



STATE SENATOR LeANNA M. WASHINGTON

Serving the 4th Senatorial District

LeAnna M. Washington's election to the Pennsylvania State Senate on May 17, 2005 in a special election was the beginning of a new chapter in the life of this dedicated public servant as a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Washington first sought political office in November 1993 in a special election for a House seat in the 200th Legislative District. She won that seat by an overwhelming margin. The following year, in November 1994, Washington ran again for the seat and won by a wide margin. Her constituents returned her to office for six consecutive terms.

In 2004, Washington had an opportunity to test the political waters again when she sought a seat in the 4th Senatorial district that became vacant. In May 2005, Washington won the special election for a seat in the Pennsylvania Senate with unprecedented voter support. She soundly defeated her opponent, winning by more than a 5-1 margin. Washington, whose 4th Senatorial district covers parts of Philadelphia and Montgomery County, was sworn into office on June 17, 2005.

Washington has been a pivotal political force in the community for more than two decades. She works tirelessly for communities throughout the region. She listens and then she acts.

■ COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- Aging and Youth, Minority Chair
- Public Health & Welfare
- Communication and Technology
- Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
- Policy
- Transportation
- Special Session Committee on Energy

■ LEGISLATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Washington's leadership in ensuring the well-being of Pennsylvania's children and seniors.

- Pennsylvania's Children's Trust Fund (CTF) Board of Directors
- Children's Health Advisory Council
- Governor's Health Care Advisory Panel
- Intra-Governmental Council on Long-Term Care

■ LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

- Washington is the first woman elected to serve as Chair of the PA Legislative Black Caucus (PLBC), a position she served for two consecutive terms in 2001 and 2003, respectively.
- Washington is the first woman Chair of Black Elected Officials (BEO) of Philadelphia
- Washington is the former Co-Chair, of the Philadelphia Delegation

■ ADVOCATE FOR FAMILIES

Initiatives supporting Pennsylvania families:

- Sponsor of day-long seminars for survivors and victims of domestic violence
- Co-sponsor of domestic violence legislation that requires individuals who have Protection From Abuse orders filed against them, to surrender all firearms
- Advocate for the CARE Act (Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies) legislation that supports victims of rape by providing them with complete and comprehensive healthcare services
- Actively involved with local Victim Services' agency in her district
- Introduced legislation that requires identification bracelets for patients suffering from dementia
- Advocate for affordable and accessible health care for workers and families
- Advocate for increase funding for Pre-K and Child Care programs
- Increased funding for Home and Community-Based Services
- Co-sponsor of Assisted Living legislation

■ KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

Washington is leading the effort to end illegal handgun trafficking in the Senate:

- In the fall of 2005, sponsored S.B. 1002, the Illegal Handgun Trafficking Reduction Act. This legislation has wide support from a number of communities and organizations, including CeaseFire of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and the PATH Coalition (Pennsylvanians Against Handgun Trafficking). This legislation would reduce illegal handgun trafficking in the Commonwealth. In 2007, Senator Washington introduced Senate Bills 1042 & 1043, respectively. These bills are identical to the Senate bills introduced in the 2005-2006 legislative session. These bills also limit handgun purchases to one per month statewide and also limits handgun purchases and sales to one per month in cities of the first class. (Philadelphia)
- Co-sponsor of community forums that address violence prevention in coordination with the Philadelphia District Attorney and Philadelphia Police Commissioner.
- Held an Interfaith Vigil and March to address the unprecedented number of homicides in the City of Philadelphia.
- Held a "Crime University" for seniors. This crime prevention forum provided information for seniors on how to protect themselves from scams, identity theft, and other fraud schemes.

■ BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Washington is a member of the following organizations and institutions:

- Board of Trustees, Arcadia University, Philadelphia, PA
- National Organization for Women Legislators
- Eastern Region Advisory Board, Guadenzia, Inc.
- Executive Committee, Greater Philadelphia NAACP
- Board, Sedgwick Cultural Center
- Regional Director, Region II, National Foundation for Women Legislators
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
- Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs

■ AWARDS & HONORS

Washington is the recipient of numerous community and civic awards that include, but are not limited to the following:

- Outstanding Community Leader, Philadelphia Tribune Newspaper, 2008
- Civic Leaders Award, Women Against Abuse, 2007
- Spirit of Our Ancestors, D'zert Club, 2007
- Humanitarian Award, National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, 2006
- Women's Leadership Award, Women's Center, Montgomery County, 2006
- Drum Major for Social Justice, Office of Lieutenant Governor, 2005
- Pacesetter Award, Women Legislators' Lobby, 2005
- Women of Distinction, Philadelphia Business Journal, National Association of Women Business Owners, 2005
- Profiles in Excellence, GIANT Stores, 2005
- Distinguished Leadership Award, Community College of Philadelphia, 2004
- Service & Leadership, Gaudenzia, Inc., 2004
- Women of Distinction, Soroptimist International, 2002
- Spirit of the Constitution, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, 2002
- Founder's Award, Berean Institute, 2002
- Sojourner Truth Award, Women's Institute and Network (WIN), 1999

Washington continues efforts to obtain dedicated funding for mass transit, improve services and conditions in nursing facilities, strengthen kinship programs for children in foster care, support education reform initiatives that address accountability, achievement, and adequate funding, and supports economic development initiatives that strengthen the local economy.

Washington has triumphed over many personal challenges in her life. She was a high school dropout, teen parent, and victim of domestic violence early in her marriage. Her tenacity, perseverance and faith in God allowed her to transform victimhood to victory.

Washington, who earned a Master's degree in Human Services from Lincoln University said of the road she has traveled: *"I will go where there is no path and I will leave a trail for others to follow."*

Washington has three adult children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She resides in Northwest Philadelphia. Senator Washington is honored to serve the citizens of the 4th Senatorial district.

DISTRICT OFFICES:

1555-A Wadsworth Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19150 • (215) 242-0472 • Fax: (215) 753-4538
1168 Easton Road • Roslyn, PA 19001 • (215) 517-1434 • Fax: (215) 517-1439

HARRISBURG OFFICE:

Senate Box 203004 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-3004 • (717) 787-1427 • (717) 783-2175 • Fax: (717) 772-0572
Web site: www.senatorwashington.com • Email: washington@pasenate.com