

JONATHAN KASSA

PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | DISTRICT 151



Jonathan is a small business owner who has led national initiatives to increase campus community safety and victim advocacy for the last decade. Most recently, he partnered with other national experts and founded a company that leverages technology to increase equity and transform accountability and efficiencies in campus crime reporting.

Jonathan is currently a director on the North Penn School District Board, where he serves as Chair of the Facilities & Operations and Safe Schools committees. In that capacity, Jonathan has led initiatives in comprehensive school safety strategies, tax-payer relief for seniors, full-day kindergarten, and investments to improve the climate of learning and quality of facilities across the district. Previously, Jonathan served as a national director at North America's largest security services provider, and has led national nonprofits dedicated to safer campuses, juvenile justice, social services, and education programs, including having served as Executive Director of the Clery Center.

Jonathan graduated from Penn State University with an undergraduate degree in History, and earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Villanova University where he was an adjunct instructor and Emeritus MPA Department Advisory Board member.

Jonathan and his wife Cathy have raised two children in the North Penn School District, and developed a passion for public service through years of volunteering with a number of community organizations.

WEBSITE

kassaforstaterep.com

TWITTER

[@JKassa_PA](https://twitter.com/JKassa_PA)

ACTBLUE DONATE LINK

secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-pa-kassa

ON THE ISSUES

EDUCATION FUNDING

Building on his service on the North Penn School District Board, Jonathan knows that we must stop relentless local tax increases with fact-based fair funding for public schools. Jonathan will fight to ensure that the state pays its fair share so that all students throughout the Commonwealth have access to excellent public education.

GUN SAFETY

Jonathan's professional career has been devoted to keeping kids safe at schools. He will bring this expertise to Harrisburg, and fight for policies that protect children and our schools - including through proven, common sense gun safety laws.

HEALTH REFORM AND AFFORDABLE DRUG PRICING

Every Pennsylvanian should have access to the health services and prescriptions that they need to enjoy good health and safety. Jonathan will fight to cap prescription drug prices and bar the hidden fees that harm working families.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Nested Congressional Districts

CD1: D+31, CD4: R+11

Pennsylvania's 151th state house district is located in the Philadelphia area, and includes Horsham, Lower Gwynedd, Montgomery and Upper Dublin. It is located in Montgomery County. Pennsylvania state house districts include an average of 62,573 residents. The state has grown - after the 2000 Census, each district represented 60,498 residents.

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PAST RESULTS IN THE DISTRICT

2018 STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Democrat: 14,438, 48.60%
Republican: 15,269, 51.40%
Total: 29,707

2018 GUBERNATORIAL

Democrat: 64.20%
Republican: 35.80%

2018 SENATE

Democrat: 61.66%
Republican: 38.31%

2016 PRESIDENTIAL

Clinton: 18,720, 55.25%
Trump: 13,971, 41.23%
Total: 33,884

2012 PRESIDENTIAL

Obama: 16,265, 50.81%
Romney: 15,455, 48.28%
Total: 32,009

ABOUT THE OPPONENT

William Todd Stephens is the Republican incumbent for the District 151 House seat and was first elected in 2011. Stephens likes to masquerade as a moderate, but he has taken terrible votes on environmental policy and women's rights, among others. For instance, Stephens voted against an important bill setting standards for [buffer zones](#) around construction projects near streams

to minimize environmental destruction. His votes have earned him a mere 46% from the [Pennsylvania League of Conservation Voters](#). Stephens has also taken numerous votes against women's rights, including two votes to prohibit [abortion-coverage](#) in [health plans](#) purchased from the state's healthcare exchange.

WHY THIS RACE IS IMPORTANT

To flip PA's lower state legislative chamber, Democrats need to win 9 House seats. Momentum is on our side: in 2018, Democrats broke a Republican supermajority in the Senate and flipped a dozen State House seats. We can build on this energy to flip the chamber in 2020. Flipping a chamber in the PA legislature would give Democrats a critical seat at the redistricting table, particularly for Congressional redistricting. Republican state legislators have brutally gerrymandered PA's Congressional districts. And the political commission in PA that draws state legislative maps has also permitted terribly gerrymandered maps. We can prevent this from happening again by flipping a chamber and ensuring that Democrats have a voice in the next round of redistricting. Flipping a chamber blue is especially important because the PA Governor does not have veto power over state legislative maps. So while Democratic Governor Wolf will be in office during the next round of redistricting, we'll still need Democratic control of a chamber to have a say in the outcome.

These are 'last chance' races: whoever is elected to the PA state legislature in 2020 will draw the next round of district lines.

DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

Popula- tion	House- holds	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Asian	Other	Median Income	% Poverty	% Un- employ- ment	% College	%HS Grad	%No HS
62,266	23,201	14.9%	78.8%	5.1%	2.3%	11.7%	2.1%	\$98,697	3.4%	2.9%	62.1%	34%	3.0%



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WHY PENNSYLVANIA IS IMPORTANT

PENNSYLVANIA FAST FACTS

- **Current Control:** Divided.
Governor - D; Senate - R; House - R
- **Gubernatorial Election:** Not up in 2020
- **Length of State House Terms:** 2 years
- **Candidate Filing Deadline:** February 18, 2020
- **State Legislative Primary Date:** June 2, 2020
(subject to further delay)
- **Redistricting:** State legislature controls
Congressional redistricting, Political Commission
controls state legislative redistricting; Governor
has veto over Congressional maps but not state
legislative maps
- **Electoral College Votes:** 20

BROADER 2020 OPPORTUNITIES

- Pennsylvania is a critical, perennial battleground presidential state. Before Trump won the state by 44,000 votes, or less than 1%, Pennsylvanians had voted for the Democratic Presidential nominee in every election since 1992. Pennsylvania is one of the “[Big Four](#)” states that are likely to control the outcome of the 2020 presidential election. Democrats have a tremendous opportunity to claim PA’s 20 Electoral College votes this year, with smart organizing, expanding the electorate through voter registration, and turnout efforts.
- There are also several important, very competitive Congressional races in PA this year (including PA-10, PA-08, and PA-01, PA-07, PA-17, and PA-16).
- Working to support PA state legislative candidates will be instrumental in helping drive turnout up and down the ticket in this historic election year.

REDISTRICTING & GERRYMANDERING

In Pennsylvania, Congressional district lines are drawn by the Pennsylvania General Assembly. State legislative lines are drawn by a five-member commission, the first four members of which are appointed by the majority and minority leaders of the State House and Senate, with the chair being appointed by either these four members or the State Supreme Court.

After the last round of redistricting, the Republican State House Majority Leader presided over a [piece of legislation](#) that remapped the state, resulting in extremely gerrymandered Congressional maps. For instance, Pennsylvania’s 7th Congressional District was one of the most gerrymandered districts in the country, before the [Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional](#) in 2018. The district gained national notoriety as one of the most obvious efforts to gerrymander. The 7th District was so egregious that it earned a nickname, based on the cartoon characters it resembled: “[Goofy Kicking Donald](#)”.

The net result of the GOP’s manipulations was a state that voted majority Democrat, but which sent thirteen Republicans to Congress and only five Democrats. Fortunately, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled in 2018, after three elections conducted under this travesty, that the 2011 district maps were illegally partisan, and when the state’s legislature could not agree on new district boundaries, the Court provided districts of its own. Unfortunately, the state legislative maps remain gerrymandered in favor of Republicans - as [an example](#), in 2018, Pennsylvania’s Democratic State House candidates received 54% of the vote, but only won 45% of the seats.