “My most rewarding moment in the State Legislature has been my election to the House Leadership team by my caucus colleagues in 2014, 2016 and 2018. My election in 2014 was the first time – in either caucus – that two women were elected to join the Leadership Team for the same session (2015-2016). I am hopeful this trailblazing moment signified a change in the makeup of our leadership for generations to come – not because two women were on the team, but that our colleagues chose us because of our ability to get things done and represent their views at the table.”¹⁷⁹

Oberlander served as the Majority Chair of the Policy Committee for much of the 2019-2020 session. On June 22, 2020 she became the first Republican woman to be elected Majority Whip.

When asked about leadership and what women bring to the table, Oberlander said, “There is no doubt that men and women have different experiences and bring their various perspectives not only to the House but to the entire Leadership Team. These experiences and perspectives make us a stronger, more reflective team, and allow us to better reflect our constituencies, both in terms of our fellow Members and the people we represent back home.”¹⁸⁰





Marcia M. Hahn

Born: December 14, 1954, Nazareth, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 138th Legislative District, Northampton County, June 9, 2010-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Marcia Hahn (née McIlhaney) was born on December 14, 1954, in Nazareth, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Hahn graduated from Nazareth Area High School in 1972. She married Ricky Lee Hahn in 1973, and they have two children: Sandra and Eric.

Following her studies, Hahn was employed as a legislative aide to State Representative Leonard Gruppo from 1984 until 1998. She was also employed as a constituent service and office manager for Representative Craig Dally from 1998 to 2010. Hahn was the area chair of the Northampton County Republican Committee, and the secretary of the Bath Borough 275th Anniversary Committee. She was also a member of the board of directors of both Pen Argyl Families First and the Nazareth Chamber of Commerce.

Following the resignation of her predecessor, Craig Dally, Hahn was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 138th Legislative District in a special election on May 18, 2010. She was sworn in on June 9, 2010, and was reelected for five subsequent sessions. While in office, Hahn sponsored several successful pieces of legislation, including the legislation that led to Act 47 of 2018, which allows parents and guardians to consent to medical treatment for minors struggling with substance abuse. Hahn said that her goal while in office is to “continue to work to develop and enact policy initiatives on the issues that matter most to Pennsylvania’s residents: keeping our local economy strong, improving our educational system, maintaining the commitments made to our seniors, and reducing the tax burden.”¹⁸¹

Hahn served as Deputy Whip from 2015 to 2018.





Marcy Toepel

Born: August 17, 1958, Pottstown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 147th Legislative District, Montgomery County, June 9, 2010-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Marcy Toepel (née Erb) was born August 17, 1958 in Pottstown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Boyertown Area High School in 1976. She is married to Mark Toepel and they have five children: Jared, Erin, Josh, Jana and Jordan.

Toepel was the first deputy for the Montgomery County Clerk of Courts. She was also the recorder of deeds for the Montgomery County Clerk of Courts. As a lifelong resident of Montgomery County, Toepel also served as a member on the Boyertown Area School Board from 1993 to 1997.

She prides herself on working with the local community after serving as an executive assistant and office manager for locally owned businesses. During her initial campaign of 2010, Toepel stated she “knows what it’s like to meet payroll, and I understand that small businesses drive our economy. I will work closely with small business owners to make sure they have every opportunity to flourish, growing our economy, and creating more prosperity for all of us.”¹⁸²

Toepel was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on May 18, 2010 in a special election to represent the 147th Legislative District. She was sworn in on June 9, 2010 to serve the remaining 2009-2010 session. She was reelected for five subsequent sessions. While in office, Toepel has focused on issues relating to property tax reform, regulatory reform, open space and public safety, and protecting children from being victimized. In 2012, Toepel was the prime sponsor of the legislation leading to Act 199, also known as the Brad Fox Law, which provides a five-year minimum sentence for people convicted of making repeat straw purchases of firearms (buying guns for someone who is prohibited by law from owning a gun). She also sponsored the legislation that led to Act 149 of 2012, which amended the Liquor Code to allow privately owned ski resorts to obtain liquor licenses regardless of whether the county they are located in has reached its quota of



licenses.

Toepel was appointed Deputy Whip from 2013 to 2016, and was elected the Majority Caucus Chair in 2017. She was also appointed to the Joint State Government Commission in 2017. On her election as Majority Caucus Chair, Toepel said, "It is my honor to have been elected by my colleagues to serve as the Majority Caucus Chair. As part of the Majority Leadership and the only Member from southeast PA, I think I bring a commonsense voice to the leadership team and regional representation in a very diverse state. The experience of serving in the capacity is unlike anything that I've done before, although I believe all that I've done has helped prepare me for this role. Organization, trust, communication, and preparation are paramount in fulfilling the duties of a leader within the caucus. It is an honor of a lifetime to serve as a leader and one that I strive to never take for granted."¹⁸³





Michelle F. Brownlee

Born: April 29, 1956, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 195th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, 2011-June 8, 2015. Affiliation: Democrat.

Michelle F. Brownlee (née Geiger) was born on April 29, 1956 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from The High School Academy for Career Education in 1974. She also earned a paralegal degree from the Berean Institute in 1995, and studied business at Temple University. She married John Brownlee, who passed away in November 2015. She has three children and four step-children.

Brownlee began working for State Representative Frank L. Oliver, Sr. in 1974 as a legislative aide, and later served as his chief of staff. She retired in 2009. Brownlee was active in her community and in local politics. She was the leader of the 29th Ward Democratic Committee in Philadelphia and served as president of the Philadelphia School District Head Start Policy Council. Brownlee also worked as a missionary for Celestial World Ministries.

Brownlee was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2010 to represent the 195th Legislative District. She was reelected for two subsequent sessions. While in office, Brownlee focused on issues relating to public welfare and education. Brownlee was a founding member of the House LGBT Equity Caucus saying, "I am for the equality of all people."¹⁸⁴ Brownlee resigned from the House on June 8, 2015.





Rosemary M. Brown

Born: November 20, 1970, Bronx, Bronx County, New York. Member of the House: 189th Legislative District, Monroe and Pike Counties, 2011-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Rosemary Brown (née Maula) was born on November 20, 1970 in Bronx, Bronx County, New York. Brown graduated from East Stroudsburg High School in 1988, and graduated from the University of Scranton in 1992 with a B.A. in communications. She married Joseph Brown in 1994, and they have three children: Kennedy, Carter, and Reagan.

Following her studies, Brown was employed as an executive sales manager for Macy's, the Bon-Ton, and Saks Fifth Avenue. She was also employed in pharmaceutical sales for Hoffman La-Roche and Vistakon.

Brown was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 189th Legislative District in 2010. She was reelected for 4 subsequent sessions. While in office, she prime sponsored several successful pieces of legislation, including the bill that became Act 17 of 2018, which refers complaints and inquiries concerning planned communities to the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection. She said that this legislation is important for community residents "because it offers them a mechanism for assistance with certain types of serious complaints besides a costly private lawsuit. This act is meant to encourage mediation on all levels and to offer residents an investigation when necessary, protecting their rights"¹⁸⁵ Brown also focuses on issues such as tax reduction, distribution of education funding, tick-borne illness, and financial literacy for students.

At the beginning of her fifth term in office, Brown said, "As this new term begins, it is my goal to support strong government initiatives that meet the needs of my constituents. I will be focused on legislative goals that work towards measures to help alleviate the large burden of school property taxes, including funding formulas, cyber charter school reimbursements, spending controls, economic development, and more. I will also be focused on reducing distracted driving behaviors, improving financial literacy for our students, private community living issues, (...) education, and many other concerns."¹⁸⁶

Brown was elected as a Deputy Whip for the 2019-2020 session. She is also the Chair of the Subcommittee on Special Education for the Education Committee.





Lynda Schlegel Culver

Born: June 15, 1969, Sunbury, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 108th Legislative District, Northumberland and Snyder Counties, 2011-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Lynda Joy Schlegel Culver (née Schlegel) was born on June 15, 1969 in Sunbury, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Shikellamy High School in 1987, and from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania in 1991 with a B.A. in political science. Schlegel Culver also graduated from the Leadership Susquehanna Valley Program. She married Tom Culver in 1993, and they have one child: Joshua.

Following her studies, Schlegel Culver was a staff leader for Pennsylvania State Representative Merle Phillips from 1990 to 2010. She also worked for JDM Consultants of Moran Industries. Schlegel Culver is a member of the Pennsylvania Republican State Committee and the Northumberland County Republican Committee. She is on the board of trustees for the Sunbury Community Hospital, and on the board of directors for the Penn Valley Airport Authority. Schlegel Culver also serves on the advisory boards for UPMC Susquehanna Sunbury and Susquehanna University, as well as the Act 339 advisory board for Milton Area School District, Line Mountain School District, Shikellamy School District, and Warrior Run School District.

Schlegel Culver was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 107th Legislative District in 2010. She was reelected for four subsequent sessions. While in office, she has focused on job creation, early childhood education, transportation, infrastructure, and controlling government spending. Schlegel Culver was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 71 of 2012, which allows for real estate tax abatement for properties that were damaged by Hurricane Irene or Tropical Storm Lee. She was also the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 64 of 2015, which established a Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Council within the Department of Aging. Schlegel Culver explained the most rewarding part of being in the legislature has been: "Working alongside my colleagues in our local delegation to revive the Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation Project. The project is creating a bypass that the local region had been working on for over 40 years that will address heavy traffic volumes, local gridlock, safety issues, and economic development."¹⁸⁷

When asked about women representation in public offices and her own experiences in state government, Schlegel Culver said, "I think for the women I talked to, we're not asking for special treatment; we're asking for the same treatment."¹⁸⁸ She was elected a deputy whip for the 2019-2020 session.



Margo Davidson

Born: September 27, 1962, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 164th District, Delaware County, 2011-present. Affiliation: Democrat.



Margo Davidson (née Lomax) was born on September 27, 1962 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Creative and Performing Arts High School in 1980, and was the first in her family to graduate from college — earning a B.A. in Communications from Temple University in 1988. In 2017, she earned an M.A. in Business Administration from St. Joseph’s University. She also participated in the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business’s management certification program.

Davidson worked as a radio broadcast journalist and as a marketing and communications consultant for small businesses and non-profit organizations. She also started three non-profits – one to improve the safety of children and families, one to help small businesses grow, and one to help children whose parents were addicted to drugs.

Davidson married Robert Davidson, and they have four sons: Nadar, Joel, Joshua, and Robert.

Davidson was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat to represent the 164th Legislative District in 2010. She was reelected for four subsequent sessions.

Davidson credits her experience as a journalist and in human services and with non-profits as her inspiration for her political work.¹⁸⁹ During her time in office she focused her work on small business growth, public safety, and easing taxes for middle- and working-class families. She also is an advocate for the eradication of structural poverty. Davidson explained that this issue is so important because poverty impacts, “your education (...) your physical and mental healthcare or lack thereof, your environment (...), housing, food security or lack thereof, safety, and freedom.”¹⁹⁰ Davidson serves as the Vice Chair of the PA SAFE Caucus, which focuses on decreasing gun violence. In addition to her legislative efforts, she notes with pride her efforts in securing money for her legislative district, specifically for the William Penn School District and the Upper Darby School District.¹⁹¹ Davidson is the Democratic Chair of the Ladies of the House Caucus.

Davidson advises women thinking of running for public office to: “Go for it! Create your personal support system, especially among your family, including spouses, parents, children, and close friends as they will be your greatest source of strength and inspiration when the days get weary and the nights are long and they will be. These are the folks who believe in you regardless and will be with you through thick and thin.”¹⁹²





Tina Davis

Born: April 21, 1960, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 141st Legislative District, Bucks County, 2011-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Tina Marie Davis (née Veneri) was born on April 21, 1960 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Cardinal Dougherty High School in 1978, and from La Salle University in 1983 with a B.A. in computer science. Davis married Jim Davis in 1992, and they have three children: James, Taylor, and Cameron.

Following her studies, Davis became an associate broker for Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. She co-owns Jim F. Davis Trucking Inc. with her husband. In 2007, Davis was elected to the Bristol Township council and served as the vice president until 2010. She was elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2012 and 2016.

Davis was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 141st Legislative District in 2010. She has been reelected for four subsequent sessions. While in office, Davis has focused on economic development, accountable government, and family sustaining jobs/fair wages. Davis has also advocated for solving high property taxes and relieving the pains and financial burdens of college debt. In the 2019-2020 session, Davis introduced House Bill 495, which would have middle and high schools teach about dating violence and sexual harassment, as well as provide peer support training. She has also introduced House Bill 1291, which would prohibit public officials and employees from accepting gifts from others who are seeking to influence public policy. She is currently serving as a Deputy Whip for the 2019-2020 session.

In addition to her work in the legislature, Davis is the co-founder and co-chair of Emerge Pennsylvania, which recruits, trains, and mentors Democratic women to run for office at all levels. Davis has observed the increase of women running for public offices, explaining, "Women are tired of sitting on the sidelines and having men make choices for them that might not pertain to them. Women are jumping in. They want to have a seat at the table and break the barriers of the 'Boys Club.'"¹⁹³ According to Davis, "Women bring a conscious ability to compromise and listen. They are trained from childhood to seek solutions that benefit all sides."¹⁹⁴





Maria P. Donatucci

Born: February 9, 1954, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 185th District, Delaware and Philadelphia Counties, 2011-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Maria Donatucci (née Patelmo) was born on February 9, 1954 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from the Philadelphia High School for Girls in 1972. She attended the Philadelphia College of Art, Peirce Junior College, Community College, and Temple University. In 1984, Donatucci married Robert Donatucci. They have two children: Thomas and Dierdre.

Donatucci worked for the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority. She was an adjudicator and a supervisor at Philadelphia's Bureau of Administrative Adjudication for 13 years. She became active in politics due to her marriage to then-state Representative Robert Donatucci. Maria Donatucci served as a community liaison and represented her husband at community events while he was working in Harrisburg. She also served as a board member for the Lions Club, Friends of Girard Park, and the American Swedish Historical Museum. In 2007, the Lions Club awarded her with the Melvin Jones Fellow Award for Outstanding Community Service.

In November 2010, shortly after being reelected to represent the 185th District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Robert Donatucci passed away. Maria Donatucci succeeded her husband in a special election on February 1, 2011. She has served Delaware and Philadelphia Counties since her swearing in on February 15, 2011.

Throughout her time in office, Donatucci has focused on fighting crime, public safety, reforming taxes to protect senior citizens and working families, and improving education. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 30 of 2016, which prohibited 9-1-1 centers from releasing identifying information about callers. Upon her reelection for her fifth term, Donatucci said, "I will continue making sure our schools, public safety departments, healthcare facilities, transportation systems and other resources are able to effectively serve all of our residents."¹⁹⁵

Donatucci served as the Deputy Whip for the 2015-2016 session.





Pamela A. DeLissio

Born: August 20, 1956, Bristol, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 194th Legislative District, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties, 2011-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Pamela Ann DeLissio was born on August 20, 1956 in Bristol, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Archbishop Ryan High School in 1974. She received her B.S. in health planning and administration from Pennsylvania State University in 1978.

Following her studies, DeLissio moved into the healthcare and senior care sectors. She first worked as an administrator for the Roxborough Home for Women. She also served as a long-term care consultant. DeLissio founded and served as president of Kearsley Retirement Community, a senior care facility. In addition to her career, DeLissio was an active member in her community. She was a trained facilitator for the National Institute for Civil Discourses Next Generation Program. DeLissio served on the boards of the Immaculate Mary Nursing Home, the Pennsylvania Association for Non-Profit Homes for the Aging, and was a member of Intercommunity Action Incorporated. She was also a member of the Mt. Airy Business Association and the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging.

DeLissio was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 194th Legislative District in 2010. She was reelected for four subsequent sessions. During her time in office, she has been an advocate for wider accessibility to healthcare services. She prime sponsored House Bill 1688, which would have established a statewide healthcare system, aiming to lower the costs of medical expenses, including prescription costs, for Pennsylvanians. Speaking on the importance of lower prescription costs for senior citizens, she said, "No senior should ever have to make the decision between paying for their medication and paying other bills in order to make ends meet...Supporting legislation that will provide...seniors with access to affordable medicine was the right thing to do."¹⁹⁶ She has also been an advocate for increased transparency in the government, as well as a proponent for campaign finance reform. She was elected a Deputy Whip for the 2019-2020 session.





Tarah C. Toohil

Born: October 1, 1979, Drums, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 116th Legislative District, Luzerne County, 2011-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Tarah C. Toohil was born on October 1, 1979 in Drums, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Hazleton Area High School in 1998 and graduated from Northeastern University in 2003 with a B.A. in political science and sociology. Toohil also earned her J.D. from the Dickinson School of Law at Pennsylvania State University in 2008. She married Scot Burkhardt in 2014.

Following her studies, Toohil worked as a legal intern for the Dauphin County district attorney. She also worked as a paralegal for Munley, Munley, & Cartwright; the deputy chief clerk for Hallandale Beach, Florida; and an attorney. Toohil is also the co-founder of Brandon's Forever Home, a charity organization that raises awareness about children in foster care.

Toohil was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 116th Legislative District in 2010. She has been reelected for four subsequent sessions. While in office, Toohil has focused her legislation on children's safety, foster care, the creation of family sustaining jobs, education, and lower property taxes for seniors. She explained while she has had "countless rewarding moments in the legislature," that "being in a position to spotlight foster care initiatives and push for reforms has been extremely rewarding."¹⁹⁷ Toohil was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 102 of 2016, which shortened the period of separation required prior to a no-fault divorce from two years to one. Toohil was also the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 47 of 2019, which amended the Domestic Relations Code so employees of correctional facilities can sign as witnesses to an incarcerated parent's consent to adoption of their child.

Toohil has cited her experience as a foster mother as preparation for her time in office, and she believes other mothers should consider their qualifications and getting involved in politics.¹⁹⁸ "It's good that women are finding their voice, because being a mother is a qualifier, having a sick child or worrying about the education for your children, that's something that qualifies you to have a voice in politics."¹⁹⁹





Madeleine Dean

Born: June 6, 1959, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 153rd District, Montgomery County, May 8, 2012-2018. Affiliation: Democrat.

Madeleine Dean was born on June 6, 1959 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Abington High School in 1977 and from La Salle University with a B.A. in English language and literature in 1981. In 1984, she earned her J.D. from the Delaware Law School of Widener University. Dean also attended the University of Pennsylvania, Fels Institute of Government. Dean married Patrick J. Cunnane and they have three sons: Patrick, Harry, and Alex.

After earning her J.D., Dean practiced law at a small Philadelphia firm. She also practiced with the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association, eventually serving as executive director. She co-founded Dean, Homicki & DeVita, a general law practice in Glenside, Pennsylvania. Dean also served as the in-house counsel for Cunnane Bicycle Company.

From 2001 to 2011, Dean worked as an assistant professor of English at La Salle University. She taught composition, persuasive writing and rhetoric, business writing, legal writing, and ethics. During this time, she also wrote opinion pieces for the Philadelphia Inquirer and other publications.

Dean began her work in politics as a volunteer for Joe Hoeffel's re-election campaign to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. She continued to volunteer until 2011, when she was elected to the Abington Township Board of Commissioners for Ward 7.

Dean was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a Democrat in the special election for the 153rd District on April 24, 2012 after Representative Joshua Shapiro resigned from the House. She was sworn in on May 8, 2012. She was reelected for three subsequent sessions.

During her time in office, Dean focused on public education and ending gun violence. Dean was not intimidated to speak out on issues she was concerned with, and spoke on the House floor less than a month after being sworn in. When interviewed about speaking as a freshman member, Dean remarked "We don't know if we're going to get to be a sophomore.



I'm not a kid. Time's a-wasting."²⁰⁰

Dean served as the Vice Chair of the House Finance Committee. She was the Chair of the House Democratic Southeast Delegation and co-founded and co-chaired the PA SAFE Caucus, which focused on reducing gun violence. She was also selected by Governor Tom Wolf to serve on the Pennsylvania Commission for Women.

During an oral history interview with the House Archives, Dean reflected on her time in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives: "I loved the feeling of an urgency to serve, that what we did here matters, that what we do here matters."²⁰¹

Dean was elected to the United States Congress to represent Pennsylvania's 4th District on November 6, 2018. She is currently serving in her first term.





Erin C. Molchany

Born: June 13, 1977 in Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 22nd Legislative District, Allegheny County, 2013-2014. Affiliation: Democrat.

Erin C. Molchany was born on June 13, 1977 in Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Parkland High School in 1995, and received her B.A. in journalism from Duquesne University in 1999.

During her studies, Molchany was employed by the emergency services department of the American Red Cross. Following her studies, she was employed as the chief executive of the non-profit organization PUMP, the Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project. Molchany also served at the Coro Center for Public Leadership, where she oversaw trainings. She was a member of the Allegheny County Democratic Committee from 2006 to 2010, as well as the League of Women Voters. Molchany was a judge of elections from 2009 to 2012.

Molchany was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2013 to represent the 22nd Legislative District. While in office, Molchany supported legislation dealing with public transportation, educational assistance to community colleges, continuing education for teachers, and gender pay discrepancies. Molchany said, "I take my commitment to education very seriously." Through her work on the Education Committee she hoped "to reduce class sizes and hold publicly funded charter and online schools accountable."²⁰² Regarding the wage and opportunity gap, she wrote, "The issue too long ignored that most enrages me is discrimination in pay and opportunity in the work place. Much like women's suffrage was a giant leap toward leveling the political playing field, equal pay for equal work is absolutely necessary to level the economic playing field."²⁰³

Following her time in office, Governor Tom Wolf appointed Molchany the southwest director for the Office of the Governor from 2015 to the present.

Molchany currently resides in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Becky Corbin

Born: November 18, 1952, Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 155th Legislative District, Chester County, 2013-2018. Affiliation: Republican.



Rebecca “Becky” Susan Corbin (née Pringle) was born on November 18, 1952 in Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Westmont Hilltop High School in 1970. Corbin graduated from Chatham University with her B.S in chemistry in 1974. She married Michael Corbin on September 14, 1974 and they have two children: Alicia and John.

Following her studies, Corbin was a forensic chemist for the Commonwealth of Virginia, but later moved back to

Pennsylvania to work in the pharmaceutical industry. Corbin was a consultant for the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority. She was also a member of the Conestoga Landfill Advisory Council. Corbin served as the auditor of East Brandywine Township in 2011, and was the commissioner of the Brandywine Regional Police. Corbin worked as an administrative assistant for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1991 to 2012 in the offices of Representatives James W. Gerlach and Curtis R. Schroder.

Corbin was a member of the East Brandywine Zoning Hearing Board, Downingtown Thorndale Chamber of Commerce, the Brandywine Valley YMCA, and is a trustee of the Downingtown Education Foundation. In 1974, the Society for Analytical Chemists awarded Corbin with the College Chemistry Award. Corbin was also the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award in East Brandywine Township in 2008.

When discussing her motivation to run for public office, Corbin explained, “I worked in the legislature for many years for two different members and I enjoyed working with the constituents, solving problems back in the district, and when Rep. Schroder announced he was not going to seek reelection, I welcomed the opportunity to serve at a higher level. And I’m looking forward to working with the constituents at a higher level.”²⁰⁴

Corbin was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 155th Legislative District in 2012. She was reelected for two subsequent sessions. While in office, she focused her legislation on stopping the overuse of prescription drugs, reforming the pension system, better use of energy and environmental resources, and ending exemptions for people who have a philosophical objection to vaccines. Corbin was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 111 of 2016, which made strangulation a felony. She was also the prime sponsor of legislation that became Act 173 of 2016, which requires preparation and publication of information on influenza vaccines.

She currently resides in East Brandywine Township, Pennsylvania.



Mary Jo Daley

Born: September 16, 1949, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 148th Legislative District, Montgomery County, 2013-present. Affiliation: Democrat.



Mary Jo Daley was born on September 16, 1949 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Daley graduated from Prendergast High School in 1967. She earned an A.A. in science from Gwynedd Mercy University in 1969 and a B.A. in business administration from the University of Philadelphia in 1987. Daley also earned an M.P.A. from the Fells Center of Government, University of Pennsylvania in

2000. Daley married Robert Winkleman in 2009. She has three children: Jessica, Richard, and Lori.

Daley began her career at Hahnemann University in Philadelphia, working as the assistant to the director of laboratory medicine and later as a coordinator between 1977 and 1990. She was later employed as a financial and administrative officer at the University of Pennsylvania from 1992 to 2013. In addition to her career, Daley was active in local politics. She was elected to the Narberth Borough council in 1991 and served for 20 years. During the final 10 years she was the president of the council.

Daley was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2012 to represent the 148th Legislative District. She was reelected for three subsequent sessions. While in office, Daley has focused on legislation aimed at climate change, fair and equitable education funding, reproductive rights, and poverty. Daley has introduced legislation calling for workplace accommodations for nursing mothers, as well as bills providing for legislative reapportionment and for openness and fairness in the redistricting process. For the 2019-2020 session, Daley is serving as the Chair of the Democratic House Women's Health Caucus.

Daley advises women thinking of running for public office to "Do it - you cannot win if you don't run. It is a tremendously rewarding job - interesting and challenging, and a real opportunity to provide public service and to be at the table where decisions are made."²⁰⁵ Daley is the co-founder and co-chair of Emerge Pennsylvania, which recruits, trains, and mentors Democratic women to run for office at all levels. On the importance of women in the legislature, Daley said, "Women have knowledge and experience that men do not have, just as men have knowledge and experience that women do not have. With women making up 51% of our population, we shortchange the state and our constituents if we do not have the perspective of women considering legislation."²⁰⁶





Mindy Fee

Born: April 16, 1965, Manheim, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 37th District, Lancaster County, 2013-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Melinda “Mindy” Fee (née Gates) was born on April 16, 1965 in Manheim, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Manheim Central High School in 1983 and earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from Millersville University in 1987. On December 31, 1991, she married Thomas J. Fee. They have three children: Danielle, Abigail, and Ryan.

Fee was employed by TransAmerica Office Furniture, Inc. for 24 years. She was a member of the Manheim Republican Committee and Downtown Development Group.

Thomas Fee passed away August 31, 2011, and Mindy Fee stated his death was her primary motivation to seek public office. Thomas Fee had been the mayor of Manheim, Pennsylvania and a district judge.

Fee was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2012 to serve the 37th Legislative District. She has been reelected for three subsequent sessions. Throughout her time in office, Fee has focused on fiscal responsibility, as well as ensuring a growing economy in the Commonwealth. She is an advocate of gun rights and is pro-life. During the 2017-2018 session, some of Fee’s prime-sponsored legislative language was incorporated into the Public School Code to allow school boards to go into private sessions to debate and develop security plans for their districts. This amendment to the code allows boards to adopt security plans without fear of would-be attackers being informed and potential weaknesses being revealed during discussion.

When asked what part of being an elected representative was most enjoyable, Fee responded, “People are by far the best part of the job. Getting to meet so many people across my district, hear their stories, and see how so many of them are committed to the good of our communities is so rewarding.”²⁰⁷





Patty Kim

Born: July 29, 1973, San Diego, San Diego County, California. Member of the House: 103rd Legislative District, Dauphin County, 2013-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Patty Kim was born on July 29, 1973 in San Diego, San Diego County, California. She graduated from Boston College in 1995 with a B.A. in mass communications. Kim married John Sider in 2003, and they have two children: Brielle and Ryan.

Following her studies, Kim worked for different television stations as a production assistant, associate producer, and writer. She worked as an anchor and reporter for a news station in Hagerstown, Maryland. In 2000, Kim worked for WHP-CBS 21 in Harrisburg as a reporter. She served two terms on the Harrisburg city council from 2005 to 2012 and served as vice president in her second term.

Kim was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 103rd Legislative District in 2012. She has been reelected for three subsequent sessions. While in office, Kim has focused on education funding, raising the minimum wage, and reforming the justice system. Most of Kim's legislation has been focused on raising the minimum wage. She believes, "It's time to give hard-working Pennsylvanians their first pay raise in more than 10 years."²⁰⁸ She introduced House Bill 1896 in the 2013-2014 session, which would raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 in two stages. She re-introduced this legislation during the 2015-2016 session. In both the 2017-2018 and 2019-2020 sessions, she has introduced legislation that would raise the minimum wage to \$15 in several stages.

Kim wrote an article for the Harrisburg Patriot-News in which she discussed the bipartisan Women's Caucus. "We accomplish things that defy party lines. We accomplish things and show young ladies that there is a place for us at the decision-making table."²⁰⁹





Pam Snyder

Born: November 20, 1955 in Dry Tavern, Greene County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 50th Legislative District, Fayette, Greene, and Washington Counties, 2013-present.

Affiliation: Democrat.

Pamela Snyder (née Mosier) was born on November 20, 1955, in Dry Tavern, Greene County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Jefferson-Morgan High School in 1973. Snyder was awarded an honorary B.A. from Waynesburg University in 2008. She married Jack Snyder, and they have two children: Joy and Madeline.

Snyder was employed as an administrative assistant for the Greene County Board of Commissioners from 1990 to 1992. From 1992 to 1994, she was an assistant project engineer at the Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, and she was also the senior aide of United States Congressman Frank Mascara from 1994 to 2002. Snyder was a commissioner of Greene County from 2004 to 2012, during which she was elected vice president of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania and received the Outstanding County Commissioner Award. She was also elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Conventions of 2004 and 2008.

Snyder was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 50th Legislative District in 2012. She was reelected for three subsequent sessions. While in office, Snyder has focused on issues relating to job creation, healthcare, education, energy, and technology. She was the prime sponsor of several successful pieces of legislation, including the legislation that became Act 175 of 2014, which required the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to submit plans regarding carbon dioxide emissions regulations to the General Assembly prior to submitting them to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for approval. When discussing the importance of Pennsylvania's coal resources, Snyder emphasized, "Working with coal rather than against it and the tens of thousands of Americans who produce low-cost and reliable energy from it is economically prudent, environmentally, doable, and compassionately cost-effective."²¹⁰ She also prime sponsored the legislation that led to Act 174 of 2016, which enabled corrections officers to carry pepper spray.

Snyder was elected deputy whip in 2019. She has served as Chair of the Subcommittee on Mining for the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, and the Chair of the Southwest Democratic Delegation.

When asked about the importance of women in the legislature, Snyder explained, "I believe women bring a different perspective to the table. We are more apt to come together to find commonsense solutions to problems and compromise."²¹¹





Leslie Acosta

Born: July 7, 1971 in Puerto Rico. Member of the House: 197th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, 2015-January 3, 2017. Affiliation: Democrat.

Leslie Acosta was born on July 7, 1971 in Puerto Rico. She graduated from Mastbaum High School. She also graduated from Cairn University in 1996 with a B.S. in social work and theology, and earned an MBA from Phoenix University in 2003.

Following her studies, Acosta was employed as a social worker, and later as a child advocate in the Philadelphia Public Defender's Office. She also worked as the vice president of the board of directors for the Bucks County Mental Health Clinic and was an adjunct professor at Esperanza College of Eastern University.

Acosta was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 197th Legislative District in 2014. She was reelected for one subsequent session. While in office, Acosta supported legislation regarding school funding, provisions for veterans and the disabled, and firearm regulations. On education she said, "My commitment is to strengthen our educational system by advocating and sponsoring commonsense legislation to fund high-quality education, to ensure fair educational opportunity regardless of social class of origin" and "most importantly, create partnerships and resources to support individuals, schools, community, faith-based organizations and businesses to improve educational outcomes for children, youth and adults."²¹²

Acosta resigned from the House on January 3, 2017. She currently resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Kristin Phillips-Hill

Born: December, 1965, Camden, Camden County, New Jersey. Member of the House: 93rd Legislative District, York County, 2014-2018. Member of the Pennsylvania State Senate: 28th Senatorial District, York County, 2019-present. Affiliation: Republican.



University. Phillips-Hill married Richard Hill and they have three children: Victoria, Gavin, and Spencer.

Kristin Lee Phillips-Hill's early career involved both caring for her three children and maintaining her antique and interior design business. Phillips-Hill also served on the school board of the Dallastown Area School District for three years, from 2011 to 2014, where she prioritized raising awareness for pending legislation and its potential effect on the district.

Along with her school board service and her volunteer history, Phillips-Hill also served as a legislative aide to Rep. Ron Miller in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for over three years.

Phillips-Hill was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 93rd Legislative District in 2014, and one subsequent session. While in office, Phillips-Hill's legislation often focused on education. She was the prime sponsor of legislation that led to Act 143 of 2016, which amended the Public School Code to expedite the certification process for military members, veterans, and their spouses to transfer their teaching certificates from another state into Pennsylvania. Phillips-Hill also prime sponsored the legislation that led to Act 82 of 2018, which amended the Public School Code pertaining to special education teachers and their certification.

Phillips-Hill has been outspoken about the issue of women in politics. In an interview, she recalled a fourth-grade class project on the bicentennial where boys were encouraged to write a paper on their favorite president, while the girls were told to write a paper on their favorite first lady. Following the anecdote she said, "I think it's not only important for young women to see women lead; I think it's just as important for young men to know that women can lead."²¹³

Phillips-Hill was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate in 2018. She is currently serving as the Chair of the Communications and Technology Committee.





Judy Ward

Born: August 1959, Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 80th Legislative District, Blair County, 2015-2018. Member of the Pennsylvania State Senate: 30th Senatorial District, Blair County, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton and Huntingdon Counties, 2019-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Judy Farrell Ward was born in August 1959 in Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Hollidaysburg High School in 1977 and from the Altoona Hospital School of Nursing in 1984. In June 1984, Judith married William T. Ward and the couple have two sons: William Jr. and Adam.

Ward is a registered nurse and worked in the nursing field for 22 years. She was also a small business owner and worked as a development professional raising money for Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries and Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School. She also worked as the wellness coordinator for Ward Transport & Logistics in Altoona.

She is a 2013 graduate of the Penn State Rural Urban Leadership Program (R.U.L.E.) which positioned her to understand agricultural issues facing Pennsylvania farmers.

Before being elected to office, Ward served on numerous civic boards and organizations. She was an active member of the Blair County Chamber of Commerce, completing their Leadership Blair County program in 2004. She also served as a Chamber Ambassador and a member of their Legislative Action Committee. Ward served on the advisory board for S&T Bank and was an active volunteer for St. Vincent DePaul Food for Families Soup Kitchen and St. Leonard's Home.

Ward was also active politically as a State Committee Member representing Blair County for many years. She was elected as an Alternate Delegate to the 2012 Republican National Convention and a delegate for the 2016 Convention. She is also a graduate of the Anne Anstine Excellence in Public Service Series, a Republican Leadership program for women.

Ward was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 80th Legislative District following the retirement of Rep. Jerry Stern in 2014.



She was reelected for a subsequent term. During her time in the House, Ward focused on public pension reform, improving healthcare and protecting health care workers, supporting initiatives that enhanced the state's business climate, as well as promoting Pennsylvania's agricultural sector.

In 2018 Ward was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate representing the 30th Senatorial District after the retirement of Senator John Eichelberger. Currently the 30th Senatorial District includes Blair and Fulton Counties and parts of Huntingdon, Franklin and Cumberland Counties.





Donna Bullock

Born: October 15, 1978. Member of the House: 195th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, August 25, 2015-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Donna Bullock (née Johnson) was born on October 15, 1978. Bullock graduated from New Brunswick High School in 1996, and earned a B.S. in administration of justice from Rutgers University in 2000. She also graduated with a J.D. from the Beasley School of Law at Temple University in 2003. She married Otis L. Bullock, Jr., and they have two children: Malcolm and Xavier.

Following her studies, Bullock was employed as an attorney, and worked for Philadelphia Community Legal Services. She was also employed as a research fellowship director for the Philadelphia City Council, as well as the community and economic director for city council President Darrell L. Clarke from 2011 to 2015.

Following the resignation of Representative Michelle Brownlee, Bullock was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in a special election to represent the 195th Legislative District on August 11, 2015. She was sworn in on August 25, 2015. She has been reelected for two subsequent sessions. While in office, Bullock has focused on education funding. Bullock explained, "...as the cost of higher education increases, as the number of students in those schools decrease, the burden of that education disproportionality falls on the students...We need to invest in Pennsylvanians, we need to invest in their education, and if we want Pennsylvania to grow, Pennsylvania to be successful, It's important that we do that."²¹⁴ Bullock has also sponsored legislation regarding clean air and water, minimum wage, and gender pay gaps. Bullock is the Minority Chair of the Criminal Justice Subcommittee for the Appropriations Committee. She is currently serving as Chief Deputy Minority Whip.





Kate A. Klunk

Born: June 4, 1982, Hanover, York County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 169th Legislative District, York County, 2015-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Kate Ann Klunk was born June 4, 1982 in Hanover, York County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Hanover Senior High School in 2000 and from Dickinson College in 2004 with a B.A. in economics, history, and public policy studies. She graduated with her J.D. from the Dickinson School of Law of Pennsylvania State University in 2010. In 2013, Klunk graduated from the Anne B. Anstine Excellence in Public Service Series that aims to increase the number of Republican women in government, politics, and community leadership positions. Klunk married Jared Laird in 2016, and they have one child: Grace.

Following her studies, Klunk worked as an intern for Congressman Todd Platts. She also worked in the White House for President George W. Bush, first on his National Economic Council team and then on his communications team. After her time in Washington, Klunk worked as a private practice attorney.

Klunk was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 169th Legislative District in 2014. She has been reelected for two subsequent sessions. While in office, her legislation has focused on property tax reform, domestic violence, abortion regulations, and elder abuse. Klunk was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 66 of 2017, which amends the 1981 Bingo Law to raise the prize limits. She was also the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 55 of 2018, which added a chapter to the Judicial Code and created a standard of practice for collaborative law.

Klunk has said that she never thought being a woman would be an obstacle as a legislator. "If you ask some older female legislators, they probably had a tougher road. Maybe I had an easier go of it because of what they had to go through and the road they paved for me. For that, I'm eternally grateful."²¹⁵



Leanne T. Krueger

Born: February 14, 1977, North Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey. Member of the House: 161st Legislative District, Delaware County, August 25, 2015-present. Affiliation: Democrat.



Leanne T. Krueger was born on February 14, 1977 in North Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey. She graduated from North Brunswick Township High School in 1995 and from Rutgers University in 1999 with a B.A. in sociology. Krueger also earned her MBA in urban economic development from Eastern University in 2003 and her EMBA from St. Joseph's University in 2017. She has one child: Wendell.

Following her studies, Krueger was the executive director of the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia for eight years. She then went to work for the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies. Krueger was also invited to the White House during the Obama Administration to advise the White House Business Council on the needs of small businesses.

Krueger was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 161st Legislative District in a special election on August 4, 2015 and was sworn in on August 25, 2015. She has been reelected for two subsequent sessions. While in office, Krueger has focused on education funding, gun control, environmental protection, women's health, and sexual harassment. She was the prime sponsor of the legislation that led to Act 96 of 2015, which amended the Tobacco Settlement Agreement Act to include "roll-yourself" tobacco products under "units sold" for taxation purposes.

In addition, Krueger has introduced legislation in both the 2017-2018 session (House Bill 1965) and 2019-2020 session (House Bill 1000) titled "#MeToo Pennsylvania General Assembly Act." This legislation seeks to create a separate office responsible for investigating harassment cases in the Capitol, ban non-disclosure agreements that keep the perpetrator's name private, and prohibit the use of tax payer money in settlements.

Krueger encourages other women to get involved in politics in order to influence the political environment. "I'll also be working to make sure more women are elected to office across our Commonwealth. Fundamental change in harassment culture, and our ability to ensure a safe environment for everyone from high school interns to state senators, will only be possible when women lead."²¹⁶





Joanna McClinton

Born: August 19, 1982, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member for the House: 191st Legislative District, Philadelphia and Delaware Counties, August 25, 2015-present. Affiliation: Democrat

Joanna McClinton was born on August 19, 1982 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Grace Temple Christian Academy in 1999 and spent two years as an intern at the WDAS news station in Philadelphia. McClinton studied political science with a concentration in leadership and global understanding at La Salle University, from which she graduated with a B.A. in 2003. After graduation, McClinton was accepted to Villanova University School of Law. During an interview McClinton said, "Once I got into law school, it was no question that I needed to have a career in public interest, in public service."²¹⁷ While in law school, McClinton was an intern at Regional Housing Legal Services with the Philadelphia District Attorney's office, and the Defender Association of Philadelphia. She graduated in 2006.

After law school, McClinton became an assistant public defender and held that position for seven years. In 2013, McClinton became the chief counsel to State Senator Anthony Hardy Williams. As chief counsel, McClinton combined her interests in law and community service by developing policy and legislation and assisting Williams' constituents. McClinton also worked as a youth ministry leader for her church, Open Door Mission, for over 10 years. In 2015, McClinton served as president of La Salle University's African American Alumni Association.

On August 11, 2015, McClinton was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in a special election to replace Representative Ron Waters, who resigned earlier that year. She was sworn in on August 25, 2015 and has been reelected for two subsequent sessions to serve Pennsylvania's 191st Legislative District. Throughout her time in office, she has sponsored legislation focused on criminal justice reform, child welfare, education, and the needs of indigents.

In 2018, McClinton was selected as House Democratic Caucus Chair for the 2019-2020



session. McClinton is the first African American and also the first woman to be selected for this position. On this appointment, McClinton stated, "I am forever indebted to my colleagues for electing me to be the first woman and first African American to serve as the House Democratic Caucus Chair. My office's primary function is compiling the bills that will be discussed in our caucus meeting. My primary function is facilitating the meeting, ensuring that members are able to ask questions and maintain a meaningful discussion on legislation. When I first took over, no one (including the women) were used to a woman running the meetings. My goal is always to represent well in this role so that one day ... another woman will be elected to an even higher post, like Speaker of the House!"²¹⁸

When asked what advice she would give other women considering running for public office, McClinton said, "I encourage women to be bold and determined to break barriers and shatter glass ceilings. I would have never guessed as a young girl growing up in Southwest Philadelphia that I would one day serve in public office or break into leadership within my caucus so quickly."





Martina A. White

Born: July 7, 1988, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 170th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, April 13, 2015-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Martina A. White was born on July 7, 1988 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Villa Joseph Marie High School in 2006, and earned a B.S. in business administration from Elizabethtown College in 2010.

Following her studies, White was employed as a financial advisor in the Independence Wealth Strategies office of MetLife from 2011 to 2015.

Following the resignation of State Representative Brendan F. Boyle, White was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in a special election on March 24, 2015, to represent the 170th District. She was sworn in on April 13, 2015, and was reelected for two subsequent sessions. While in office, White was the prime sponsor of several successful pieces of legislation. She prime sponsored the legislation that became Act 32 of 2016, which sought to create uniformity and clarity between laws governing areas where Neighborhood Improvement Districts and Tax Increment Financing Districts intersect. In 2019, White introduced legislation to fight against illegal squatters through the creation of a process in which police would have greater authority to assist in the removal of a trespasser. Also in 2019, she headed the Transportation Infrastructure Task Force, which crafted the “Build to Lead” report that detailed the challenges to fixing Pennsylvania’s roads, bridges and highways and offered solutions to funding the much-needed repairs. In 2020, White introduced an amendment to the state Constitution to allow for the recall of elected officials who oversee local or state executive branches, agencies or departments. She has also introduced legislation to impose mandatory minimum sentences on criminals who use illegal guns while committing crimes.

White says that she plans to “work with both sides of the line in a bipartisan manner to get things done that are important to my constituents.” White was elected Deputy Majority Whip in 2019.





Tonyelle Cook-Artis

Born: September 2, 1974 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 200th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, April 5, 2016-2016. Affiliation: Democrat.

Tonyelle Cook-Artis (née Cook) was born on September 2, 1974 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated Lankenau High School in 1997, and earned a B.A. in political science from Bennett College in 2001. She also graduated with an M.A. in political management from George Washington University in 2013. She married Raimon Artis in 2002, and they have one child: Noah.

Following her studies, Cook-Artis was employed as a staff assistant to Congresswoman Alma Adams. She served as a volunteer and constituent service representative for Philadelphia city councilwoman Marian Tasco, and was Pennsylvania State Representative Cherelle Parker's chief of staff for 10 years.

After the resignation of Cherelle L. Parker on January 3, 2016, Tonyelle Cook-Artis was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in a special election on March 15, 2016 to represent Philadelphia County's 200th Legislative District. Cook-Artis was sworn in on April 5, 2016. While in office, Cook-Artis focused on business and education. Regarding her aspirations in Harrisburg, she said, "I will focus on what is important to my constituents: supporting our schools by investing in education, building opportunities for economic development in our neighborhoods, better tracking of lost or stolen handguns, and ensuring the adequate and excellent funding of our human services departments, especially seniors."²¹⁹

Following her time in office, Cook-Artis was hired as a manager of the government relations division of the Delaware River Port Authority, where she is presently employed. She currently resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.





Morgan B. Cephas

Born: August 30, 1984, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 192nd Legislative District, Philadelphia County, 2017-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Morgan B. Cephas was born on August 30, 1984 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Central High School in 2002 and from the University of Virginia in 2006 with a B.A. in political science.

Following her studies, Cephas worked as a legislative assistant for Philadelphia city council member Curtis Jones, Jr. from 2008 to 2011, and as his deputy chief of staff from 2011 to 2013. Cephas served as the director of external affairs for Philadelphia Youth Network from 2013 to 2015. In 2016, Cephas became the assistant policy advisor for State Senator Vincent J. Hughes. She also served on the Mayor's Commission for Women.

Cephas was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 192nd Legislative District in 2016. She was re-elected for one subsequent session. While in office, Cephas has focused on fair wages, funding education, child care resources, women's health, and rehabilitating criminals. In the 2017-2018 session, Cephas introduced House Bill 2210, which would allow school districts to expunge non-violent offenses from students' records to improve students' chances when applying to colleges and other post-high school programs. Cephas also introduced House Bill 2665, which would create a Women and Girls Committee within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to better meet the unique needs of incarcerated women. As Chair of the Women and Girls of Color Subcommittee of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, Cephas is passionate about representation for women of color: "We are here to celebrate and empower women and girls of color throughout Pennsylvania, making sure our seat at the table is not forgotten."²²⁰





Carolyn Comitta

Born: April 27, 1952, Buffalo, Erie County, New York. Member of the House: 156th Legislative District, Chester County, 2017-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Carolyn Comitta was born on April 27, 1952 in Buffalo, Erie County, New York. Comitta graduated from Downingtown High School in 1970, and attended Muhlenberg College in 1971. She graduated from West Chester in 1974 with a B.S. in education, and earned an M.Ed. from Widener University in 1989. She married Thomas Comitta in 1983 and they have two children: Tom and Anne.

Following her studies, Comitta was employed as a teacher and curriculum specialist in the Octorara School District from 1974 to 1985. In 1990, she was employed as the vice president and chief financial officer of Thomas Comitta and Associates, Inc., a company specializing in town planning and landscape architecture. Comitta is currently a member of the Pennsylvania Commission for Women, as well as the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce, the League of Women Voters, and the National League of Cities, where she was the vice chair of the training council from 2009 to 2010. She was appointed to the Advisory Group of the Brandywine Valley Scenic By-Ways Commission in 2013, and was appointed to the Chester County Planning Commission Public Transportation Plan Task Force in 2014. She was also the organizer and student facilitator of the Health and Environment Conference within the United Nations, and was a member of the Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, the Conference on Population and Development in 1994, and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in 1996. Comitta served on the West Chester city council from 2006 to 2010, and was elected mayor of West Chester from 2010 to 2016.

Comitta was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 156th Legislative District in 2017. She has been reelected for one subsequent session. While in office, Comitta sponsored legislation that forbade firearms in vehicles, provided for increased use/standards of renewable energy sources, and instituted more safety measures and regulations concerning oil pipelines. Regarding pipeline regulations, she said, "Whether or not you support [pipelines], public safety has to be our number one concern."²²¹ She is passionate about the environment, stating that, "it's part of the Pennsylvania Constitution – clean air, fresh water."²²² Comitta was appointed to the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee in 2017, a position she still holds.





Isabella V. Fitzgerald

Born: December 9, 1949, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 203rd Legislative District, Philadelphia County, 2017-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Isabella V. Fitzgerald (née Dixon) was born on December 9, 1949 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Overbrook High School in 1967. Fitzgerald attended LaSalle University and Temple University, studying business at both universities. She graduated from the Community College of Philadelphia in 1984 with an

associate's degree in marketing management. Fitzgerald is divorced and has two sons, Raymond and Derek.

Following her studies, Fitzgerald worked as a special assistant to Congressman Robert A. Brady from 1998 to 2002. After, she worked as a legislative assistant for State Representative Dwight Evans from 2002 to 2014. Fitzgerald was also a ward leader for the 10th Ward Democratic Committee, a founding member and chair of the North West CommUnity Coalition for Youth, on the board and planning committee for Women of Faith and Hope, and a public safety area coordinator for the 14th police district.

Fitzgerald was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 203rd Legislative District in 2016. She was reelected for one subsequent session. While in office, she has focused on women's issues, children's issues, safer communities, and education. Fitzgerald has introduced the same three pieces of legislation in both of her sessions. The first would have insurance cover breast screenings in full for women with dense breast tissue. The second would guarantee incarcerated women access to free feminine hygiene products, and the third piece of legislation would have all school districts begin full day kindergarten programs. Fitzgerald acknowledges that she has "plenty to work on," and "It's going to take a lot of effort, but I and my colleagues look forward to the challenge."²²³

When asked if female House Members were treated differently and if she was conscious of women being a minority in the House, Fitzgerald said, "There is certainly a gender bias on all levels of society. However, I think we have some pretty strong and capable women out there who have risen in spite of it. I am ever conscious of women being a minority in the House, but I am continually encouraged by those women who have stepped up and stepped out."²²⁴





Carol Hill-Evans

Born: November 21, 1949, York, York County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 95th Legislative District, York County, 2017-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Carol Dolores Hill-Evans (née Hill) was born on November 21, 1949 in York, York County, Pennsylvania. Hill-Evans graduated from William Penn High School in 1967. She attended Gettysburg College for two years. She and her first husband had two children together: Debbie and Darlene. Hill-Evans was remarried in 1996 to William Evans. She graduated from Penn State York in 2001 with her B.S. in business.

Before resuming her studies at Penn State York, Hill-Evans owned her own sewing business called Fashions by Carol D. Following her studies, Hill-Evans worked in York city government as a neighborhood research specialist from 2001 to 2002. Subsequently, she worked on the York City Planning Commission from 2005 to 2007. She was then employed at Bell Socialization Services as an employment specialist. Additionally, Hill-Evans was part of the York city council for eight years, serving as vice president from 2008 to 2011 and president from 2012 to 2016.

Hill-Evans was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 95th Legislative District in 2016. She has been reelected for one subsequent session. While in office, her legislation has focused on funding education, wage increases, veterans, domestic violence, and sexual assault. In an interview about women legislators in York County, Hill-Evans commented on the gradual increase in women running for office. "I think women as a whole are starting to come forward as solid candidates and challenging the predominantly white male presence that you have in politics... I'm very proud to be part of that movement."²²⁵

During the 2017-2018 session, Hill-Evans introduced several pieces of legislation, including House Bill 1249, which would stop charter schools from enrolling more students after receiving notice that their charter would not be renewed. Hill-Evans also introduced House Bill 1632, which would allow victims of domestic violence who share a phone plan with their abuser to leave the phone plan without early termination fees.





Dawn Keefer

Born: October 6, 1972, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 92nd Legislative District, Cumberland and York Counties, 2017-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Dawn Renee Keefer (née Wetzel) was born on October 6, 1972 in Pennsylvania. She graduated from George Mason University in 1995 with a B.A. in government and politics. She has also completed graduate level classes in public administration at Penn State University. Keefer married Thomas E. Keefer Jr. on June 15, 1996, and they have three children: Delaney, Thomas III, and Kinsley.

Following her studies, Keefer served as the chief advisor to former State Representative Will Gabig. She owns her own consulting firm DWK Consulting Inc. which focuses on creating grass roots movements and fundraising. Keefer has also served as an advisor for Chi Omega sorority at Gettysburg College, a board member for the Carlisle Senior Housing Corp. and Dillsburg Area Soccer Club; a volunteer for the Hemlock Girl Scout Council; and a coach for Upward Soccer and St. Joseph's Parish Junior Varsity Boys Track teams. Keefer was also a York County Republican Committee member. Her business, government experience, and community work all influenced Keefer to run for state representative. She stressed this when announcing her campaign saying, "I'm a fiscal conservative with nearly 20 years of professional small business and government experience. As a mother, I understand the challenges of raising a family in today's world; and, as a taxpayer, I am committed to finding commonsense conservative solutions to the challenges we face and to always putting our interests ahead of the special interests."²²⁶

Keefer was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 92nd Legislative District in 2016. She was reelected for one subsequent session. While in office, her legislation has been focused on protecting small business, reforming the budget process, and amending property taxes and school funding. In an interview about women legislators in York County, Keefer addressed her "pay-it-forward mentality" when it comes to supporting other women. "I think that's the best thing we can do for young women is support each other."²²⁷



Keefer has introduced several pieces of legislation including House Bill 1237 from the 2017-2018 session. This legislation would amend the Regulatory Review Act so a resolution is required for any final-form regulation to pass that is “economically significant.” Keefer has also introduced House Bill 1452 in the 2019-2020 session, which focuses on “zero-based budgeting.” This legislation would reset all expenses to zero at the start of a new fiscal year. From there, the budget would be built up from zero based on needs and costs independent from the previous year’s budget. During the 2019-2020 session Keefer introduced House Bill 814, which focuses on an optional local senior property tax freeze. The legislation would exempt seniors from paying property taxes as long as they were 65 years old or older, making less than \$80,000 a year, and a Pennsylvania resident for more than five years.





Anita Astorino Kulik

Born: May 5, 1964, Carnegie, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 45th Legislative District, Allegheny County, 2017-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Anita Philomena Astorino Kulik (née Astorino) was born on May 5, 1964 in Carnegie, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Bishop Canevin High School in 1982 and from Duquesne University in 1986 with a B.A. in history. She also graduated from Duquesne University with her J.D. in 1989. In 1995, she married Joseph Kulik. She is the step-mother to Sarah and Joseph.

Following her studies, Astorino Kulik worked as a law clerk for the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas and then for the Pennsylvania Superior Court. She also worked as an adjunct professor teaching paralegal courses. Astorino Kulik and her husband worked together as attorneys at Kulik Law offices. She also served in the Allegheny County Guardian Ad Litem program and the Pennsylvania Attorney General's "Operation Safe Surf." In 2002, Astorino Kulik was elected commissioner of Kennedy Township and served in that position from 2003 to 2016. She also served as Representative Nicholas Kotik's legislative assistant until he retired in 2016.

Astorino Kulik was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 45th Legislative District in 2016. She was reelected for one subsequent session. She is a proponent of issues pertaining to fair taxes, education, jobs, and a strong economy. While in office, she has introduced legislation focused on land slide insurance, blight demolition, custody of pets in divorce, and PFA home monitoring systems. Upon her election in 2016, Astorino Kulik was the only female out of the 23 representatives from Allegheny County. In 2018, five more women from Allegheny County joined her. On the increase, Astorino Kulik commented, "I think that's amazing to make that transition. First, we started with no women. Then I got elected two years ago and there was one woman, and now we have six. That's absolutely amazing to me."²²⁸



Maureen Madden

Born: December 13, 1959, Irvington, Essex County, New Jersey. Member of the House: 115th Legislative District, Monroe County, 2017-present. Affiliation: Democrat.



Maureen Elizabeth Madden was born on December 13, 1959, in Irvington, Essex County, New Jersey. In 2005, she graduated with a B.A. in political science from Marymount Manhattan College. Additionally, she earned her M.A. in communications from Marymount University in 2010. She married Roy Ramos on November 23, 1997, and they have two children: Richard and Alex.

Following her studies, Madden began teaching at the post-secondary level. She has served as an instructor at both Northampton Community College and East Stroudsburg University. In 1995, Madden founded and currently manages Mo Better Music. She was also an active member of her local community, serving on the board of the Pocono Parents of Down Syndrome Children, volunteering for Organizing for America, and serving as a grant writer for Melody for Humanity.

In addition to her work and community service, Madden was active in political organizing. She worked for the Geraldine Ferraro Congressional campaign in 1980. She organized for Democratic presidential candidates including Walter F. Mondale in 1984, Bill Clinton in 1992 and 1996, and Barack Obama in 2008. She also worked as the Northeastern Pennsylvania Field Organizer for the Democratic National Congressional Campaign Committee in 2010.

Madden was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 115th Legislative District in 2016. She was reelected for one subsequent session. During her time in office, she has been an advocate for union and collective bargaining rights. On the issue, Madden said, "I believe that all Pennsylvania workers deserve a living wage, a safe work environment, and the freedom to form unions."²²⁹ Madden has also focused on issues relating to raising the minimum wage, the environment, and education.

Madden notes one of her most rewarding moments since being elected to the House was when she successfully worked with Governor Tom Wolf's office to secure \$510,000 in funding for Monroe Career and Technical Institute. The grant went toward workforce development and modernizations for the welding department.

When asked what female legislators bring to the table, Madden said, "We bring a fresh perspective to the table. It is important to bring fresh perspectives because there are issues that men have no other view of and they are passing laws about them. We need women in the legislature so that we can hear from diverse voices, and from people whose lives are affected by legislation."²³⁰





Helen Tai

Born: October 9, 1964, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. Member of the House: 178th Legislative District, Bucks County, June 5, 2018-2018. Affiliation: Democrat.

Helen Tai was born on October 9, 1964 in Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 1986 with a B.S. in statistics and from Penn State University in 1988 with an M.A. in statistics. She married John McDevitt.

Following her studies, Tai worked as a statistician for Information Resources, Inc. and G.D. Searle and Co. She also worked as a statistician and trainer for Johnson and Johnson. In 2008, Tai opened her own consulting firm, Enabling Innovation LLC. Tai and her husband opened their own martial arts center, Fearless Heart Aikido, in 2013 where Tai taught as a fourth-degree black belt. She was elected chair of the Solebury Board of Supervisors in 2013 and served for four and a half years.

Following the resignation of Representative Scott A. Petri, Tai was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 178th Legislative District in a special election on May 15, 2018. She was sworn in on June 5, 2018. While in office, Tai focused on issues relating to the environment, gun safety, public education, high-quality healthcare for all, workers' rights and women's rights. She introduced three pieces of legislation focused on gun control. House Bill 2597 would have held gun owners responsible for safely storing their firearms if they lived with someone who could not own a firearm. House Bill 2598 would hold gun owners responsible for safely storing their guns when they were not in direct control of the firearm. Lastly, House Bill 2599 would have held gun owners responsible for reporting their firearm missing or stolen within 24 hours of discovering it was gone. If the missing gun was then used in a crime, the owner could be held civilly responsible. In addition to her gun regulation legislation, Tai also introduced House Bill 2469 that would freeze lawmakers' salaries if they did not meet the state budget deadline.

When asked about the importance of women in the legislature, Tai compared her life experience to that of a male Representative: "Both our perspectives are both valid and valuable, and it is through understanding each other that we get to a better place and better decisions. We need both men and women; people of different races and sexual identity; young and old, etc. Only then can we truly represent the people of Pennsylvania." ²³¹





Jeanne McNeill

Born: Boston, Massachusetts. Member of the House: 133rd Legislative District, Lehigh County, January 2, 2018-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Jeanne McNeill (née Mudri) was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and raised in Bethlehem, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Freedom High School in 1978. In 1985, she married Daniel T. McNeill, and they had two children: Shannon and Kathleen. Daniel McNeill served as a Member of the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives from 2013 until his death in 2017.

Following her studies, McNeill worked as a College Resource Consultant at Parkland High School and as a Skills Trainer for Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 and Project SEARCH, where she helped students with disabilities prepare for life after school, for 16 years.

Following the death of her husband, McNeill was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 133rd Legislative District in a special election on December 5, 2017. She was sworn in on January 2, 2018. She was reelected for one subsequent session. McNeill has been a proponent of issues pertaining to rights for persons with disabilities, health insurance, and a living wage. While in office, she prime sponsored legislation aimed at improving public schools in the Commonwealth and advocated for increasing state funding for special education and related services. Speaking on the subject, she said, "You wouldn't believe how many families have to do without because of the things they have to pay for their kids with disabilities...they need all the help that we can give them."²³²

When asked what she thought about bipartisanship and reaching across the aisle, McNeill responded, "I'm proud to work with Members of both parties to continue moving Pennsylvania forward...when we come together and address issues that impact us all, we create a fairer, more productive Pennsylvania for our communities and for future generations."²³³





Movita Johnson-Harrell

Born: April 21, 1966, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 190th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, March 25, 2019-December 13, 2019. Affiliation: Democrat.

Movita Johnson-Harrell (née Johnson) was born on April 21, 1966 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She earned her high school diploma in 1997. Johnson-Harrell graduated from community college with an associate's degree in behavioral health in 1999. She graduated with an associate's degree in applied sciences in 2001, a bachelor's degree in applied sciences in 2002, and a master's degree in social work in 2004, all from the University of Pennsylvania. Johnson-Harrell married Yancy Harrell, and they have four children: Denae, Donte, Charlyne, and Charles.

Following her studies, Johnson-Harrell became the executive director at MECA Inc., which provided care for those with mental health issues. In 2011, Johnson-Harrell established the CHARLES (Creating Health Alternatives Results in Less Emotional Suffering) Foundation in memory of her son Charles, who was killed as a result of gun violence. Johnson-Harrell became the interim supervisor for the victim and witness services and restorative justice unit in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office in 2018.

Following the resignation of Representative Vanessa Lowery Brown, Johnson-Harrell was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 190th Legislative District in a special election on March 12, 2019. She was sworn in on March 25, 2019 as the first Muslim woman to serve in the Pennsylvania House. Highlighting her dedication to addressing gun violence, Johnson-Harrell said, "I am just a mother that does not want another mother to know the pain of losing a child to gun violence." While in office, she has also focused on funding education, fair wages, and rehabilitating incarcerated women. Johnson-Harrell introduced a four-piece legislative package called the Dignity for Incarcerated Women Package: Part II. Included in the package were House Bill 1591, which would compel the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to place incarcerated mothers of dependent minors within 250 miles of their permanent address, as well as allow minors



to visit their incarcerated mother at least two days per week; and House Bill 1592 which would create an overnight visitation program for incarcerated mothers with children 10 years old or younger.

Johnson-Harrell took her role as the first Muslim woman in the Pennsylvania House very seriously. “For my daughters and for my granddaughter and for the other young, covered women in Philadelphia, that visual for them in the state House gives them hope for goals that they can accomplish. So, I think it is really important that when we talk about Representatives in the House, that the House represents the population that it serves.”²³⁴

Johnson-Harrell resigned from the House on December 13, 2019.





Stephanie P. Borowicz

Born: March 23, 1977, Orlando, Orange County, Florida. Member of the House: 76th Legislative District, Centre and Clinton Counties, 2019-present. Affiliation: Republican

Stephanie Paige Borowicz (née Hogshead) was born on March 23, 1977 in Orlando, Orange County, Florida. She graduated from Altamonte Christian School in 1995. Borowicz also graduated with her B.A. in liberal studies from Vanguard University in 1999. On July 25, 1999, she married Jason Borowicz and they have three children: Braden, Jacob, and Micah.

Following her studies, Borowicz was a fourth-grade elementary school teacher. From 2008 to 2012, she was the president of Make a Stand USA, a nonprofit organization Borowicz co-created with her sister to have prayer gatherings at schools.

Borowicz was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 76th Legislative District in 2018. While in office, she has focused her legislative efforts on protecting Second Amendment rights, fighting the opioid epidemic, and reducing taxes. She has co-sponsored additional legislation including a heartbeat bill which would outlaw abortions to embryos that have a heartbeat, and the informed consent protection act which protects individuals who inquire about risks and benefits associated with vaccines.

When asked about her role as Representative in her district, Borowicz explained, “The mission of keeping my word to the people of the 76th Legislative District starts immediately. Effectively and transparently governing on behalf of the people means eliminating wasteful spending, increasing funding for local schools and fighting to reduce taxes for families, seniors, farmers, and job creators. The citizens who elected me to serve them deserve nothing less.”





Elizabeth Fiedler

Born: July 18, 1980, Bloomsburg, Columbia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 184th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, 2019-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Elizabeth A. Fiedler was born on July 18, 1980 in Bloomsburg, Columbia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Bloomsburg High School. She later graduated from Bucknell University with her B.A. in international relations. She married Adam Rackes in 2004, and they have two children.

Following her studies, Fiedler was a reporter for WHYI-FM, a public radio station, for 10 years where she covered community affairs. Fiedler worked in the restaurant industry in Philadelphia for six years. She was also the president of the Board of Governors for the Pen and Pencil Club, the Philadelphia press social organization, in 2014.

Fiedler was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 184th Legislative District in 2018. She explained that one of her main motivators to run for office came from her previous career experience. She stated, “As a reporter, I covered education, healthcare, and city and state politics, and so I got to see firsthand some of the struggles that people had with the education system, the impact of underfunding.”²³⁵ Fiedler also ran for public office because she “wanted to be directly involved in shaping the kind of world that I want them [her children] to grow up in...I really felt like I couldn’t rest if I didn’t at least try.” While in office, she has focused her legislation on affordable healthcare, strong public education through better teacher benefits, and clean renewable energy. She is the prime sponsor of House Bill 1002 of 2019, which provides for a mentorship program for former incarcerated individuals.





Danielle Friel Otten

Born: July 25, 1977, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 155th Legislative District, Chester County, 2019-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Danielle E. Friel Otten (née Friel) was born on July 25, 1977 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Governor Mifflin High School in 1995, and from West Chester University in 2000 with a B.S. in kinesiology. Friel Otten also received a certificate in hospitality marketing in 2008 from Cornell University. She is married and has two children: Jack and Eleanor.

Following her studies, Friel Otten became the advertising sales supervisor in Chester County for the Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News from 2001 to 2004. In 2004, she co-founded and co-owned the store Oh Baby! Maternity and Nursery, which was open until 2008. Friel Otten worked as the marketing manager at the Iron Hill Brewery and Restaurant from 2007 to 2012. In 2012, she became the director of marketing for Garces Restaurant Group, a position she held until 2014. Since 2014, Friel Otten has been a freelance business and marketing consultant. She is also the co-founder of the Uwchlan Safety Coalition, as well as a member for the Uwchlan Township Parks and Recreation Board.

Friel Otten was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 155th Legislative District in 2018. While in office, she has focused on public safety, environmental conservation, affordable healthcare, and creating quality public schools. Friel Otten introduced House Bill 1735 of 2019, which would create a Pipeline Early Detection and Warning Board and give them the power to collect fees from pipeline operators to use for warning systems in the community. She has also introduced House Bill 1708 of 2019, which would provide free menstrual hygiene products in public school bathrooms that have students in grades 6-12. Friel Otten is dedicated to putting the needs of her constituents first. "Democracy is government for and by the people, not corporate lobbies, and not in the interest of protecting political careers. These are the values and the commitment I will bring to Harrisburg."²³⁶





Valerie S. Gaydos

Born: July 3, 1967, Leetsdale, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 44th Legislative District, Allegheny County, 2019-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Valerie S. Gaydos was born on July 3, 1967 in Leetsdale, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Sewickley Academy in 1986, and from Dickinson College in 1989 with a B.A. in Russian and economics. Gaydos married Bruce E. Johnson. Johnson passed away in 2002.

Following her studies, Gaydos worked as an intern for U.S. Senator H. John Heinz III from 1988 to 1989. From 1989 to 1992, she worked as a legislative assistant for the Pennsylvania Senate Republican Caucus. Gaydos served as the director of the Greater Baltimore Technology Council from 1992 to 1995. She is the founder and president of both Capitol Growth Inc. and Angel Venture Forum, which were founded in 1994 and 2012 respectively. Gaydos has been the president and owner of 51st Associates LLC since 2002. From 2014 to 2016, she worked as the director for Accelerator for the Commercialization of Technology, Maryland Center for Entrepreneurship.

Gaydos was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 44th Legislative District in 2018. While in office, Gaydos has focused on fiscal responsibility, small businesses, and senior safety. She is an advocate for reducing paperwork and regulations that are a burden on citizens and business in Pennsylvania. She introduced House Bill 943 of 2019, which would give pharmacists the right to tell customers if they could save money on a prescription by paying out of pocket rather than going through their insurance. Gaydos has also introduced House Bill 1507 of 2019, which would require school districts to assign student sex offenders to a different school than that of their victim and victim's siblings.

When asked if she had any advice for other women thinking of running for public office, Gaydos said, "The only obstacle in life is not recognizing and taking advantage of opportunities that are presented to us every day. I am fortunate that my outlook on life is that the only risk in life is not taking one."²³⁷





Barbara Gleim

Born: May 20, 1964, Latham, Prince George's County, Maryland. Member of the House: 199th Legislative District, Cumberland County, 2019-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Barbara Gleim (née Chiccehitto) was born on May 20, 1964 in Latham, Prince George's County, Maryland. Gleim graduated from Glenelg High School in 1982. She graduated from the University of Maryland in 1985 with her B.A. in political science, and from Delaware Valley University in 2009 with her M.B.A. in food and agribusiness. She married Tracy Kelly in 2005, and they have three children: Kaitlin, Emily, and Daniel.

Following her studies, Gleim worked in the private sector, where she was the project manager for Ahold Delhaize and Daymon Worldwide. She later worked as the director of Operations and director of Business Development at John W. Gleim, Jr. Inc. Excavating. She is co-owner and operator of Hayman Farms.

Gleim was elected to the Cumberland Valley School Board, where she served for eight years, including two years as president. She was also a board member of the Cumberland-Perry Vocational Technical School, a member of the Cumberland County Council of Republican Women, and a committee person for Middlesex Township on the Cumberland County Republican Committee. Gleim was a member of the Cumberland County Agricultural Education Extension Board, the Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School Task Force and the Cumberland Valley Economic Development Task Force. Gleim is currently a member of the Conservative Leaders for Education.

Gleim was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 199th Legislative District in 2018. While in office, she has focused on the reduction of property taxes, responsible land development in relation to preservation of natural resources, and the promotion and protection of agritourism. Gleim is the sponsor of House Bill 1348 of 2019, which would provide protection for agritourism activity providers from civil liability. After Gleim was appointed secretary for the Education Committee, she stated, "I am passionate about our next generation's future in Pennsylvania and I am excited to utilize my experience at local, state and national levels here in the General Assembly."²³⁸





Roni Green

Born: June 9, 1959. Member of the House: 190th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, March 16, 2020-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Gwendolyn “Roni” Green was born June 9, 1959. She graduated from Murrell Dobbins Vocational High School in 1977. Green continued her studies at George Meany Labor College, and as a fellow at the Rockwood Leadership Institute. She has two daughters: LaCora and Michaella.

Following her studies, Green worked as a human services caseworker with the Glendale County Assistance Office from 1988 to 2007. She later began working as a community and labor organizer, ultimately becoming a business agent for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 668 in 2007. She also served as the Secretary Treasurer of the SEIU Local 668 from 2011 to 2014.

Following the resignation of Representative Movita Johnson-Harrell, Green was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 190th Legislative District in a special election on February 25, 2020. She was sworn in on March 16, 2020. Upon her swearing-in, Green said, “I’ve been in the Capitol building so many times as an advocate for working people. It’s hard to find the words to express my excitement about the opportunity to work as a legislator to help lift our people out of poverty, end mass incarceration and ensure a living wage for our working families.”²³⁹

While in office, Green’s legislative priorities include: workers’ rights, affordable housing, sensible gun reform to combat the gun violence epidemic, equitable community and economic development, and criminal justice reform.





Liz Hanbidge

Born: February 25, 1982. Member of the House: 61st Legislative District, Montgomery County, 2019-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Laura Elizabeth Frances “Liz” Hanbidge was born on February 25, 1982. She graduated from Foxcroft School in 2000, and from the University of Pennsylvania with her B.A. in 2004. Hanbidge graduated from the University of Oxford with her M.S. in psychology in 2005, Harvard University with her M.Ed. in 2006, and from the University of Wisconsin with her J.D. in 2008. She is attending the University of Cambridge for her Ph.D. in social and developmental psychology.

Following her studies, Hanbidge worked in corporate law before opening her own law practice in Montgomery County assisting families, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations. She also teaches civics to sixth graders at Gwyn-Nor Elementary, and at East Norriton Middle School in conjunction with the local bar association. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Council of Mediators and was the former co-chair of the Parenting Coordination Committee of the Montgomery County Bar Association, for which she is a current member. Hanbidge is also a board member of the Foxcroft School Board of Trustees.

Hanbidge was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 61st Legislative District in 2018. During her campaign, Hanbidge explained, “Our communities deserve an advocate. I’ve spent my entire career fighting to help families and children in our area. I’m running for office to focus on what is important and to make our district a better place to live and raise a family, and I want to be your voice in Harrisburg.”²⁴⁰ While in office, she has focused her legislation on improving the quality of education and healthcare advocacy. She sponsored House Bill 1328 of 2019, which would allow election poll workers to bring ballots to the vehicles of those who are temporarily injured, disabled, or elderly.





Kristine C. Howard

Born: June 7, 1961, Haddon Heights, Camden County, New Jersey. Member of the House: 167th Legislative District, Chester County, 2019-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Kristine C. Howard was born on June 7, 1961 in Haddon Heights, Camden County, New Jersey. She graduated from Haddon Heights High School. Howard also graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1985 with a B.A. in philosophy and from Rutgers University School of Law in 1989 with a J.D. She has seven children.

Following her studies, Howard worked in various capacities for the University of Pennsylvania from 1980 to 1987. In 1993, Howard became the executive director for Self Help Inc. in New Mexico, where she worked until 1995. She was employed as a legal administrator for Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts from 2000 to 2004. From 2011 to 2012, Howard was a neighborhood team leader for Obama for America. In 2017, she served as a caseworker specialist for the Chester County Department of Children, Youth, and Families, and she worked in this position until she was elected to the House of Representatives.

Howard was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 167th Legislative District in 2018. Howard explained the issues that are most important to her are “Ones involving the welfare of children, the rights of women, the protection of our environment, and the administration of justice.”²⁴¹ She introduced House Bill 1727 of 2019, which would have technology monitor pipelines and send out an alert to state and local agencies in the case of an emergency. Howard also introduced House Bill 1344 of 2019, which would add “intellectual or physical disability” to the list of elements for hate crime charges. Howard is motivated by her experience as a mother and caseworker. “I’m a mother of seven and have focused on the principle of putting children first, ensuring their safety, and laying the right groundwork that leads to a bright future.”²⁴²

When asked what she most enjoys about being a Representative, Howard explained, “What I enjoy most is the feeling of accomplishment and hope I get when we actually do something I know will make life better for the kids and families I want to help.”²⁴³





Sara Innamorato

Born: April 24, 1986, Ross Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 21st Legislative District, Allegheny County, 2019-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Sara Innamorato was born on April 24, 1986 in Ross Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from North Hills High School in 2004, and from the University of Pittsburgh in 2008 with a B.S. in business administration and marketing.

Following her studies, Innamorato worked as an event marketer for the Pittsburgh Steelers from 2007 to 2011. From 2008 to 2012, she worked for Apple Inc. as a concierge, and later an associate for the Apple Store Leadership Program. Innamorato served as the marketing and communications manager of GTECH Strategies from 2012 to 2015. In 2015, she founded her own marketing and communications company, Innamo Co. which she still owns. Innamorato is also the co-founder of She Runs SWPA, which helps other women run for political positions, and she is a member of the Lawrenceville United Housing Committee.

Innamorato was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 21st Legislative District in 2018. While in office, Innamorato has focused on expanding healthcare, raising the minimum wage, making housing more affordable, and encouraging participation in government. She introduced House Bill 1556 of 2019, which would automatically register qualified people to vote when they interact with PennDOT or any other state service unless they opted out.

Innamorato has a positive outlook on the future of women being elected into political offices. "If you look at it from a national scale, now more than ever we have a desire for more women to step up and run for public office. We have a constituency that is eager to be invited into the civic process and really to understand what goes on at a state and local level."²⁴⁴





Mary Isaacson

Born: November 15, 1970, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 175th Legislative District, Philadelphia County, 2019-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Mary Louise Isaacson (née Renner) was born on November 15, 1970 in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated with an A.S. in early childhood development from the State University of New York at Farmingdale. She also earned a B.S. in political science from the State University of New York Oneonta. She is certified by the Temple Real Estate Institute. She married Christopher Isaacson, and they have two children: Sophia and Oscar.

Following her studies, she worked in state and local politics. From 2006 to 2018, she served as a member of the Democratic Committee of Philadelphia, and from 2010 to 2018, she served on the Democratic State Committee of Pennsylvania. From 2006 to 2018, Isaacson also worked as the chief of staff to Pennsylvania Representative Michael O'Brien from the 175th Legislative District.

Isaacson was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 175th Legislative District in 2018. During her time in office, she prime sponsored House Bill 676 of 2019, which would allow employees in Pennsylvania to take up to two hours of time off of work to vote on a general election day. Speaking on making the ballot box more accessible, she said, "We need to make Pennsylvania, which is one of the most closed states to voter access, to make it open and more transparent, to allow more people the opportunity to vote and more time to get their vote counted."²⁴⁵ She said her other priorities as a representative are focusing on education and the environment.

When asked why it is important for women to be in the legislature, Isaacson simply said, "It's important for representation to reflect the population."²⁴⁶





Bridget M. Kosierowski

Born: March 31, 1972, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 114th Legislative District, Lackawanna County, April 8, 2019-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Bridget Anne Kosierowski (née Malloy) was born on March 31, 1972 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Scranton Preparatory School in 1990 and from Villanova University in 1994 with a B.S. in Nursing. Kosierowski married Joseph Kosierowski in 1999, and they have four children: Jake, Maggie, Anna, and Noah.

Following her studies, Kosierowski worked as a registered nurse for 25 years. She worked at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania from 1994 to 2004 and Northeast Surgery Center from 2004 to 2019. Kosierowski also volunteers with St. Joseph's Center and Scranton Preparatory School. She attended Ready to Run, a one-day seminar at the University of Scranton that encourages more women to get involved in politics. During this program, she decided to run for the 114th Legislative District's open seat after Representative Sid M. Kavulich's passing.

Kosierowski was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 114th Legislative District in a special election on March 12, 2019. She was sworn in on April 8, 2019. While in office, Kosierowski has focused on affordable health care, public school funding, and property taxes. When asked if she had advice for other women considering running for elected office, Kosierowski said, "Don't think about what you won't be able to do. Think about what you can do. Think about your skill set, what you can bring and don't be afraid."²⁴⁷

Kosierowski said, "Women bring a different set of skills to the 'table.' We compromise, prioritize, and multitask at a high level. Compassion and patience is sometimes the most important skills to compromise and solve issues."²⁴⁸





Summer Lee

Born: November 26, 1987, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 34th Legislative District, Allegheny County, 2019-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Summer Lee was born on November 26, 1987 in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Woodland Hills High School in 2005. In 2009, she graduated with a B.A. in journalism from Pennsylvania State University. She additionally earned her J.D. from the Howard University School of Law in 2015.

Following her studies, she worked with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and served as a student attorney at the Howard University School of Law Civil Rights Clinic. Prior to her time as an elected official, she was connected to state and local politics as an organizer and activist. She worked as a field manager for Grassroots Campaign, a State College-based state organization. She also worked as a field organizer for the Pennsylvania Democratic Party in her home district.

Lee was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 34th Legislative District in 2018. While in office, she has been an advocate for criminal justice reform and ending mass incarceration. On this topic, she said, “Mass incarceration is the antithesis of building stronger families and communities in the district. The criminal and juvenile justice systems are among the biggest barriers to social justice and upward mobility...our state must shift from investing in punishment to investing in our children.”²⁴⁹ She introduced House Bill 1009, which calls for pregnant women convicted of a crime receiving an alternative sentence, if possible, to keep them out of prison to rehabilitate themselves in other ways. Other issues for which Lee is an advocate are tuition-free college, free public health care, and defending both women’s rights and the rights of the LGBTQ community.





Natalie N. Mihalek

Born: June 12, 1979, McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 40th Legislative District, Allegheny and Washington Counties, 2019-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Natalie Nichole Mihalek was born on June 12, 1979, McKeesport, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Mihalek graduated from South Allegheny High School in 1997. She joined the United States Navy, serving as a nuclear machinist mate until 2000. She graduated with a B.A. in social sciences from the University of Pittsburgh in 2004, and graduated with a J.D. from Appalachian School of Law in 2007. She married Jeremy Stuck in 2009, and they have three children: Petra, Naila, and Dresden.

Following her studies, Mihalek was employed as the assistant district attorney for Allegheny County from 2007 to 2010. She was then employed as an attorney for Elliott and Davis, PC, until 2013. Mihalek opened her own law firm, Natalie Mihalek Attorney at Law, in 2014. Mihalek was the Assistant Vice President of the Pittsburgh National Corporation from 2016 to 2018.

Mihalek was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 40th Legislative District in 2018. While in office, Mihalek was the prime sponsor of the legislation that became Act 24 of 2019, which provides for increased protection and rights for victims of sexual assault, provides them with safety and assurance while they testify and shielding them from unnecessary cross-examination. She is also concerned with issues such as veterans' rights, property taxes, and the opioid epidemic. Mihalek said that she is "mindful of the need to address the state's opioid crisis, establish policies that encourage the creation of family-sustaining jobs, and ensure that our children receive a good education in a safe environment."²⁵⁰





Lori Mizgorski

Born: April 26, 1967, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 30th Legislative District, Allegheny County, 2019-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Lori Anne Mizgorski (née Voegtly) was born on April 26, 1967, in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Mizgorski graduated from Shaler Area High School in 1985, and earned a B.A. in English from Hood College in 1989. She also attended the Local Government Academy's Newly Elected Official Course in Pittsburgh from 2009 to 2010, as well as the Anne B. Anstine Excellence in Public Service Series from 2012 to 2013. She married David Mark Mizgorski, and they have three children: Roslyn, Grant, and Darin.

Following her studies, Mizgorski was employed as a sales associate at ANN, Inc., from 2009 to 2013. From 2013 to 2018, she was the chief of staff for Representative Hal English. Mizgorski was a member of both the Allegheny River Towns Enterprise Zone board of directors and the Shaler North Hills Library board of directors. She was appointed by the governor to the Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council for two years, elected as the Second Ward Commissioner of Shaler Township from 2010 to 2018, and appointed to the board of the Port Authority of Allegheny County in 2019.

Mizgorski was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 30th Legislative District in 2018. While in office, she sponsored legislation dealing with issues such as human and child trafficking, the age of consent in mental health treatment, and permanent registry on marketing "do not call" lists. She is also concerned with gun violence, calling for state-funded armed officers in school buildings. Mizgorski said that her priorities "include passing a balanced budget and revenue plan simultaneously, maintaining roads and bridges, and supporting school safety measures."²⁵¹ She is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Cities, Counties of the Second Class for the Urban Affairs Committee.

Mizgorski encouraged women considering running for public office to "Run for the position, not against an opponent. Think of yourself as a candidate, not a female candidate. Be willing to work harder and longer than anyone else. Believe in yourself."²⁵²





Marci Mustello

Born: July 25, 1970, Butler County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 11th Legislative District, Butler County, June 4, 2019-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Marci Mustello was born on July 25, 1970 in Butler County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Butler High School in 1988. She attended Butler County Community College, Slippery Rock University, and Grove City College.

Following her studies, Mustello was employed as a bail bondsman before becoming president of the board of directors for the Butler County Humane Society. Mustello was responsible for overseeing the administration, programs, and day-to-day operations of the organization. Mustello was a staffer for United States Representative Mike Kelly from January 2011 to March 2019. She was a long-time member of the Republican State Committee, and served as secretary for the committee in 1996.

Mustello was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 11th Legislative District in a special election on May 21, 2019. She was sworn in on June 4, 2019. On her swearing-in day, Mustello stated “I am committed to improving the quality of life for all residents and making sure our children have the best education available. I will also strive to reform Harrisburg by working to end the opioid crisis, raising awareness of animal cruelty and ending the influence of special interests.”²⁵³ While in office, Mustello has also worked on issues related to energy, agriculture, Second Amendment rights, fiscal responsibility, and pro-life rights.

When asked what women legislators bring to the table, Mustello said, “Fifty-one percent of the residents of Pennsylvania are women. It is important that female voices be heard and that our perspectives influence the laws of Pennsylvania since we make up over half of the residents of our state. Women are more likely to be mediators and team builders – these are important qualities in a large, diverse legislature where success is often based upon our ability to build consensus.”²⁵⁴





Jennifer O'Mara

Born: November 12, 1989, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 165th Legislative District, Delaware County, 2019-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Jennifer O'Mara was born on November 12, 1989 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Interboro High School in 2007, and from West Chester University in 2011 with a B.A. in history and secondary education. O'Mara also graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2017 with an M.A. in English and history. She married Bradford Bitting in 2017.

Following her studies, O'Mara worked as the coordinator for the Student Giving Program at West Chester University from 2010 to 2011. She also worked as an administrative assistant for Principal Gifts from 2012 to 2014. In 2014, O'Mara became the administrative coordinator of University Stewardship for Development and Alumni Relations at the University of Pennsylvania until 2015, when she became the assistant director of university stewardship until 2018. O'Mara also serves on the board of directors for the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils.

O'Mara was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 165th Legislative District in 2018. While in office, she has focused on public education, veterans, first responders, and affordable healthcare. She is also invested in breaking the stigma around mental health and increasing suicide prevention efforts. O'Mara introduced House Bill 857 of 2019, which would amend the Tax Reform Code to allow taxpayers to choose to transfer part of their PA Personal Income Tax refund to the Veterans Trust Fund. She has also introduced House Bill 1558, which would allow for early voting in Pennsylvania. The polls would be open 30 days prior to Election Day on weekdays during normal business hours. Eight days before Election Day, the polls would be open later in the evening and on specified weekend hours.

O'Mara cites her personal background as her motivation to run for the House. "Delaware County is where I developed my dedication to public service when my family was able to survive after losing my father to suicide. Thanks to excellent public services, my father's union



pension, strong public schools, and my mother's union job, we made it through. I believe that everyone should have those same opportunities and will fight to protect and expand them in the new legislative session."²⁵⁵

O'Mara advises women considering running for public office: "You have to run, no matter what! My advice is that you can't let other people deter you or scare you away. If you want to be an elected official, you will be able to figure out all the challenges that come with it, just like you do in every other aspect of your life. So don't talk yourself out of it...just run!"²⁵⁶





Christina D. Sappey

Born: August 31, 1962, New Jersey. Member of the House: 158th Legislative District, Chester County, 2019-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Christina D. Sappey (née Davies) was born on August 31, 1962 in New Jersey. She graduated from Briarcliff High School in 1980 and from Pine Manor College in 1982 with an A.A. in liberal arts. Sappey graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1985 with a B.A. in political science. She married Johnathan Sappey, and they have three children: Julia, Truman, and Henry.

Following her studies, Sappey worked as a legislative assistant for the Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Caucus from 2006 to 2007. From 2007 until 2010 she worked for State Representative Barbara McIlvaine Smith as her chief of staff. Sappey also served as the director of legislative initiatives for State Senator Andy Dinniman from 2011 to 2016. In 2017, she became State Representative Carolyn Comitta's chief of staff until 2018.

Sappey was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 158th Legislative District in 2018. While in office, she has focused on education and environmental protection funding. Sappey introduced House Bill 1435 of 2019, which would require employers to give employees six weeks of unpaid leave if they were the primary caregiver for a family member with a terminal illness. She has also introduced House Bill 249 of 2019, which would have the courts consider prior strangulation convictions when deciding future cases. As a freshman member, Sappey said she is "proud to be a part of this new class of legislators. We are committed to changing business as usual. We are a diverse group and are more representative of the people."²⁵⁷





Meghan Schroeder

Born: March 12, 1986, Englewood, New Jersey. Member of the House: 29th Legislative District, Bucks County, 2019-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Meghan Alanna Schroeder graduated from Central Bucks East High School in 2004 and from Millersville University of Pennsylvania in 2008 with a B.A. in political science. She married Kurt Schroeder in 2013, and they have one child: Gianna.

Following her studies, Schroeder worked as a legislative aide and district office manager for State Representative Bernard T. O'Neill for 10 years. In 2018, Schroeder sought to fill O'Neill's seat following his retirement.

Schroeder was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to serve the 29th Legislative District in 2018. While in office, she has focused on school safety, quality education, property tax reform, and open space preservation. Schroeder introduced House Bill 1457, which would have insurance companies create a clearer policy that covers whichever form of breast prosthetic is best for an individual following a mastectomy. Schroeder has also introduced House Bill 1497, which would allow interior designers to apply to be registered interior designers if they met specific education and experience requirements. Besides the legislation she has introduced, Schroeder has also emphasized the importance of safe and quality schools. "As a mother and a taxpayer, I have a real interest in our state's education system and how we can best maximize the potential of each student."²⁵⁸



Melissa Shusterman

Born: September 8, 1967, Phoenixville, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 157th Legislative District, Chester and Montgomery Counties, 2019-present.

Affiliation: Democrat.



Melissa Shusterman was born on September 8, 1967 in Phoenixville, Chester County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Conestoga High School in 1985 and from Lafayette College in 1989 with a B.A. in Russian studies and history. Shusterman graduated from the American University with an M.A. in cinematography and film in 2003. She married Hans Mueller in 2012, and they have one child: Paris.

Following her studies, Shusterman worked as a freelance television producer and a freelance Web 2.0 and digital video marketing consultant. From 2009 to 2010, Shusterman worked as an independent consultant for D4 Creative Group. In 2010, she became president of Fedora Media. Shusterman also founded the Women's Caucus of the Chester County Democratic Committee.

Shusterman was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 157th Legislative District in 2018. She is currently serving as a Deputy Whip. While in office, she has focused on public school funding, environmental protection, government accountability, women's rights, and helping Pennsylvanians with disabilities. Shusterman introduced House Bill 385, which would hold the pay from the General Assembly, governor, lieutenant governor, and cabinet secretaries if the state budget is not passed on time. She also introduced House Bill 719 which would require companies that receive Second Stage Loans to keep their company in Pennsylvania to create more jobs. Shusterman said she never thought she would run for office, "but this was something I felt I had to do as an American. I was never in the military, so this is my way to serve my state and my district."²⁵⁹

When asked about bonds between female legislators, Shusterman said, "I am inspired by many of my female colleagues, including Madam Chair McClinton, SE Chair Davidson, EmergePA founders Representative Davis, Representative Daley and all of the freshmen Representatives and Senators. I am also inspired by women across the state and across the country as they become motivated to run for office in large numbers."²⁶⁰ Her advice for women thinking of running for public office is: "Don't complain, do it. Only you can bring the change you want."²⁶¹





Wendi Thomas

Born: August 1961, Perkasio, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 178th Legislative District, Bucks County, 2019-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Wendi Lepage Thomas (née Jacobs) was born in August 1961 in Perkasio, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Hatboro Horsham High School in 1979 and from Gettysburg College in 1983 with a B.A. in political science and accounting. Thomas married John Thomas in 1987, and they have three children: John III, Justin, and Stephanie.

Following her studies, Thomas worked for Aetna as a district manager from 1987 to 1999. In 2001 she started at AXIS Health Care Communications as an IT liaison until 2005. From 2005 to 2018, Thomas worked at Health Advocate as the senior vice president of sales and account management. She also served on the Council Rock School District board from 2008 to 2018 and is a board member of the Council Rock Education Foundation.

Thomas was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 178th Legislative District in 2018. While in office, she has worked on issues regarding fiscal responsibility, education, human trafficking, mental healthcare, and health insurance. Thomas introduced House Bill 991, which would have public officials and employees give up their pensions if they committed a sexual offense. She has also introduced House Bill 1622 named “Phillip’s Law” for an 11-year-old student who committed suicide. The legislation would require the Pennsylvania Department of Education to report the number of mental health professionals that schools have and to make suggestions of ways to increase that number. Thomas is also focused on creating a budget that works for everyone. “Government needs to work more like we do in our homes and businesses: by setting priorities, asking if we really need to spend money on a particular item, and then making a decision that is best for all.”²⁶²

Thomas counts a petition gathering 1,200 signatures in less than two weeks to try and change a toll she feels is unfair as one of her most rewarding successes so far as a Member of the House.

When asked what advice she would give women considering running for public office, Thomas said, “Have thick skin, don’t take the misrepresentation of who you are personally, make sure your family is strong, and be comfortable asking for support – financially and otherwise.”²⁶³





Kathleen C. "KC" Tomlinson

Born: September 29, 1988, Bensalem Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Member of the House: 18th Legislative District, Bucks County, April 6, 2020-present. Affiliation: Republican.

Kathleen C. "KC" Tomlinson was born September 29, 1988, in Bensalem Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She is the daughter of Robert and Nancy Tomlinson. Her father, Robert "Tommy" Tomlinson, has served as a Member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the Pennsylvania State Senate.

Tomlinson graduated from Bensalem High School and later completed the Mercer County Mortuary Program in 2014. In 2016 she earned her funeral director's license. She works in her family's business, the Tomlinson Funeral Home, and is a third-generation funeral director.

Following the resignation of Representative Eugene D. DiGirolamo, Tomlinson was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in a special election on March 17, 2020. She was sworn-in on April 6, 2020. Tomlinson's swearing-in took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, and of the unusual circumstances she said, "I'm extremely proud to have been sworn-in today as state representative in the 18th Legislative District. I am honored to get the opportunity to serve my community especially during such trying times. As soon as I took the oath of office, I immediately went to work on legislation to help our community through the COVID-19 crisis. I look forward to serving my community with dignity, as we work to defeat the coronavirus, and get Pennsylvania back on track."²⁶⁴ While in office, Tomlinson has made better schools, fairer taxes, and an economy that produces better-paying jobs for Pennsylvanians her top priorities.

When asked what she enjoys most about the job of a Representative, Tomlinson said, "I truly love getting up and going to work every day. I feel so blessed that I get the opportunity to do this amazing job. Fighting for my constituents or helping them through an issue is very rewarding."²⁶⁵





Wendy Ullman

Born: July 29, 1952, Oneida, Madison County, New York. Member of the House: 143rd Legislative District, Bucks County, 2019-present. Affiliation: Democrat.

Wendy Ullman (née Collier) was born on July 29, 1952 in Oneida, Madison County, New York. She graduated from Watertown High School in 1970 and from the State University of New York, Potsdam in 1974 with a B.A. in English. Ullman also graduated from the University of Maine in 1976 with an M.A. in English. She married Daniel Ullman, and they have three daughters: Katherine, Julia, and Margaret.

Following her studies, Ullman became an English professor. She has worked at Bucks County Community College since 1988 and Montgomery County Community College since 1993. Ullman taught at Delaware Valley College from 1995 to 1997. She is also a member of the American Federation of Teachers.

Ullman was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent the 143rd Legislative District in 2018. While in office, she has focused on gun control, redistricting reform, family and women’s rights, education, and environmental protection. Ullman introduced House Bill 1322, which would create a bottle/can deposit program in Pennsylvania. She said one of her proudest moments so far in the legislature has been “Standing strong against the attempt to gut the authority of the Delaware River Basin Commission.”²⁶⁶

Ullman believes her time as an educator will be an asset to her while in the House. “I have actively collaborated with colleagues and chaired and served on committees, and worked with colleagues on research projects from inception, research, data collection, analysis, and presentation of findings. I am prepared to work collaboratively to research, draft and introduce legislation.”²⁶⁷

When asked what women bring to the table, Ullman responded, “Women bring life experiences and unique perspectives and priorities. Without women’s voices the legislature is not reflecting the vast diversity of the Commonwealth.”²⁶⁸



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Endnotes

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Allegheny

Bennington, Lisa
Burns, Barbara A.
Farmer, Elaine F.
Gaydos, Valerie S.
Gillette, Helen D.
Grimes, Helen D.
Heiser, Lori
Innamorato, Sara
Kernick, Phyllis T.
Kulik, Anita Astorino
Langtry, Alice S.
Laughlin, Susan
Lee, Summer
Mihalek, Natalie N.
Mizgorski, Lori
Molchany, Erin C.
Orie, Jane Clare
Wagner, Chelsa

Armstrong

Oberlander, Donna

Beaver

Laughlin, Susan

Berks

Miller, Sheila M.
Wilson, Lilith M.

Blair

Ward, Judith F.

Bradford

Pickett, Tina
Sirianni, Carmel

Bucks

Davis, Tina
Fawcett, Charlotte D.
George, Margaret H.
Kooker, Margarette S.
Quinn, Marguerite
Schroeder, Meghan
Tai, Helen
Thomas, Wendi
Tomlinson, Kathleen
Ullman, Wendy
Watson, Katharine
Wilson, Jean L.

Butler

Carone, Patricia A.
MacKinney, Sarah Gertrude
Mustello, Marci

Cambria

Clark, Rita
Gallaher, Sarah McCune
Steelman, Sara Ann
Telek, Leona G.

Centre

Borowicz, Stephanie P.
Rudy, Ruth
Wise, Helen D.

Chester

Comitta, Carolyn
Corbin, Becky
Crawford, Patricia A.
Friel Otten, Danielle
Howard, Kristine C.
Rubley, Carole
Sappey, Christina D.
Shusterman, Melissa
Smith, Barbara McIlvaine

Taylor, Elinor Z.
Thomas, Martha Gibbons

Clarion

Oberlander, Donna

Clinton

Borowicz, Stephanie P.
Donahue, Ruth S.

Columbia

Boback, Karen

Crawford

Bentley, Alice M.
Brooks, Michele
Forcier, Teresa E.
Maine, Constance
Rapp, Kathy
Seyfert, R. Tracy

Cumberland

Delozier, Sheryl
George, Lourene W.
Gleim, Barbara
Keefer, Dawn
Vance, Patricia H.

Dauphin

Helm, Susan C.
Kim, Patty

Delaware

Arty, Mary Ann
Davidson, Margo
Donatucci, Maria P.
Durham, Kathrynann W.
Kernaghan, Mae
Krueger, Leanne T.
McClinton, Joanna
Odorisio, Helen
O'Mara, Jennifer
Whittlesey, Faith Ryan

Erie

Bebko-Jones, Linda
Seyfert, R. Tracy
Wright, Gayle

Fayette

Adams, Ella Louella Collier
Kula, Deberah
Snyder, Pam

Forest

Oberlander, Donna
Rapp, Kathy

Greene

Snyder, Pam

Indiana

Steelman, Sara Ann

Lackawanna

Boback, Karen
Kosierowski, Bridget M.
Munley, Marion L.

Lancaster

Honaman, June N.
Horting, Ruth Grigg
Fee, Mindy
True, Katie

Lawrence

Brooks, Michele
Carone, Patricia A.

Lebanon

Gingrich, Mauree A.
Helm, Susan C.
Swanger, RoseMarie

Lehigh

Baker, Jane S.
Beyer, Karen D.
Boscola, Lisa M.
Harhart, Juliann L.
Leiby, Mary Elizabeth
Mann, Jennifer L.
Markley, Marian E.
McHale, Katherine
McNeill, Jeanne
Ritter, Karen A.

Luzerne

Boback, Karen
Mundy, Phyllis
Toohil, Tarah C.

McKean

Rapp, Kathy

Mercer

Brooks, Michele
Dye, Jeanette M.

Mifflin

Rudy, Ruth

Monroe

Brown, Rosemary M.
Maureen Madden

Montgomery

Bard, Ellen M.
Brooks, Wallis W.
Brugger, Jeanne D.
Cohen, Lita I.
Cornell, Susan
Crahalla, Jacqueline R.
Dailey, Mary Ann
Daley, Mary Jo
Dean, Madeleine
DeLissio, Pamela A.
Fawcett, Charlotte D.
Hagarty, Lois S.
Hanbidge, Liz
Harhart, Juliann L.
Harley, Ellen A.
Harper, Kate
Henzel, Evelyn Glazier
Kirkbride, Mabelle Mills
Lewis, Marilyn S.
Manderino, Kathy M.
Rubley, Carole
Sheehan, Colleen A.
Shusterman, Melissa
Toepel, Marcy
Weber, Melissa Murphy
Williams, Connie H.

Northampton

Beyer, Karen D.
Boscola, Lisa M.
Hahn, Marcia M.
Reibman, Jeanette F.

Northumberland

Culver, Lynda Schlegel

Philadelphia

Acosta, Leslie
Anderson, Sarah A.
Bishop, Louise E. Williams
Brancato, Anna M.
Brown, Vanessa Lowery
Brownlee, Michelle F.
Bullock, Donna
Cephas, Morgan B.
Cook-Artis, Tonyelle
Cornell, Susan
Coyle, Josephine C.
DeLissio, Pamela A.
Donatucci, Maria P.
Duffy, Mary Alice
Fauset, Crystal Bird
Fiedler, Elizabeth
Fitzgerald, Isabella V.
Green, Roni
Harper, Ruth B.
Isaacson, Mary
Johnson-Harrell, Movita
Jones, Frances R.
Josephs, Babette
Kitchen, Shirley M.
Kelly, Anita Palermo
Lederer, Marie A.
Manderino, Kathy M.
McClinton, Joanna
McCosker, Henrietta C.

McHugh, Constance
Miller, Beatrice Z.
Monroe, Susie
Parker, Cherelle
Pashley, Kathryn Graham
Pennock, Martha M.
Pitts, Lillie F. Hance
Scanlon, Agnes M.
Speiser, Martha G.
Toll, Rose
Varallo, Mary A.
Washington, Leanna M.
Weston, Frances
White, Martina A.
Winter, Elizabeth A.
de Young, Rosa
Youngblood, Rosita C.

Pike

Brown, Rosemary M.

Snyder

Culver, Lynda Schlegel

Somerset

Telek, Leona G.

Sullivan

Major, Sandra
Pickett, Tina
Sirianni, Carmel

Susquehanna

Major, Sandra

Pickett, Tina
Sirianni, Carmel

Warren

Rapp, Kathy

Washington

Mihalek, Natalie N.
Snyder, Pam

Wayne

Major, Sandra

Westmoreland

Denman, Mary Thompson
Kula, Deberah
Trescher, Maud B.

Wyoming

Boback, Karen
Major, Sandra
Sirianni, Carmel
Wynd, Elisabeth E.

York

Alexander, Jane M.
Hill-Evans, Carol
Keefer, Dawn
Klunk, Kate A.
Phillips-Hill, Kristin
Mackereth, Beverly

Counties That Have Not Elected Female Representatives:

Adams

Bedford

Cameron

Carbon

Clearfield

Elk

Franklin

Fulton

Huntingdon

Jefferson

Juniata

Lycoming

Montour

Perry

Potter

Schuylkill

Tioga

Union

Venango