



State Representative | 192nd Legislative District

MORGAN CEPHAS



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Winter
2025



Dear Neighbor,

It was an honor to be sworn in for my fifth term in the state House of Representatives in January. The grandeur of the day is always inspiring to begin our work for the people of Pennsylvania. I appreciate the trust that my neighbors have put in me to represent the concerns of our communities and fight to improve their quality of life.

I am proud to announce that I've also been chosen by my peers to lead for a second term as the Chairwoman of the Philadelphia House Delegation. Although our city is strong in diversity, our common goals as Philadelphians are largely the same whether you live in Overbrook, Burleholme, Eastwick or Center City – and that unites us as a delegation. Our immediate priorities for the future are solidifying stable and recurring funding for SEPTA, working to reduce the cost of living for families in Philadelphia while raising wages, and building on the progress of the Stop and Go Legislative Task Force to end nuisance establishments in our city. **Read on in this newsletter to find out about our work on these priorities and what I've been doing to improve the quality of life for our communities here in West Philadelphia.**

I am excited to lead for our district, the City of Philadelphia, and all Pennsylvanians this new session.

2025-2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

As we begin our new legislative session, I'm happy to see that my priorities for our communities are reflected in Gov. Shapiro's budget proposal: advancing working families, improving quality of life, equitable education, workforce development, public safety, health equity, addressing student loan debt, and ensuring workplace protections for menopause.



Scan the code for my reaction to the governor's budget proposal

No Tax on Overtime and Tips

Across Pennsylvania, too many workers are struggling to make ends meet as wages fail to keep pace with the rising cost of living. To help hardworking Pennsylvanians keep more of their earnings, I am working on legislation to provide tax relief on overtime wages and tips. This proposal would allow workers to deduct a portion of the taxes paid on overtime earnings, ensuring they take home more of their hard-earned pay. I am committed to providing financial relief to workers and helping employers to retain staff in a challenging job market.

Stop and Go Legislative Task Force

Nuisance Stop-and-Gos have been a scourge on the quality of life in our city for years. Since my first day in office, I've worked with stakeholders to shut down bad actors in our communities while acknowledging those who serve as good neighbors. The Stop and Go Legislative Task Force was charged with producing a report to suggest ways to end these shops. The final report released in October outlined eight recommendations to the General Assembly as guidelines for legislative remedies to regulate stop-and-gos including:

- Streamlining processes
- Strengthening citations and penalties
- Increasing process awareness
- Recruitment of liquor control agents for enhanced enforcement

This session, I look forward to turning these recommendations into tangible legislation and working with all stakeholders to once and for all eliminate these nuisances from our communities.

LEGISLATIVE WINS

Medicaid Coverage for Doula Care Now Law

My legislation to extend Medicaid coverage to doula services in PA was signed into law in October! Research has shown that doula support leads to improved birthing outcomes. By providing continuous support throughout pregnancy and the important first year following birth, doulas contribute to safer and more positive experiences for families. This new law will give these parents a proven network of support needed to produce

better mental and physical health outcomes during their birthing journey. I am grateful to my legislative colleagues and Governor Shapiro for finally making it reality and to the stakeholders who worked alongside us in this fight. This was a big win for the PA MOMNIBUS legislative package that I've developed along with my colleagues in the PA Black Maternal Health Caucus.

Dignity for Incarcerated Women Expands to Juveniles

In 2023, I wrote the Dignity for Incarcerated Women Law. It was a major victory for protecting pregnant and postpartum incarcerated women but was unintentionally silent on juveniles in the criminal justice system. In 2024, we updated that law to clearly extend those

protections to incarcerated pregnant juveniles. No one should be deprived of compassionate care or respect or be forced to risk the health of their child, even when they are a child themselves under the law.

Employee Child Care Tax Credit

Access to high-quality and affordable child care is imperative for working parents but often impossible to find. Child care costs are out of reach for many families. I'm pleased to report my legislation to create a tax credit for employers who contribute to their employees' child care expenses was

incorporated into the 2024-25 state budget. This tax incentive will go a long way toward encouraging more employers to include financial assistance for child care in their strategic business plans, creating a more stable workforce in Pennsylvania while continuing to help families re-enter the job market.

Rep. Cephas | ACT 115 of 2024

ADDRESSING THE BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CRISIS

Expanding Doula Services

Rep. Cephas' legislation will extend Medicaid coverage to doula services, establish the Doula Advisory Board.

SIGNED INTO LAW
OCTOBER 29, 2024

#PAMOMNIBUS

HB 1509

Dignity for Incarcerated Women Law

Now extends to incarcerated juveniles.



Scan for more info on Tax Credit

MONEY BACK TO THE DISTRICT

\$11.6 million

Overbrook High School - \$8.6 million

Overbrook CDC - \$50,000

Episcopal Community Center -
\$847,042

**The Cobbs Creek Restoration and
Community Foundation** -
\$977,000

SJU - \$20,000

**Overbrook School
for the Blind** - \$366,355

**Overbrook Community
Development Corp.** - \$48,353

Umoja, Inc. - \$550,000

Overbrook School for the Blind -
\$75,000 for *School Safety*

Yeshiva Ketana of Philadelphia -
\$75,000 for *School Safety*

Mastery Mann - \$70,000

Haramabee Institute - \$70,000

Boys Latin of Philadelphia - \$70,000

DAYS IN THE DISTRICT

Overbrook Park

During our "Summer Fridays in the District series," my team and I visited the Cobbs Creek Golf Course to get an update on the golf course revitalization project and learn more about all they have planned. We're excited for new activities and services to come to the area for neighbors and visitors.



Wynnefield

I was invited to participate in a panel discussion by the Housing Association of Pennsylvania (HAPCO) to talk about many of the housing issues facing communities including homeowners, renters, and landlords. I am always glad to pull up a chair to engage with stakeholders, talk through differences, and come up with solutions for meaningful change.

DAYS IN THE DISTRICT

ACCT Check Presentation

I joined my colleagues from the Philadelphia House Delegation and the Majority Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Jordan Harris (D-South & Southwest Phila.) to present a check from the committee for \$330,000 to ACCT Philly to invest in overall operations, educational opportunities, and adoption efforts in the city. The tireless work of the unsung heroes of ACCT Philly to safeguard the well-being of animals and training the next generation of caregivers in our communities does not go unnoticed.



Haddington

In October I joined city officials, program leaders, and maternal healthcare stakeholders to celebrate state funding for maternal health programs in the Philadelphia region and to provide an update on their efforts to improve maternal health outcomes. One of the core missions of the Pennsylvania Black Maternal Health Caucus, of which I am co-chair, and Women's Health Caucus is to ensure that the funding that is needed on the ground for organizations to do the important work of ensuring better maternal health outcomes for mothers and their babies is there for them. We worked hard to get \$25 million dedicated to maternal health in this year's state budget and \$5 million in state funding dedicated to a Maternal Health Fund to provide needed dollars to organizations coming up with innovative ideas to provide comprehensive care and support.



Carroll Park

Its always a joy to team up with Friends of Carroll Park for their Halloween festivities in the park. My team and I saw over 50 children and families providing state resources and information on utilities assistance while giving away candy.



DAYS IN THE DISTRICT

Overbrook

Providing home repair and preserving our housing stock is a sure way to keep families in their homes. I am always glad to celebrate and support organizations that provide much needed services to families in our communities and was happy to meet Habitat for Humanity in the Overbrook neighborhood for their 1000th home repair as part of the Elevation Project.



My team and I kicked off the holiday season with my annual turkey giveaway. We were able to distribute nearly 200 turkeys and resources from our partners Independence Blue Cross and Keystone First to seniors and families across the district.

Overbrook

This MLK Day, I joined the Elevation Project and partners to host a Record Clearing Clinic and Celebrity Basketball Game where we were sure to have state resources on site alongside legal assistance for justice impacted individuals and families. Over 200 people came out to get connected with lawyers for assistance with record-clearing services, learn more about opportunities like Clean Slate, and to enjoy the festivities.



PHILADELPHIA HOUSE DELEGATION PRIORITIES

We were fortunate that Gov. Shapiro was able to direct a one-time infusion of \$153 million into SEPTA in November to avoid immediate service cuts, extreme fare increases, and to keep Philly moving. However, that is a band-aid and we must act before July 1 to ensure a stable future for SEPTA.



Scan to see video





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CONSTITUENT SERVICES

by the numbers in 2024



Total Services 2,862



Seniors 500+



Housing Assistance 286



**Property Tax/
Rent Rebate 330**

lpo.aa.0225

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Shredding Event

Saturday, March 29
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Mann Music Center Lot at the Avenue
of the Republic & N. 52nd Street

Youth Employment Workshop

April 2025

Follow me on social media [@RepCephas](#) and subscribe to my weekly email at RepCephas.com/emailsingup to get real-time updates on my upcoming events and more in our community.

Senior Lunch and Learn

May 2025

The Overbrook Night Market

Celebrating 5 Years!
Thursday, June 19
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
63rd and Lancaster



Scan for
Email Signup

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