

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JOANNA E. McCLINTON

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

 /RepMcClinton •   @RepMcClinton
www.RepMcClinton.com

149 S. 60th St. • Philadelphia, PA 19139 • (215) 748-6712



A NEW LEGISLATIVE SESSION

On Jan. 7, I was humbled to be re-elected Speaker of the House for another two-year legislative session. During the ceremony, I was sworn in by Superior Court Judge Timika Lane, and my Bible was held by Cathryn Irvis, the widow of Pennsylvania's first Black Speaker, K. Leroy Irvis. It is the honor of my life to serve as your voice in Harrisburg, and I am grateful for the trust you place in me to represent you.



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Dear Neighbor,



There are links from my website to Flickr and my other social media outlets. Scan the QR code to visit my website.

I hope you had a beautiful holiday season and found time to unwind and celebrate with friends and family.

We have so many things to be grateful for in our community, and I am grateful to be representing you in Harrisburg. I'm proud that I was recently elected by my colleagues for my second term as Speaker of the House. In my role I advocate for you and your family in Harrisburg, and I also work to bring

information and resources back to the community.

In this newsletter you'll find highlights of what we were able to do for local organizations, schools, neighborhoods and families in 2024.

I expect 2025 will be just as busy. To be the first to hear what I am doing in Harrisburg to help you and to learn about state programs and community events, sign up for

my weekly email newsletter on my website (www.RepMcClinton.com).

You can also follow me on social media ([f](#) [x](#) [i](#) @RepMcClinton). My staff is always ready to help you in my Philadelphia office or during our mobile office hours in Darby and Yeadon.

As temperatures drop, home heating assistance can help

Winter weather is here, and home heating costs can take a chunk out of your household budget.



If you are having problems paying your home heating bill this winter, LIHEAP - or the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program - may be able to help. It offers payment assistance, energy crisis assistance, weatherization and energy-related home repairs to qualifying households.

LIHEAP helps families by offering a cash grant that is paid directly to the utility company or fuel provider. If a household is in danger of being without heat it may also qualify for a one-time crisis grant, which range from \$500 to \$1,500. Crisis grants may be used for issues like a broken furnace or lack of fuel, and do not need to be repaid.

You don't need to be on public assistance or have an unpaid heating bill, and the program is open to homeowners and renters.

Apply online or call my office for our help. We can also help you find out if you're eligible for other related assistance programs.



The House Swearing-in Ceremony was a beautiful event. Here are photos from the event. 1. With Judge Timika Lane; 2. Me and several of my women colleagues (There are 63 women in the state House!); and 3. Moments after I was re-elected Speaker of the House.



Legislative News

2024 Legislative Victories

Over the past two years I worked hard with my colleagues and Gov. Shapiro to get a lot done for our community. I'm proud of the progress we made, including expanding and increasing the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program for more seniors, tripling the child and dependent care tax credit for working families, and delivering more money to our classrooms.

More than 150 new laws were signed in 2024, here are some of the highlights.

Taking Better Care of Expectant Mothers

Act 115 – Medicaid will pay for certified doulas for childbirth education and support services during pregnancy, labor and delivery and up to one year postpartum.

Act 102 – The Postpartum Depression Education Act directs the state Department of Health to create an awareness campaign about perinatal and postpartum depression, including providing a list of counselors to new mothers.

Protecting our Communities

Act 147 – Funds Pennsylvania's 911 systems and improves response times for emergency responders.

Paving the Way for Second Chances

Act 108 – Reduces the wait time to expunge juvenile records from 5 years to 2 years for most misdemeanors and streamlines the process by requiring the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer to initiate expungements for eligible individuals.

Licensing Hair Braiders

Act 100 – People no longer need a cosmetology license to practice hair braiding.

Cutting the Cost of a College Degree

Act 69 – Requires state universities to accept credits earned at a community college and to apply those credits toward an aligned bachelor's degree program. It also increases transparency about tuition and fees and requires colleges to implement a closure plan if they plan to close the university.

Speaker's Meritorious Service Medal Honors Local Police Heroes

Last year, I was proud to establish the Speaker's Meritorious Service Medal to honor Pennsylvanians who have made enormous contributions to our commonwealth.



I was even prouder to present the first award to nine police officers from the Philadelphia Police Department 12th District who responded to the mass shooting in Southwest Philly the night before the Fourth of July in 2023.

Each of these officers put themselves in harm's way to render care to the injured, secure the area to keep our neighbors safe, and arrest the gunman.

The officers visited the state Capitol in November to be recognized in the House chamber and received bipartisan applause.

- Patrol Officer Richard Dillard
- Patrol Officer Laquisha Robinson
- Patrol Officer Samyra Pacha
- Patrol Officer Natasha Chestnut
- Patrol Officer Raymond Fountain
- Patrol Officer Masoeli Musogne
- Patrol Officer Ryan Howell
- Sergeant Jeffery Donahue
- Officer Anthony Curtosi (not pictured)



Every year the Pennsylvania Farm Show welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors for the country's largest indoor agricultural fair. I was happy to accompany students from the Add B. Anderson School when they visited the show on Jan. 8. We learned about Pennsylvania products like honey and mushrooms, petted farm animals – and the best part was enjoying the milkshakes!

Nearly \$10 million in grants awarded to southwest Philly, Yeadon and Darby communities and organizations in 2024

An important part of my job as a state representative is helping local community groups identify and apply for state grants that can help them fund their work, and to advocate on their behalf. I'm proud that in 2024, we secured nearly **\$10 million** for local organizations working on issues from reducing hunger to repairing school buildings to purchasing new police vehicles. These state dollars can make a real difference in our communities and improve life for all of our neighbors.

Here is a list of organizations and agencies that were awarded state grants in 2024.

- Community of Compassion, Inc.
- Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Center, Inc.
- Philadelphia EID Fund
- Yeadon Police Department
- Sayre High School
- Keith Dawson Foundation
- Childhoodlost Foundation
- Senior Community Services
- Community Health and Gardens
- Yeadon Borough Council for transportation improvements
- Public Defender Association of PA
- TCG Groceries
- Yeadon Fire Company
- New Fellowship Baptist Church
- Sharing Excess
- Paschalville Library
- Turning the Tide
- ACANA and African and Caribbean Business Council of Philadelphia
- Cradles to Crayons
- Darby Borough Sanitation
- Darby Borough Police
- Compassion Food & Resource Distribution Center
- Oscar C. Robinson Jr. Foundation
- Southwest CDC
- William Penn School District
- Yeadon Sanitation
- Mother's Home
- John Bartram Association
- Madinah Mosque
- Walnut Park Plaza



The Community Grocer is an innovative local nonprofit in southwest Philly that sells meal kits, fresh ingredients, and staple items to local neighbors; and everything is SNAP eligible! I attended their groundbreaking in 2023, and was proud to help secure them \$300,000 in state funding in 2024 to rehab a local building.



One of my favorite annual events is partnering with the Keith Dawson Foundation to provide families with the items they need for a great holiday meal. In 2024, we were able to get \$50,000 for the Foundation to continue their food distribution projects in the local community.



The Philly Eid Festival is always a fantastic community event. This year we helped the festival secure \$50,000 to go toward the planning and production of the event.

Reverend Jesse Jackson Visits the State Capitol

It was the honor of a lifetime to welcome civil rights icon, Rev. Jesse Jackson, to the state Capitol in October. I've admired Rev. Jackson since I was a child, and it was a privilege to share a few moments with him in my office discussing his legacy and commitment to service. I was humbled to present him with a gavel like the one I use in my role as Speaker of the House.



Photos From Around Our Community

FALL FESTIVAL



It was great to welcome hundreds of neighbors to my annual Fall Festival in October. The event provides families with a fun and safe place to celebrate Halloween, where kids can play games, have their face painted or jump in the bounce house, while adults learn about state services and resources. The Common Place, Salt and Light Church, the 12th Police District, and Rep. Jordan Harris were festival co-sponsors.

HOLIDAY MEAL GIVEAWAYS



The winter holidays are a great time to gather with family, but the cost of a holiday meal can add up! I was excited to again partner with the Keith Dawson Foundation to host Turkey Giveaways in Darby and in Southwest Philadelphia. Because of the generosity of many community partners, we were able to distribute a thousand turkeys, plus other holiday meal items to help local families celebrate the season.

CELEBRATE WITH SENIORS



It is always fun when my wisest neighbors join me for my annual Celebrate the Season with Seniors: Holiday Health Expo at Motivation High School. Not only did attendees have a healthy lunch, but they also learned fitness tips, enjoyed live entertainment, and could connect with state programs that can help them lower their utility bills.



State Representative • 191st Legislative District

JOANNA E. McCLINTON

P.O. Box 202191
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2191

lpo • km • 0125



Check inside

for photos from local events,
news from Harrisburg and
programs that can help you
keep warm this winter.

*A student from Add B. Anderson touches a cow at
the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January.*