



# State Representative ▼ 191st Legislative District JOANNA E. McCLINTON

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## Dear Constituent,

On Aug. 25, I was sworn in as your new state representative for the 191st Legislative District. I was elected during a special election on Aug. 11, 2015.

As the first woman to be elected to serve the 191st District, I am truly grateful, honored and humbled for the privilege to serve you and be your voice in Harrisburg.

For the neighbors I have not yet had the pleasure to meet, let me tell you a little about myself.

Born and raised in Southwest Philadelphia, I attended school in the 191st and graduated from Grace Temple Christian Academy. A true Philly "home girl," I stayed in the city and went to La Salle University to study political science and leadership and global understanding. After La Salle, I attended Villanova University School of Law, where I acquired my legal training to serve the public.

For seven years, I served our community as trial counsel at the Defender Association of Philadelphia advocating and fighting for justice. After seeing how the law impacts the everyday citizen, I then served as chief counsel to state Sen. Anthony Hardy Williams, working on policy and legislation. As a lawmaker in Harrisburg, I will focus on true criminal justice reform, improving our education system and providing resources to our wisest neighbors, our senior citizens.

My office and I have already hosted a number of community events this fall and we look forward to serving you with excellence! We truly hope you stay connected with us and keep us in the loop with what is happening in the neighborhood. Please connect with us on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/RepMcClinton](http://www.facebook.com/RepMcClinton) or Twitter @RepMcClinton to stay up to date. Enclosed you will find a neighborhood quality of life survey; please fill it out and return it to our office.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office. We are here to serve you!

Sincerely,

**Joanna E. McClinton**  
State Representative  
191st Legislative District



*Rep. McClinton takes the oath of office, beginning her term as state Representative for the 191st Legislative District.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### We are bringing our offices to YOU!

**Monthly constituent service days  
start in January in Darby and  
Yeadon.**

**Darby Recreation Center**, 1022 Ridge Ave.,  
**Wednesday, Jan 13**, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.,  
and starting in February, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
on the FIRST Wednesday of every month.

**Yeadon Public Library**, 809 Longacre Blvd.,  
**Thursday, Jan. 14**, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.,  
and starting in February, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
on the FIRST Thursday of every month.

## MLK DAY OF SERVICE MONDAY, JAN. 18, 2016

**John Bartram High School**  
2401 S. 67th St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19142





# Just the Beginning: 100 Days and Counting!

My first 100 days in office have been very rewarding, as my staff and I have had the opportunity to work with many of you on a variety of state issues.

We kicked off in September with a mobile constituent services project at 5801 Florence Ave. In addition to meeting many neighbors, we provided children with book bags and school supplies to begin the school year.

On Sept. 3 we traveled to S.C.I. Graterford to participate in the F.A.C.T. Program (Fathers and Children Together) orientation night. This program reconnects men from our community who are currently incarcerated with their children, through parenting class and monthly visits.

On Sept. 10 we participated in Mayor Rohan Hepkins' Fair Funding Forum in Yeadon with local school board directors, elected officials and members from Gov. Tom Wolf's administration.



Sept. 12 we participated in the 12th Police District's Southwest Pride Day! This fun-filled afternoon on Woodland Avenue connected neighbors with vital resources, while providing children a play day.

*Rep. McClinton co-hosts a school supply and book bag giveaway with local community leader Saul "Duke" Landers on Sept. 1.*

## Expungement fairs offer second chances

In October, I, along with state Sen. Anthony Williams, hosted two expungement fairs with the assistance of local lawyers from our community. The first was held in Yeadon on Oct. 14 for anyone with a Delaware County record. The second was held at Myers Recreation Center on Oct. 31 for anyone with a Philadelphia County record. More than 100 people were able to clean up their criminal records at the events.

Expungement is an option for people who have had criminal charges dismissed, were acquitted after a trial, who pled guilty to a summary offense more than five years ago or if someone has completed an A.R.D. program. Contact my office if you believe you may qualify for expungement. I will also be holding my next expungement clinic in early 2016. The system currently in place



*Rep. McClinton with volunteers at the expungement clinic held Oct. 14 at Yeadon Borough Hall.*

*Rep. McClinton with staff and volunteers who participated in the Oct. 31 expungement clinic at Myers Recreation Center.*

requires people to take the extra step of hiring an attorney and filing for an expungement. For some of our neighbors, this can be burdensome and costly. In addition to hosting expungement clinics, I am offering legislation to close this loophole.

My first piece of legislation would require automatic expungements after someone is acquitted of a non-violent crime. It is very important that our neighbors with troubled pasts are not treated as second-class citizens. My second piece of legislation would officially restore the right to vote to convicted felons. While the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania ruled that felons can vote, state law does not reflect that. This bill would align the court's ruling with the statutory laws of Pennsylvania.



## Working For YOU!



*On Oct. 10, I participated in the 60th St. Business Association Open House.*



*On Oct. 17, I joined other local residents, community groups and leaders in the Hands Across Philadelphia March Against Gun Violence.*



*On Oct. 29, I hosted an interfaith clergy breakfast at Compassion CDC. Religious leaders from Darby, Yeadon and West and Southwest Philadelphia joined me for a discussion on ways we can work together for the good of the entire community, regardless of religious affiliation. Strong connections were made at the meeting which can lead to more interfaith cooperation between religious leaders and myself.*



*On Nov. 13, I teamed up with Solis, a 14-year-old R&B artist, at Anderson Elementary School for the first of many GIRL POWER tours. We met with girls from sixth through eighth grades and promoted the value of goals, education and striving toward excellence.*



*I also celebrated my first Thanksgiving in office with a free holiday dinner on Nov. 20. South West community leader Mont Brown co-hosted the event with me at the Myers Recreation Center and we served 600 meals. We were also joined by fellow state Rep. Jordan Harris, state Sen. Anthony Williams, Congressman Chaka Fattah and city Councilman Kenyatta Johnson.*

*On Nov. 21, I provided turkeys for 126 needy families in the 191st District. The turkeys were distributed at the Sayre/Morris Recreation Center.*

*On Thanksgiving, I spent half the day at Darby Recreation Center serving dinner to neighbors and half the evening at the 12th Police District serving dinner to members of the Philadelphia Police Department.*



*On Nov. 28, I met with a number of local business representatives in Yeadon as part of the Small Business Saturday celebration, which included many Delaware County neighbors as well!*

*I held the following meet-and-greet events:*



*Oct. 2 at the Sunshine Community Center;*



*Oct. 9 at the South West Senior Center;*



*Oct. 16 at the Presbyterian Homes;*



*Oct. 17 at the Darby Recreation Center;*



*and Oct. 23 at the Walnut Park Plaza.*



# Information you can use

## Do you qualify for a property tax or rent rebate? Apply by Dec. 31

Each year, the state authorizes rebates for a percentage of property taxes or rent paid by qualified seniors and others. The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is funded through Pennsylvania Lottery profits, and is meant to help reimburse low- and fixed-income homeowners for property taxes they paid in the previous year.

Also, some seniors may be eligible for rent rebates as well.

Seniors 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and permanently disabled adults between the ages of 18 and 64 may be eligible for the refunds, depending on their income level.

Homeowners may have earned up to \$35,000 and renters may have earned up to \$15,000 in the 2014 calendar year.

***Applicants must count all sources of income toward the limit, but only half of any Social Security, Supplemental Security or federal Railroad Retirement Tier 1 benefits toward their total income. COLAs are also excluded.***

For most people, the maximum rebate is \$650, depending on the person's income and other qualifications.

My staff is trained to help determine if you qualify, and to complete the forms if you are eligible. The help is free.

We have the forms available. You can also obtain one online at [www.revenue.state.pa.us](http://www.revenue.state.pa.us) or by calling toll free 1-888-222-9190.

If you are eligible and have not yet filed for the rebate for 2014, keep in mind that the deadline is Dec. 31, 2015.

2016 rebates – for the 2015 calendar year – will be available in early 2016.

### HELPFUL INSURANCE TIPS

- It is always a good time to do an insurance review. For example, meet with your agent and look for any possible discounts or reductions you may be eligible for on your auto insurance policy. Opportunities to save vary by company and may change over time.
- Married couples generally have lower car insurance rates than single people. Some companies even offer the married discount if you are engaged to be married in the next 12 months. Check with your agent.

- This year has produced lots of heavy rain. Residents who have experienced flooding should consider buying flood insurance to protect their property. Homeowner's policies do not cover flooding damage. More information can be found at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or [www.insurance.pa.gov](http://www.insurance.pa.gov).

## Community survey

Please rank the following topics in order of importance, from 1-12, with 1 being most important to you. Please return this form to my office: 6027 Ludlow St., Unit A, Philadelphia, PA 19139.

	Rank		Rank
Access to grocery stores	_____	Schools	_____
Blight	_____	Senior assistance	_____
Childcare	_____	Sidewalks	_____
Crime	_____	Streets	_____
Healthcare access	_____	Transportation	_____
Internet access	_____	Unemployment	_____
Additional Comment _____			

### Contact Information (Optional)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# News for the Family

## New cyberbullying law signed in July

In July, Gov. Tom Wolf signed into law a bill that strengthens Pennsylvania's electronic bullying laws.

Act 26 (H.B. 229) makes it a third-degree misdemeanor to use electronic media to comment on a child's sexuality or sexual history or make any comments that could be considered to be significantly humiliating or demeaning.

With the proliferation of cellphones, laptops, notebooks and tablets, most people, especially younger people, maintain an almost 24-hour online presence. Our laws have not kept pace with technology.

Cruel, embarrassing or false statements posted by somebody can quickly spread out of control. Too often, these comments have led to children taking their own lives.

In 2012, 40 percent of all teenagers with online access reported they suffered some cyberbullying and up to 20 percent of those bullied contemplated suicide. Those are scary numbers, and it is no surprise that suicide is the third-leading cause of teen deaths.

Hopefully this new law can give law enforcement officers the power to limit the damage done through electronic communication and save young lives.

## Stay safe this winter

Winter weather brings dangers beyond cold temperatures.

Walking brings special risks. Good footwear can help reduce the risk. Shoes or boots that provide good traction are essential for walking in slippery conditions.

Here are some tips to stay safe outdoors this winter:

- Take your time and watch where you step.
- Stay on paths likely to be cleared and salted.
- Warn others about unsafe areas.
- Take extra care entering or exiting buildings.
- Keep your own walkways clear at home.
- Warn others about unsafe areas.

*Have a safe and happy holiday season!*

## Update on required volunteer background checks

A new state law requires background checks for volunteers who work with children.

If you are a new volunteer who started your assignment after July 1, 2015, you must have your clearances before you begin. If you have already been approved and are acting as a volunteer, you must have the clearance before July 1, 2016.

Volunteers and employees who work with children need up to three separate checks:

- Pennsylvania State Police criminal report.  
The police report can be ordered online at <https://epatch.state.pa.us>.
- Child Abuse History Clearance from the Department of Human Services.  
To order the Child Abuse History Clearance, you need to create an account through the Department of Human Services at <http://bit.ly/1IDUVk7>.

An FBI criminal history report is also required if:

- The volunteer position is paid and the volunteer has lived outside of Pennsylvania some time during the previous 10 years. That report can be ordered at [https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index\\_dpw.htm](https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_dpw.htm).
- The state check fees for applications are waived for new volunteers. School employees, both those governed under the Public School Code and those NOT covered by the Public School Code, pay a reduced fee of \$8 each. Unfortunately, the state has no control over the cost of the FBI check, which is currently \$27.50.

More information is available at the website [www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov](http://www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov).





State Representative • 191st Legislative District

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## Keep Your Family Warm this Winter

Pennsylvania's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program (LIHEAP) is accepting applications for the winter heating season.

LIHEAP provides heating funds based on income and family size, as well as emergency grants for those in immediate danger of losing their heat.

Application information is available at <http://bit.ly/1Hd2WIX>.

The commonwealth also offers a weatherization program for low-income households to reduce actual heating bills.

Families making less than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline are eligible for this program. Check out the website at <http://bit.ly/MXUufz>.

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$17,655
2	\$23,895
3	\$30,135
4	\$36,375
Each Additional Person Add	\$6,240

## My office can help you with:

- Free notary service
- Car registrations, special tags, disability placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation
- Pennsylvania taxation questions or problems
- Consumer complaints
- Complaints or questions about utilities, energy assistance and the Public Utility Commission
- Birth and death certificates
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program problems or questions
- Pennsylvania prescription assistance programs for senior citizens (PACE, PACENET & PACE Plus Medicare)
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups

## COMMITTEES AND DELEGATIONS:

I am honored to be a part of the following committees, delegations and caucuses in Harrisburg:

Children & Youth Committee

Human Services Committee

Local Government Committee

Policy Committee

Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus

Philadelphia County Delegation