



# State Representative ▼ 191st Legislative District

# JOANNA E. McCLINTON

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WINTER 2019

**Dear Constituent,**

I hope the New Year is off to a great start for you and your family, and I wish each and every one of you continued success in 2019! My office and I are hard at work both in the community and in Harrisburg to fight on your behalf to bring positive change to the 191st Legislative District. As your State Representative, I am honored and motivated to continue serving you in excellence.

Since we were last in touch, my office has conducted several empowerment events throughout our community. In this newsletter, you will find what I am addressing in Harrisburg and some of our accomplishments. Plan to join us at one of our upcoming events and keep an eye out for future announcements. Finally, know that I love hearing from you and meeting you personally and want to know how my office can better serve you and your family.

Sincerely,

*Joanna E. McClinton*

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



## HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR

I am truly honored to serve the 191st Legislative District for two more years and incredibly humbled to serve as the House Democratic Caucus Chair. My colleagues elected me to become the first woman and first African-American to serve in this leadership position.

In this leadership role, I preside over the House Democratic Caucus, which serves as the organizational forum of the Democratic members to discuss and develop party policy and legislative priorities, as well as enforce the rules of conduct for its members. I will unite the Caucus by bridging the goals and concerns of members from across the state, so that we move in solidarity for a stronger Pennsylvania.



## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY

To commemorate Black History Month, I joined my colleagues in the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus in the Main Capitol Rotunda to celebrate this year's theme of "Black Migrations," observing the movement of people from the African diaspora.

As part of the commemoration, we were reminded of our commitment to using our full Constitutional power and financial resources of the state government to ensure African-Americans and other marginalized communities in Pennsylvania have equal opportunities.

# Legislative Accomplishments

## SAFE HARBOR LAW

I am working to end human trafficking and to protect victims in Pennsylvania.

Our children and victims of abuse are among the most vulnerable, subjected to violence, threats and drugs to control them for the purpose of human trafficking. The victims deserve to know that we are fighting for them and their protection.

I was truly pleased to see Governor Tom Wolf sign legislation that treats child victims of human trafficking fairly by providing support and treatment, instead of arresting them and giving them a criminal record. Before this legislation, victims of human trafficking could be charged with prostitution and drug offenses, among other crimes.

## DNA BILLS HELP WRONGFULLY CONVICTED



In the last session, I co-sponsored two bipartisan pieces of legislation aimed at helping innocent people challenge their wrongful conviction.

The first bill extends the time a person has to submit new DNA or other types of evidence supporting a claim of innocence from 60 days to within a year it's made available. It also provides protections for crime victims and witnesses from improper investigative tactics.

The second updates current law by making DNA more accessible by allowing those with guilty pleas eligibility for testing, removing the supervision requirement for post-conviction DNA testing, permitting new technology, and allowing courts to upload DNA profiles to state and national databases.

In the House, I championed the Senate companion bills – S.B. 915 and S.B. 916 – that were signed into law by Governor Wolf, greatly improving the ability of innocent people to access justice.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

My colleagues and I are hard at work tackling the systemic issues that plague our criminal justice system. I am proud to have fully supported the first-of-its-kind Clean Slate legislation, now Act 56 of 2018, which grants people with low-level, non-violent criminal records the opportunity to have them sealed from public view.



In order to be eligible under the Clean Slate law, one must meet all of the following criteria:

- Convicted of a misdemeanor or ungraded offense punishable by no more than 5 years in prison (certain offenses are ineligible).
- Free from conviction of any offense punishable by a year or more in prison for 10 years.
- Paid all court-ordered financial obligations associated with a sentence.

Far too many Pennsylvanians are missing out on opportunities like good-paying jobs or being able to purchase a home because of a crime they committed years ago. I believe that individuals who paid their debt to society deserve a second chance, and this law brings us a step closer to achieving that vision.

Our work is far from finished. I recently introduced legislation that would make unconditional pardons or acquitted charges eligible for automatic expungement, reforms our pretrial and bail policies, and provides equitable services for incarcerated women.

For more information on my criminal justice policies, legislation, or Clean Slate eligibility, please contact my office.



***I was proud to stand alongside Gov. Wolf as he signed S.B. 915 and S.B. 916 into law.***



# Policy Goals



## PLAN FOR PA

As the House Democratic Caucus Chair, I am proud to join my colleagues in supporting a unified plan that puts Pennsylvanians, not wealthy interests, first. Faced with a tough challenge, we are fighting harder than ever in Harrisburg so hard-working families receive real benefits and wages, and that big businesses finally pay their fair share.

We need all the help we can get in this battle. I encourage you to learn the key points of our Plan for PA to share with your neighbors and fellow citizens:

- Demand better, equal pay for everyone, including overtime
- Increase the minimum wage to \$12/hour and \$15 by 2025
- Demand paid sick and family medical leave for all workers
- Stand up for unions and collective bargaining rights
- Make high-speed Internet accessible to everyone
- Invest in roads, bridges, and transit throughout PA
- Increase access to early education and fair funding for every school
- Tax gas drillers and close loopholes for big businesses
- Increase opportunities for small businesses

Together, we can take Pennsylvania ahead of the curve and become a national leader.

## HELPING WORKING FAMILIES

Philadelphia remains the poorest, largest city in the entire United States. At 26 percent, the city's poverty rate is twice the national average and has been so since 2013. This fact is unconscionable to me and my colleagues in the House Philadelphia Delegation.

It is beyond time that the commonwealth address this travesty, and we will lead the charge to do so with a bold, exciting new plan that will bring down the city's poverty rate.

The Philadelphia House Delegation platform incorporates four major areas:

- Workforce Development and Education
- Commercial Corridor Revitalization
- Criminal Justice and Public Safety Reform
- Infrastructure and Export Development

My colleagues and I want to bolster the economy through an increased minimum wage, equal pay and paid family medical leave. We want to increase education funding and improve the physical conditions of our school buildings, addressing deferred maintenance, safety and vital upgrades.

Our plan also sets out to spotlight the Port of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia International Airport by maximizing their huge potential to employ more Philadelphians with sustainable union jobs. We believe these initiatives and more will significantly reduce the city's poverty rate and move toward the goal of its eradication.



*My advocacy and fighting in Harrisburg have paid off with these investments in our community.*

# LEGISLATIVE EVENTS

## 60th Street Summer Jam

*For the fourth straight year, I welcomed over 1,200 neighbors to a day of fun and entertainment.*



## Delaware County Back 2 School Fair



*More than 120 families came to Darby Borough to receive school supplies, book bags and free haircuts.*

## Healthy from Head to Toe



*Bringing back a September tradition of an outdoor celebration for our wisest neighbors.*

## Fall Festival



*A healthy and safe environment for kids dressed as their favorite characters.*

*Honoring Valerie Smallwood, who retired after serving the district for 14 years.*



## Veterans Resource Luncheon



*More than 80 veterans enjoyed a special presentation acknowledging six local veterans and their distinct bravery.*

## Celebrate the Seasons with Seniors



*Over 300 seniors came to my annual wellness fair to enjoy line dancing, medical advice and free flu shots.*





Pennsylvania's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps families pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant. Crisis grants are also available for households in immediate danger of being without heat.

For the 2018-19 LIHEAP season, eligibility starts at \$18,210 for a household of one person and goes up by \$6,480 for each additional person in the house. For more information, please stop by my office or visit <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/heatingassistance/liheap/>.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KNOW

**Congressman Dwight Evans District Office: 215-276-0340**

**Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon District Office: 610-626-1913**

**Philadelphia County Assistance Office (West Philadelphia): 215-560-3700**

**Delaware County Assistance Office (Darby): 610-461-3800**

## SAVE THE DATES 2019

***Get a fresh start!  
Clear your record!***



### ***Expungement Clinic***

**Saturday, March 30**

**11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Francis J. Myers Recreation Center**  
5801 Kingessing Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19143

*Do you have a criminal record? You may be eligible for a free expungement! Come learn about record sealing and the pardon process, as well as valuable resources for returning citizens.*



## **How to Buy a Block Homeownership Seminar**

**Thursday, April 4**

**6 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

**Community of Compassion CDC**  
6150 Cedar Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19143



## **Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Seminar!**

**Thursday, April 18**

**6 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

**Ezekiel Baptist Church**  
5701 Grays Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19143

- Learn what it takes to start a business.
- Find out tips on how to build wealth.
- Your business may qualify for certain programs!



*Rep. McClinton presents*

## **Delaware County Community Day**

**Saturday, May 4**

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

800 Church Lane, Yeadon, PA 19050



**Health Screenings  
Children's Activities  
Refreshments  
Main Stage Entertainment**



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## INSIDE:

- House Democratic Caucus Chair
- Fighting for You
- Save the Dates

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## MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Notary services
- Birth and death certificate applications
- Problems with Pennsylvania income taxes
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, welfare)
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- SEPTA senior IDs
- Problems or questions about PennDOT
- Requests for literature of all kinds — bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information, student aid information, etc.
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishment and family milestones
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Disability license plates and placards
- Assistance in getting and filling out state forms of all kinds, like PACE (pharmaceutical assistance for qualified senior citizens), voter registration, property tax/rent rebate (for qualified seniors), PHEAA (PA Higher Education Assistance), etc.



Stay connected to what's happening in Harrisburg and in the district by signing up for my email updates. Go to [www.pahouse.com/McClinton](http://www.pahouse.com/McClinton) to sign up.