

Senator Joe Scarnati, President Pro Tempore

As President Pro Tempore of the Senate, he holds the third-highest constitutional office in the State. He was born and raised in Brockway, Pennsylvania and represents the 25th Senatorial District, which includes Cameron, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter and Tioga Counties and portions of Clearfield County. Joe grew up understanding that business and industry are vital to our state's economy and its future. After graduating from Penn State University at DuBois, Joe became a third-generation business owner in the Brockway area. He has carried on the lifelong tradition of working to better his community through involvement and civic leadership, serving on both the Brockway Borough Council and the Jefferson County Development Council. He is also a member of the St. Tobias Roman Catholic Church in Brockway. Working in the private sector for 20 years prior to coming to Harrisburg, serving as a local official and being a small business owner have given him a unique perspective on how government can work more effectively to help job-creators, working families and communities. Since being elected to office, Joe has been a leader in reforming the way business is conducted in Harrisburg, and he remains committed to making the institution more open and accessible to the citizens of the Commonwealth. As Senate President Pro Tempore, Joe serves as an ex-officio member of each of the 22 Senate Committees. He has been a committed leader in addressing numerous important fiscal and conservative issues within the state. In his 17 years as a State Senator, Joe has served as a rank and file member of the Senate, as a member of Senate Leadership and currently as Senate President Pro Tempore – a position that he was elected to by the full Senate. In November of 2008, with the passing of Catherine Baker Knoll, Joe became Pennsylvania's 31st Lieutenant Governor. He served the remainder of Lieutenant Governor Knoll's term, which ended January 18, 2011. Joe resides in his hometown of Brockway with his wife Amy. They enjoy spending time outdoors, cooking, traveling, biking and spending time with their children.

Senator Jake Corman, Majority Floor Leader



Jacob Doyle “Jake” Corman III, of Centre County, was elected to the Senate of Pennsylvania in 1998. Senator Corman represents the 34th Senatorial District, which includes all of Centre, Mifflin, and Juniata Counties and part of Huntingdon County.

Senator Corman serves as Majority Leader, the second highest ranking position in Senate leadership. It’s a position to which he was first elected to by his colleagues for the 2015-16 legislative session. He previously served as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and is currently an ex-officio member. He also serves as chair of the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee.

Senator Corman obtained an Associate Degree in Communications from the Pennsylvania College of Technology and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the Pennsylvania State University.

His hands-on experiences in state and federal government have made him one of the General Assembly’s foremost authorities on public policy issues. He has put these resources to work as the former Majority Policy Chairman while quickly ascending the ranks of Senate Republican leadership.

In 2009, Corman was elected by his colleagues to serve as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, one of the most powerful of the standing committees. The committee reviews all legislation for its fiscal impact and plays a crucial role in developing the state budget. In his role as Chairman, Corman fought against tax increases and pushed for lower spending and greater fiscal restraint. He believes that state government should live within its means – just as Pennsylvania families do.

Senator Corman continues to advocate for ways to develop Pennsylvania’s workforce and strengthen the state’s economy. His steadfast commitment to revitalizing business and industry in the Commonwealth has resulted in the creation of thousands of jobs for working-class Pennsylvanians.

In addition, Senator Corman has played a leading role in shaping solutions to economic and health care issues in Pennsylvania.

Senator Corman is married to Kelli Corman. They are the parents of three children, Isabella, Davis and Jacob Corman. Senator and Mrs. Corman reside in Bellefonte, Centre County.

Senator John Gordner, Majority Whip



Senator John R. Gordner was first elected to the state Senate in a special election in November 2003. He was re-elected in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 to represent the 27th Senatorial District, which includes all of Columbia, Northumberland, Montour and Snyder counties and parts of Luzerne County. Prior to his election to the Senate, Senator Gordner served for 11 years in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from the 109th Legislative District.

Senator Gordner is currently serving as a member of Senate leadership as Majority Whip. He also serves as Vice Chairman of the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, and as a member of the Appropriations Committee; Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee; the Judiciary Committee; and the Transportation Committee.

During his service in the General Assembly, Senator Gordner has been active in advancing many economic development projects that have helped area businesses create and maintain family-sustaining jobs for district residents.

In 2014, he received the Special Achievement Award from the Ben Franklin Technology Partners for his sponsorship of the groundbreaking Innovate in PA program, which is spurring development of high technology jobs. As a member of the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority, Senator Gordner has promoted the technology industry and economic development. He was instrumental in the Authority's approval of the Greater Susquehanna Keystone Innovation Zone, which is bringing high-tech jobs to the 27th Senatorial District.

He has been named Legislative Advocate of the Year by the Small Business Development Centers, and also has been honored with the National Federation of Independent Businesses Guardian of Small Business Award. He is a past recipient of the Adam Smith Leadership Award by Economics Pennsylvania, a statewide organization that promotes financial literacy programs in public and private schools.

Senator Gordner has been very involved in his community, serving as a member of the Columbia/Montour Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the statewide Board of Economics Pennsylvania. He serves as a volunteer assistant cross country coach at Berwick High School, his alma mater. He has been a member of Columbia County's Farm Bureau, a former president of the Berwick Jaycees, a former fund drive chairman of the Berwick Area United Way, a former Vice President of the Greater Berwick Chapter of the American Red Cross, and was a charter board member of the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation. Senator Gordner was a longtime member of the Berwick Rotary Club and a Sunday School Superintendent of his church.

Senator Gordner earned his bachelor's degree from Dickinson College in 1983, and he earned his law degree from the Dickinson School of Law in 1987.

He and his wife, Lori D. (Lindenmuth) Gordner, reside in Berwick. They have two children, Allison and Cole.

Senator Bob Mensch, Majority Caucus Chair



Pennsylvania State Senator Bob Mensch represents the constituents of the 24th District (including parts of Berks, Bucks and Montgomery counties) bringing to the state Senate more than 35 years of business and management experience, coupled with political leadership and public service.

Senator Mensch was elected by his Republican colleagues to serve as Majority Caucus Chairman, a leadership position, for the 2017-2018 legislative session. As chairman he presides over Republican caucus meetings to discuss bills and amendments and to develop caucus strategy. He serves as Vice Chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee and sits on the influential Senate Appropriations Committee. In addition, the Senator is a member of the Senate Majority Policy Committee and is a member of three additional committees: Health and Human Services; Game and Fisheries; and Aging and Youth. He co-chairs the bipartisan Senate Life Science Caucus, Economy, Business and Jobs Caucus and the Community College Caucus. He also chairs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, which conducts studies and makes recommendations aimed at eliminating unnecessary government spending.

Bob's top legislative priority is ensuring the Commonwealth has economic development and tax policies that promote economic expansion and job creation and make Pennsylvania the place where business and industry want to be and individuals want to live. Bob is also committed to farmland and open space preservation, as well as improving transportation infrastructure both within the 24th District and throughout the state.

Prior to his election to the state Senate, Bob served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 147th Legislative District. He worked on issues relating to telecommunications, prescription drug theft, unemployment compensation, alternative energy system tax credits, and permanent tax credits for volunteer emergency responders. In addition to committee assignments, Bob was selected and appointed by the Speaker of the House to the Children's Trust Fund Board, the Speaker's Task Force on Crime and Violence, the Commonwealth Debt Task Force, the Energy Task Force, and the Select Committee on Information Security.

Bob previously served as a Marlborough Township Supervisor, and during his time as Chairman led successful efforts to preserve over 100 acres within the township. He was Chairman of the Upper Perkiomen Regional Planning Commission, where he began an initiative that implemented multiregional cooperation. He served in various leadership positions within the Upper Perkiomen Ambulance Association and transformed it into a fiscally responsible enterprise. He served in the U.S. Army Engineers Reserve from 1966 to 1972.

As a husband, father, grandfather, executive and community leader, Bob understands the issues that are most important to the communities and families of the 24th District. A native of Pennsburg and resident of Marlborough Township since 1975, Bob is married to his wife of over four decades, JoAnn, who together have raised two children, and now enjoy being grandparents to grandson Zackary.

Senator Richard Alloway, Majority Caucus Secretary



Senator Richard Alloway II was elected to his first term in the Pennsylvania Senate in November 2008. After winning re-election in 2012 and 2016, he is currently serving his third term representing the 33rd District, which includes all of Adams County and portions of Cumberland, Franklin and York Counties.

A strong advocate for smaller state government, Senator Alloway has supported passage of fiscally responsible state budgets that did not raise taxes on local families or businesses. He also sponsored legislation aimed at eliminating the inheritance tax.

In his first year in office, Senator Alloway worked to cut office expenses by more than \$350,000 and continues to save taxpayer dollars by not accepting per diem payments.

Senator Alloway serves as a member of the Senate Republican leadership team as Majority Caucus Secretary, where he is responsible for overseeing and careful review of all executive nominations submitted to the Senate for confirmation. He previously served as Senate Majority Caucus Administrator and as Chairman of the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee, where he authored several laws to protect sportsmen and promote outdoor activities.

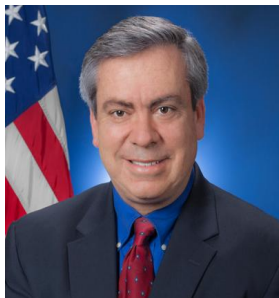
In addition to serving as an advocate for Pennsylvania sportsmen, Senator Alloway is among the legislature's strongest supporters of Second Amendment rights. He championed legislation expanding the Castle Doctrine self-defense law in Pennsylvania to ensure law-abiding gun owners have the right to defend themselves from criminals, and he fought to pass legislation to prevent municipalities from targeting responsible gun owners with unconstitutional and overly restrictive firearms ordinances.

Senator Alloway's other committee assignments include serving as Vice Chairman of the Senate Law and Justice Committee and as a member of the Senate Education Committee; Game and Fisheries Committee; Judiciary Committee; Majority Policy Committee; Rules and Executive Nominations Committee; and State Government Committee. He was also appointed to serve on the State System of Higher Education Board of Governors and as Chairman of Pennsylvania's delegation to the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

Prior to his election to the Senate, Senator Alloway served as a magisterial district judge for four years. Senator Alloway is a member of the National Rifle Association, Pleasant Hall Fire Company and Trinity Lutheran Church. He is a former member of the Franklin County Area Development Corporation and Downtown Chambersburg, Inc. He also served as President of the Greene Township and the Lurgan Township Lions Clubs.

A Franklin County native, Senator Alloway is a 1986 graduate of Chambersburg Area Senior High School. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Government from Shippensburg University and graduated from Widener Law School in 2002. Senator Alloway and his wife Shannon are the proud owners of their three beloved dogs – Figgy, Sassy and Fritz.

Senator Pat Browne, Majority Appropriations Chairman



Senator Pat Browne was again elected by his colleagues in the Senate Republican Caucus to serve as Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman for the 2017-18 Legislative Session. The committee, one of the most powerful of the Senate's standing committees, reviews all legislation for its fiscal impact and plays a crucial role in developing the state budget.

Before being elected Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman, Senator Browne served as Senate Majority Whip for the 2011-12 and 2013-14 Legislative Sessions. Besides serving as Appropriations Committee Chairman, Senator Browne is also a member of four Senate Committees: Education; Finance; Health & Human Services; and Local Government. He is also a member of the Senate Majority Policy Committee.

Senator Browne is Co-Chair of the bi-partisan, bi-cameral Early Childhood Education Caucus and the Legislative Arts and Culture Caucus. He is also Co-Chair of the PA Public School Building Construction and Reconstruction Advisory Committee (PlanCon) and had previously Co-Chaired both the Basic Education Funding Commission and the Special Education Funding Commission.

He also serves as a member of the board of the Public School Employees' Retirement System, the Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Legislative Audit Advisory Committee.

Senator Browne was re-elected in November 2014 to his third full term as state Senator for the 16th District, representing constituents in parts of Lehigh County. He was first elected to the Senate following a special election in April of 2005 and was re-elected in the fall of 2006 and 2010. Prior to joining the Senate, Senator Browne represented the 131st District for 10 years as a member of the state House of Representatives.

Senator Browne is the author of dozens of initiatives ranging from child protection to job creation to education to reforming state government. He wrote several laws which fundamentally reformed Pennsylvania's public pension systems and created an independent fiscal office to monitor state spending and the budget process. He rewrote both the Pennsylvania Basic Education and Special Education funding formulas. In addition, Senator Browne is the Founding Chairman of the Early Childhood Education Caucus and the Arts and Culture Caucus. Senator Browne has received national recognition for his Early Childhood advocacy and is widely acknowledged to be Pennsylvania's key proponent. Senator Browne also authored a law to hire citizens with disabilities.

In 2009, Senator Browne crafted the one-of-a-kind, 130-acre Neighborhood Improvement Zone (NIZ) to help revitalize and expand the tax base of the then financially-struggling city of Allentown. There has already been more than \$1 billion of new development investment in Allentown and more than \$3 million in annual school property tax revenues for Allentown School District generated through the zone. The NIZ has already served as a model for economic development in other distressed areas – cities, boroughs and townships – throughout the Commonwealth with the creation of the City Revitalization and Improvement Zones (CRIZ) which will afford a similar tax financing program to smaller cities in Pennsylvania.

Senator Browne received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame and a law degree from Temple University. Prior to his legislative service, he was employed with the accounting firms of Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse as a tax manager and senior tax associate, respectively. In addition to being a CPA, he is also a member of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Born and raised in Allentown, Senator Browne attended Allentown Central Catholic High School. He resides in Allentown with his wife, Heather, and son, Alex.

Senator David Argall, Majority Policy Committee Chair



Senator David G. Argall represents the 29th District, 94 municipalities ranging from the farms and growing Berks County suburbs of Reading to the anthracite coal “patch towns” of northern Schuylkill County. In his first campaign, he successfully defeated his own party leadership to win election to the State House. Now, as the Majority Policy Chairman, he is the Senate Republican leader responsible for investigating new ideas statewide, the first Senator from this district to serve in a leadership post since 1861.

The proud grandson of Cornish, Welsh, and German farmers, coal miners and factory workers, Senator Argall’s top legislative priorities are promoting job growth, eliminating our unfair and archaic school property tax, and revitalizing our struggling downtowns and older industrial neighborhoods.

Senator Argall has led successful battles to pass several new anti-blight laws. Because of his leadership and grassroots teamwork, “left behind” communities across Pennsylvania, from his hometown of Tamaqua to parts of our largest cities, have witnessed a positive transformation.

In the Senate, he chaired a bipartisan commission which unanimously recommended more than \$400 million in taxpayer savings. Senator Argall is also a leader in conservation, farmland preservation, and abandoned mine reclamation initiatives, locally as a volunteer Scout leader and as the author of legislation which has recycled more than 97 percent of Pennsylvania’s waste tires.

In 2014, the National Eagle Scout Association, due to his “distinguished service to his profession and community,” presented him with the Outstanding Eagle Scout Award.

Senator Argall earned a bachelor’s degree from Lycoming College, where he earned the college’s highest student award and a James A. Finnegan Legislative Fellowship. Through 13 years of night classes, he earned his Ph.D. in public administration from Penn State. His studies included an Eisenhower Fellowship to review the economic and political transformation in East Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall. His doctoral dissertation reviewed the benefits and drawbacks of Pennsylvania’s tax-free “Keystone Opportunity Zones” for economic development.

Dr. Argall serves as a part-time public policy instructor at Lehigh Carbon Community College, where he led the transformation of a vacant junior high school where his parents once taught into LCCC’s Morgan Center.

Senator Argall and his wife Beth are very proud of their children, AJ and Elise, who are respectively pursuing careers in patent law and public service. The Argalls share their Rush Township home with two very active terriers, Maggie and Wolfgang.

Senator Jay Costa, Democratic Floor Leader



State Senator Jay Costa was elected in a special election in April 1996. He is now serving his fifth full term representing the City of Pittsburgh, East Hills communities, areas of the Mon Valley and South Hills (43rd District).

As a lifelong resident of Allegheny County, Sen. Costa was born and raised in Pittsburgh and now lives with his wife Roxanne in Forest Hills. He has three children – two sons and one daughter. He is the son of the late Allegheny County Treasurer Jay Costa Sr. A graduate of Taylor Allderdice High School, Community College of Allegheny County (A.S. 1977), and Indiana University of Pennsylvania (B.A. 1979), he has a Juris Doctorate from Duquesne University (1989).

Before his election to the Senate, Sen. Costa was a deputy sheriff in Allegheny County and Allegheny County Register of Wills. He is currently a Principal in the downtown Pittsburgh law firm Dickie McCamey & Chilcote P.C.

Sen. Costa was elected Senate Democratic leader in 2010. Previously, he served as Democratic chair of the Senate Appropriations and Judiciary Committees and was Caucus chair. He co-chairs the General Assembly's Arts and Culture Caucus and is Democratic chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Sen. Costa's legislative record of accomplishment is long and features signature laws in the areas of education, family law, judicial reform, public safety, job creation and health care. Early in his career, Sen. Costa prime sponsored the plan (FAIRx) to leverage rebates to lower drug costs for seniors – a concept later signed into law by Gov. Ed Rendell. He was a strong supporter of expanding the nationally-recognized CHIP program and Medicaid. He also authored legislation to direct cooperative agreements between insurers and providers as a means to resolve the Highmark/UPMC coverage dispute. Applying his background in family law, he was able to push a proposal (Act 186) that allows pooled trust funds to serve individuals with disabilities. Sen. Costa successfully encouraged other court reforms – sponsoring proposals to improve diversity in jury pools (Act 37) and provide certified interpreters for deaf, hearing impaired and those with limited English proficiency (Act 172).

A strong commitment to job creation led Sen. Costa to support key initiatives relating to economic development in the Pittsburgh area. He led the effort for robust transportation funding (Act 89), and backed new stadiums for Pittsburgh (Act 1) and tax credits for riverfront development (Senate Bill 282). A former deputy sheriff and Democratic chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sen. Costa actively promoted public safety and security throughout his tenure in the Senate. He sought maximum penalties for burglary and burglary-related offenses (Act 122) and worked to halt ordinances that penalize residents who call for emergency assistance – particularly in domestic violence situations (Act 200). Sen. Costa supported upgrades to child protection laws and the reporting of child abuse. He authored a law calling for life sentences for those who commit rape when serious injury occurs to victims under 13 years of age.

Focused on the safety of our children, Sen. Costa toughened a law that imposed penalties for school bus drivers that exceed fixed blood alcohol levels and enhanced penalties for those who drive under the influence with a minor in the vehicle (Act 24). During the 2015-16 legislative session, he championed a new law (Act 70) that adds protections for construction and public safety workers in highway work

zones and fought for legislation that provided sweeping reforms to the Pittsburgh Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority (Act 99).

Over the course of his legislative career, Sen. Costa has been a strong, effective promoter of education. From seeking additional funding for K-12 education, higher education and pre-school he is recognized as one of the General Assembly's leaders for education. In addition to accessing more funding for schools, he sought new state-of-the-art technologies for the classroom, in addition to sponsoring far-reaching property tax relief proposals.

Beyond his legislative work, Sen. Costa serves on board of trustees of the University of Pittsburgh and is treasurer of the Community College of Allegheny County board. He also is on the boards of the Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Sen. John Heinz History Center, 3 Rivers Wet Weather, Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, CLO, Forest Hills Community Development Corporation and a lifetime trustee of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Senator Anthony Williams, Minority Whip



Anthony Hardy Williams never dreamed he'd hold elective office growing up. After majoring in economics at Franklin & Marshall College, he planned to use his academic experience to take over the business world, hone his skills at a Fortune 500 company, and strike out on his own. He followed his plan, reaching the upper echelons of corporate America before launching his own small business. Then his world exploded – literally. That's when he watched part of his childhood neighborhood go up in flames during the 1985 MOVE standoff in Philadelphia. He saw hopelessness creeping into formerly vibrant communities. He watched companies close across Pennsylvania as jobs disappeared. Fear was on the rise. Opportunities waned. Someone had to address the issues hanging over kitchen tables and the boardroom tables alike. Someone had to have better ideas. At 31, he decided to try and tackle that challenge.

In joining the Pennsylvania Legislature – first as state representative for the 191st District in 1988, then as state senator of the 8th District in 1998 – he resolved to make the needs of his constituents known, and has, with solid results.

Senator Wayne Fontana, Minority Caucus Chair



A relentless fighter for working families, children and local communities, Wayne Fontana was first elected to represent the 42nd Senatorial District in the Pennsylvania Senate in 2005. In addition to 19 suburban communities, his district includes 20 wards within the City of Pittsburgh, including a vibrant downtown, North Shore and Strip District destinations.

Wayne currently serves in the leadership position of Senate Democratic Caucus Chairman, a role that permits him to set the daily caucus agenda and lead the discussion on bills that are under consideration before the Senate. In addition to his leadership role, he serves as Democratic Chair of the Senate Urban Affairs & Housing Committee. He is also a member of the standing committees on Communications & Technology, Community, Economic & Recreational Development, Law & Justice, Rules & Executive Nominations, as well as the Democratic Policy Committee and the Senate Committee on Ethics and Official Conduct. He serves on a number of bipartisan, bicameral caucuses including the Arts Caucus, Community College Caucus, Early Childhood Education Caucus, Manufacturing Caucus, Women's Health Caucus and Real Estate Caucus.

At the state level, Wayne serves as Vice Chairman of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). He is an appointed member of the Task Force on Lead Exposure and the Hazards of Lead Poisoning Advisory Committee, Small Business Advocacy Council, the Joint State Government Task Force on Real Property Law and the Joint State Government Task Force and Advisory Committee to Study the Current System for Providing Services to Indigent Criminal Defendants.

Senator Larry Farnese, Minority Caucus Secretary



Senator Larry Farnese was first elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate in 2008 and reelected to his third term in 2016 to represent the First Senatorial District. The District, which comprises some of Philadelphia’s most unique and vibrant neighborhoods, spans from Port Richmond on the Delaware River to Fairmount Park on the Schuylkill River and includes South Philadelphia, Center City, Fairmount, the Navy Yard, and Philadelphia’s International Airport and sports complexes.

Senator Farnese is a champion for city and state economic development. In addition to securing capital funding for many commercial and cultural institutions, as well as job training and tax incentives, he has been a vocal supporter of and advocate for the Delaware River dredging and expansion of Philadelphia’s ports. He has secured over \$50,000,000 in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grants to create jobs, economic development, green energy solutions and improve tourism in the City.

Understanding that economic growth also requires confidence in government, Farnese has sponsored bi-partisan legislation throughout his tenure to enact campaign finance contribution limits. In 2012, the Senator called on the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to expand public input for the proposed second Philadelphia casino. Since 2009, he has sponsored legislation limiting “pay-to-play” in awarding state contracts and in the same year drafted the provisions that ended the DROP program for future elected officials statewide.

Farnese is seen as one of the State’s most passionate public safety advocates because quality of life is crucial to the long-term success of the neighborhood. He has worked to reduce gun violence, ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines, close the Florida Loophole, increase the penalty for illegally carrying a concealed weapon, and combat the straw purchases of illegal handguns. In his first term, he also obtained funding to restore the Philadelphia Police Mounted Unit and continues working closely with local officials and community leaders to improve the oversight of neighborhood nuisance bars.

As a representative of one of the Commonwealth’s most diverse LGBTQ communities, the Senator is a passionate, outspoken supporter of equality and nondiscrimination legislation for all Pennsylvanians. In addition to being a member of the state’s LGBT Equality Caucus, he has sponsored and co-sponsored a number of pro-equality bills that would: prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and accommodations because of a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression; expand the state’s hate crime laws; end bullying in schools and in our neighborhoods; and ban conversion therapy.

The Senator was elected in 2014 and 2016 to serve as the Senate Democratic Caucus’ Secretary. He also serves as the Democratic Chairman of the Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee and is a member of the Banking and Insurance, Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, Judiciary, Rules and Executive Nominations, and Transportation Committees. He holds a membership position with the Pennsylvania Housing Advisory Committee and serves on the boards of the Pennsylvania Historical Society and Casa Farnese, the first affordable senior housing complex in Philadelphia.

Senator Farnese earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Villanova University and graduated from Temple University's Beasley School of Law in 1994. He was chosen as the Italian Museum of Philadelphia's Italian-American of the Year in 2013 and presented with Chinatown Development Corporation's Community Service Award in 2015. Larry is widely recognized as a defender of neighborhood associations thanks to his SLAPP legislation protecting them against frivolous lawsuits. The Senator lives in Center City Philadelphia.

Senator Vincent Hughes, Minority Appropriations Committee Chair



Senator Vincent J. Hughes is a leading progressive voice on local, state, and national issues. He was elected by his colleagues in 2010 to be the Democratic Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He has been a member of the Pennsylvania Senate for over 20 years, first elected to represent the 7th Senatorial District in 1994. Senator Hughes served as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1987 to 1994. During that time, he was the chair of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus from 1991 to 1994.

As a key member of the Democratic leadership team in the Senate, Senator Hughes has been a champion on major policy issues such as expanding healthcare for low-income workers, raising the minimum wage, defending the right to vote, fighting for increased funding for public education, and rebuilding PA's distressed communities. As Democratic Chairman of Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Hughes also plays a major role in developing Pennsylvania's annual budget of over \$30 billion and guiding the state's spending priorities.

Senator Hughes was a leader in the fight for the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Pennsylvania. The centerpiece and final part of this struggle was the successful implementation of Medicaid Expansion, which is providing health insurance to over 500,000 low income working people who previously could not afford to purchase coverage on their own.

Senator Hughes has recently received national attention for his bold proposal for universal voter registration. Under his legislation, all eligible individuals who interact with state government—such as getting a driver's license, access social services, or obtain a hunting permit— would automatically be added to the voter rolls This unique bill goes further than any other legislation in the country to expand the right to vote and increase voter participation.

Senator Hughes has also been recognized both locally and nationally for his work on HIV/AIDS, and the challenges of mental/behavioral health in the African-American community. His commitment to creating access to college is demonstrated through his service on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency and the Cheyney University Council of Trustees. Senator Hughes and his family have also established the James Hughes Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of his late father. The fund has given out more than \$1 million in scholarships to over 400 students.

In all of his work, which has taken him across the state and around the world, Senator Hughes is staunchly committed to the progress of his 7th Senatorial District, which encompasses portions of Philadelphia and Montgomery County. Senator Vincent Hughes is a member of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, and is supported by his loving wife, actress, entertainer and activist Sheryl Lee Ralph, and their blended family of four children.

Senator John Blake, Minority Caucus Administrator



Senator John Blake's aspiration for a seat in the Senate of Pennsylvania was motivated by his determination to help and serve others – in his hometown, his region and across the state – in achieving a better quality of life. Senator Blake works very hard every day reflecting the sensibilities, the wishes and the opinions of the people he represents. He is very deliberative and careful in rendering judgment on public policy issues affecting the people of Pennsylvania and the constituents of the 22nd District. Senator Blake's education, experience and local roots inform and guide his beliefs about the value of public service and the significant, profound duties and responsibilities of holding public office.

State Senator John Blake has served the 255,000 residents of the 22nd Senatorial District in Lackawanna, Luzerne and Monroe Counties since 2011. Senator Blake currently serves as a member of the Senate Democratic leadership team as Caucus Administrator and as Democratic Chairman of both the Senate Finance and Local Government Committees. In the previous session, Senator Blake served as Democratic Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

In addition to his two committee chairmanships, Senator Blake also serves as a member of the Senate Appropriations; Agriculture & Rural Affairs; Community, Economic and Recreational Development; Urban Affairs & Housing; Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness; and Senate Democratic Policy Committees. Additionally, Senator Blake is a founding member of the recently formed Pennsylvania Military Community Enhancement Commission which is tasked with examining and advocating for Pennsylvania's military installations and the important missions they have which support our state's economy and our national security.

Since taking office in 2011, Senator Blake has spearheaded a number of vitally important initiatives and legislation to better the lives of Pennsylvania families and increase opportunities for our small businesses. Originally introduced by Senator Blake and later signed into law, Innovate in PA will provide \$100 million in early-stage, venture capital investment that will create family-sustaining jobs and develop innovative technologies right here in Pennsylvania. Of regional importance, Senator Blake led the effort to enable Scranton's first-responders to purchase military service time. He also introduced legislation that led to significant flood relief through real estate tax abatement for local families devastated by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011.

Senator Lisa Boscola, Minority Policy Committee Chair



State Senator Lisa M. Boscola has spent the majority of her professional career working to improve the lives of Lehigh Valley residents. Born in Bethlehem on April 6, 1962 to Richard and Anna Stofko – Senator Boscola has remained a proud steel worker’s daughter and life-long resident of the Lehigh Valley, a fact which has made her intimately familiar with the issues that face her district and the people she represents.

First elected to the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1994, Senator Boscola served two terms in the state House and is serving her fifth term representing the 18th Senatorial District, consisting of Northampton and Lehigh Counties. Prior to her election to the General Assembly, Senator Boscola served as Deputy Court Administrator with the Northampton County Court. She received her Bachelors and Masters degrees from Villanova University *cum laude*. Throughout her legislative career, Senator Boscola has worked tirelessly to bring property tax reform to the forefront of the debate in the General Assembly. Senator Boscola has been a leading proponent of the total elimination of the local school property tax and has been a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 76. She has also introduced legislation to freeze property taxes on seniors so that they can remain in their homes.

Senator Boscola has also focused on the need for state government to promote economic development initiatives to provide family sustaining jobs to the Lehigh Valley and across the Commonwealth. She has worked diligently to bring the Lehigh Valley region our fair share of state funds for worthwhile local projects. She has been a strong advocate for funding economic development programs with proven track records of job creation and retention such as the Ben Franklin Technology Centers, Small Business Development Center and the Manufacturer’s Resource Center. Most recently, she was instrumental in bringing a City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) designation to Bethlehem. Senator Boscola fought hard to ensure that Bethlehem had an opportunity to submit a CRIZ application and has worked to ensure that the incentive will be a tool that drives new growth to the region.

The CRIZ looks to leverage new state tax increment to complete difficult development projects in Bethlehem. Bethlehem and our region continues to recover from the loss of Bethlehem Steel. Redeveloping the vacant steel land into productive, diverse job opportunities will ensure Bethlehem and the region has a bright future. Senator Boscola recognizes that staying competitive requires creative incentives that help generate new growth in the region, which is what the CRIZ does.

Working with the private sector to drive growth, job expansion and retention has been a focus for Senator Boscola. Cutting out the red tape, ensuring the State’s incentives are competitive with surrounding states is one way government can help promote growth.

Since 2011, Senator Boscola has been Chair of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, where she is leading the fight to bring policies into state government that will create family sustaining jobs, protect the rights of victims of crime, reform and reduce the size of state government and promote school to work opportunities. Additionally, Senator Boscola serves as the Chair of the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee where she has tirelessly protected consumers from utility rate increases.

Along with Consumer Protection, Senator Boscola is also a member of the Judiciary, Banking & Insurance, Game and Fisheries, Rules & Executive Nominations and Community, Economic &

Recreational Development Committees. Senator Boscola is also involved in a number of legislative caucus' including serving as co-chair of the Economy, Business & Jobs Caucus and the Community College Caucus. She is also a member of the Local & School Property Tax Relief Caucus, Legislative Sportsmen Caucus, Fire & Emergency Services Caucus, Early Childhood Education Caucus, among others.

Senator Boscola resides in Bethlehem Township with her husband, Ed Boscola and their two cats Turbo and Trixie.