

# Democratic Candidates on the Ballot

## President – Joe Biden



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By The Editorial Board

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Joe Biden has vowed to be a president for all Americans, even those who do not support him. In previous elections, such a promise might have sounded trite or treacherous. Today, the idea that the president should have the entire nation's interests at heart feels almost revolutionary.

Mr. Biden has also vowed to “restore the soul of America.” It is a painful reminder that the country is weaker, angrier, less hopeful and more divided than it was four years ago. With this promise, Mr. Biden is assuring the public that he recognizes the magnitude of what the next president is being called upon to do. Thankfully, he is well suited to the challenge — perhaps particularly so.

Kathleen Kingsbury, acting editorial page editor, wrote about the choice to endorse Joe Biden for president in a special edition of our Opinion Today newsletter. You can read it [here](#).

In the midst of unrelenting chaos, Mr. Biden is offering an anxious, exhausted nation something beyond policy or ideology. His campaign is rooted in steadiness, experience, compassion and decency.

A President Biden would embrace the rule of law and restore public confidence in democratic institutions. He would return a respect for science and expertise to the government. He would stock his administration with competent, qualified, principled individuals. He would stand with America's allies and against adversaries that seek to undermine our democracy. He would work to address systemic injustices. He would not court foreign autocrats or give comfort to

white supremacists. His focus would be on healing divisions and rallying the nation around shared values. He would understand that his first duty, always, is to the American people.

But Mr. Biden is more than simply a steady hand on the wheel. His message of unity and pragmatism resonated with Democratic voters, who turned out in large numbers to elevate him above a sprawling primary field.

His team has put together a bold agenda aimed at tackling some of America's most pressing problems. The former vice president is committed to [working toward universal health care](#) through measures such as adding a public option to the Affordable Care Act — which he played a significant role in passing — lowering the age for Medicare eligibility to 60 years old and cutting the cost of prescription drugs. He recognizes the fateful threat of climate change and has put forward an [ambitious, \\$2 trillion plan](#) to slash carbon emissions, invest in a green economy and combat environmental racism.

Mr. Biden will not be morphing into an ideological maximalist any time soon, but he has acknowledged that the current trifecta of crises — a lethal pandemic, an economic meltdown and racial unrest — calls for an expanded governing vision. His campaign has been reaching out to a wide range of thinkers, including former rivals, to help craft more dynamic solutions. In midsummer, he rolled out an economic recovery plan, dubbed “Build Back Better,” with proposals to bolster American manufacturing, spur innovation, build a “clean-energy economy,” advance racial equity and support caregivers and educators. His plan for fighting the coronavirus includes the creation of a public health jobs corps. Progressives who want even more from him should not be afraid to push. Experience is not the same as stagnation.

Mr. Biden has a long and distinguished record of accomplishment, including, as a senator, sponsoring the landmark Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and, as vice president, overseeing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, passed in response to the Great Recession. In a 2012 interview on “Meet the Press,” his remarks in support of gay marriage — which blindsided the Obama White House and caused a public kerfuffle — proved a watershed moment for the cause of equality. In 1996, Mr. Biden had voted as a senator in favor of the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibited federal recognition of same-sex marriages, making his evolution on the issue particularly resonant.

He has an unusually rich grasp of and experience in foreign policy, which, as traditionally understood, has not played a central role in the presidential race — though the pandemic, the climate crisis, a more assertive China and disinformation wars against the American public argue strongly that it should. The next president will face the task of repairing the enormous damage inflicted on America's global reputation.

Mr. Biden has the necessary chops, having spent much of his career focused on global concerns. He not only took on thorny diplomatic missions as vice president, he also served more than three decades on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Aware that an “America First” approach in reality amounts to “America alone,” he would work to revive and refurbish damaged alliances. He has the respect and trust of America's allies and would not be played for a fool by its adversaries.

Certainly, not all of Mr. Biden's foreign policy decisions through the decades look sage in hindsight, but he has shown foresight in key moments. He fought a rear-guard action in the Obama White House to limit the futile surge in Afghanistan. He was against the 2011 intervention in Libya and skeptical of committing American troops to Syria. He opposed renewing the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act in 2007 and 2008 because it gave the government too much power to spy on Americans. He's supported closing the prison at Guantánamo Bay. Little wonder that he has the backing of a who's who of the foreign policy community and national security officials from both parties.

Mr. Biden is not an ideological purist or a bomb-thrower. Some will see this as a shortcoming or hopelessly naïve. Certainly, it's unlikely that if Republicans retain control of the Senate, their leader, Mitch McConnell, will abandon his policy of fanatical obstructionism of any Democratic president.

That said, as the emissary often dispatched by President Barack Obama to deal with Republican lawmakers during tough legislative fights, Mr. Biden has intimate experience with the partisan gridlock crippling Congress. He knows how the levers of power work on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, and he has longstanding relationships with members from both parties. More than any of this cycle's other presidential hopefuls, he offered weary voters a chance to see whether even a modicum of bipartisanship is possible.

He is also offering a glimpse of the Democratic Party's future in his choice of running mate, Senator Kamala Harris of California. Ms. Harris would become a number of firsts — a woman, a Black person and an Asian-American — as vice president, adding history-making excitement to the ticket. A former prosecutor, she is tough, smart and can dismantle a faulty argument or political opponent. She is progressive, but not radical. In her own presidential campaign, she presented herself as a unifying leader with center-left policy proposals in a mold similar to Mr. Biden, albeit a generation younger. Mr. Biden is aware that he no longer qualifies as a fresh face and has said that he considers himself a bridge to the party's next generation of leaders. Ms. Harris is a promising step in that direction.

If he wins election, Mr. Biden will need to take his governing agenda to the people — all of the people, not just his party's loudest or most online voices. This will require persuading Americans that he understands their concerns and can translate that understanding into sound policy.

Mr. Biden has a rare gift for forging such connections. In his younger days, he, like so many senators, could be in love with the sound of his own voice. Time and loss have softened his edges. He speaks the language of suffering and compassion with a raw intimacy. People respond to that, across lines of race and class — ever more so in this time of uncertainty. The father of the police-shooting victim Jacob Blake described his phone conversation with Mr. Biden as full of "love, admiration, caring," in one of many recent examples of the former vice president's hard-earned empathy.

Mr. Biden knows that there are no easy answers. He has the experience, temperament and character to guide the nation through this valley into a brighter, more hopeful future. He has our endorsement for the presidency.

When they go to the polls this year, voters aren't just choosing a leader. They're deciding what America will be. They're deciding whether they favor the rule of law, how the government will help them weather the greatest economic calamity in generations, whether they want government to enable everyone to have access to health care, whether they consider global warming a serious threat, whether they believe that racism should be treated as a public policy problem.

Mr. Biden isn't a perfect candidate and he wouldn't be a perfect president. But politics is not about perfection. It is about the art of the possible and about encouraging America to embrace its better angels.

## Vice President - Kamala Harris



The first Black and Indian American woman to represent California in the United States Senate, Kamala Harris grew up believing in the promise of America and fighting to make sure that promise is fulfilled for all Americans. Kamala's father immigrated to the U.S. from Jamaica to study economics and her mother emigrated from India. Kamala's mother told her growing up "Don't sit around and complain about things, do something," which is what drives Kamala every single day.

Kamala started fighting for working families in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, where she focused on prosecuting child sexual assault cases. From there, she became the first Black woman elected as San Francisco's District Attorney. In this position, she started a program to provide first-time drug offenders second chances with the opportunity to earn a high school degree and find a job.

In 2010, Kamala became the first Black woman to be elected California Attorney General, overseeing the country's second largest Justice Department, only behind the U.S. Department of Justice. In this capacity, she managed a \$735 million budget and oversaw more than 4,800 attorneys and other employees. As California Attorney General, Kamala fought for families and won a \$20 billion settlement for California homeowners against big banks that were unfairly foreclosing on homes.

Kamala worked to protect Obamacare, helped win marriage equality for all, defended California's landmark climate change law and won a \$1.1 billion settlement against a for-profit education company that scammed students and veterans. Kamala also fought for California communities and prosecuted transnational gangs who drove human trafficking, gun smuggling and drug rings.

Since being elected to the U.S. Senate in 2016, Kamala has introduced and co-sponsored legislation to help the middle class, increase the minimum wage to \$15, reform cash bail, and defend the legal rights of refugees and immigrants.

Kamala serves on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence that deals with the nation's most sensitive national security and international threats. She also serves on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee where she oversees the federal government's response to natural disasters and emergencies, including the Trump administration's response to COVID-19.

On the Senate Judiciary Committee, Kamala has held Trump administration officials accountable and was a powerful voice against Trump's conservative judicial nominations.

Kamala graduated from Howard University, where she was in the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, and earned a law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law.

Kamala has been married to her husband Doug for the past six years. She is the stepmother of two children, Ella and Cole who are her "endless source of love and pure joy."

## U.S. Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon



Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon is a life-long advocate for children and families. In November 2018, she was sworn into Congress following a special election victory - the first woman of the new wave of representation to be sworn in.

In her first term in Congress, Mary Gay has continued her relentless advocacy on behalf of children and families in Pennsylvania's 5th District and across the country. She was appointed, by her peers, to serve as Vice Chair of the prestigious House Judiciary Committee, and also serves on the House Rules Committee and the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. She is a member of dozens of important caucuses, including the Bipartisan Working Group on Addiction, the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, and the Equality Caucus.

Mary Gay has cosponsored over 400 bills to improve the lives of families in our region and across the country. When roughly 4,000 jobs at the Boeing Plant in Ridley were on the chopping block, Mary Gay led the charge to successfully restore funding for this critical program in the National Defense Authorization Act. She also helped secure a \$650 million contract to produce new ships at the Philadelphia Shipyard. Congresswoman Scanlon has introduced legislation to reduce the burden of student loan debt and the costs of prescription drugs. She led House floor debate on critical legislative victories, including the Equality Act and the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women's Act. Mary Gay also helped push forward two critical pieces of commonsense gun violence prevention bills, which earned bipartisan support in the House. Congresswoman Scanlon has been tirelessly fighting for the people, working to restore faith in our democracy, and has been a leader in the House effort to hold the Trump Administration accountable.

### Biography

Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon, an education and human rights advocate, currently represents Pennsylvania's 5th Congressional District. She was first sworn into U.S. House of Representatives on November 13, 2018.

Congresswoman Scanlon previously served as national pro bono counsel at a major US law firm, where she directed and supervised over 600 lawyers in 15 offices in providing more than 50,000 hours of pro bono legal services annually to low-income clients and non-profit organizations. Under her leadership, the pro bono program worked on critical issues, including voting rights, child advocacy, immigration, housing, public benefits, criminal justice reform, free press, and other constitutional rights. The program earned the 2018 American Bar Association's annual pro bono award.

Congresswoman Scanlon also served as an attorney at the Education Law Center, as President of her local school board, and as co-chair of the Voting Rights Task Force of the Association of Pro Bono Counsel.

Congresswoman Scanlon’s priorities in Congress include voting rights, education, common sense gun safety legislation, and protecting the rights of children, families, veterans and our seniors. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, the House Rules Committee, and the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

Mary Gay is a graduate of Colgate University and University of Pennsylvania Law School. She and her husband Mark have three children: Casey, Daniel, and Matthew. Mary Gay and Mark reside in Swarthmore with their two rescue dogs, Abby and Emma, a cockatiel named TJ, and several chickens.

## **State Government Candidates**

### **PA Auditor General - Nina Ahmad**



If elected, Nina would represent the first woman of color to serve as a state-wide executive in the Commonwealth’s 233-year history. Dr. Ahmad would also become the only current women and person of color in Pennsylvania’s executive offices.

When Nina was just eleven years old, in her native country of Bangladesh, she witnessed the worst of politics. Greed and corruption drove violence and despair. Career politicians sowed division.

That’s when she learned about organizing, and when she saw the necessity of a strong community and the power it can have. Nina and her family watched progressive Americans raise awareness, joining ordinary people in Bangladesh in mobilizing for peace. Half a world away in Pennsylvania, advocates and activists joined together with labor unions, taking concerted and critical action to end the violence and change life as she knew it. Nina envisioned a path for safe passage, and her life was transformed.

Nearly ten years later, she would forge out on her own. At only 21, Nina came to Pennsylvania, working hard to put herself through school University of Pennsylvania. She earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry and completed a medical fellowship at Thomas Jefferson University. Nina eventually built a diverse community of friends and colleagues, and she embraced being a proud American. She succeeded as a molecular biologist and a responsible small business owner. She married, becoming a loving wife and a mom, raising two daughters who are both now college-educated and making an impact in their communities.

Nina is a strong advocate for women and communities of color. As a catalyst for change, she served for nearly half a decade as President of the Philadelphia chapter National Organization for Women (NOW), and she is honored to serve as a national board member to this day. Nina has also served on local nonprofit boards and acted as a leader in her community. As a small business owner, she's spurred good jobs with union-generated and labor-built partnerships, and has made key responsible decisions on community investments.

Most recently, Nina served as a Deputy Mayor for Public Engagement under Mayor Kenney, where she was responsible for managing dynamic people, initiatives, and participated in the management of a \$4 billion operating budget in public funds. Nina has also worked closely with officials like Mayor Michael Nutter and Governor Tom Wolf. She's fostered initiatives including launching the city's Commission for Women, fighting for pay equity, and working to end workplace harassment. Nina gathered support for reform and opportunity through the city's Youth Commission, the Office of Black Male Engagement, and the office of LGBT affairs.

Nina also proudly served President Barack Obama as a member of the National Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, advising on key issues affecting the health, employment, and well-being of these communities.

Nina knows dedication, education, and insight can be a light to those left-behind or struggling. Community is hard-won. It can gather speed and impact. Nina fights for others because others fought for her. Her work now is just-returns.

A woman, a scientist, a dynamic policy-maker, making a difference.

## PA Attorney General - Josh Shapiro



Josh Shapiro is a rare public servant who has risen above politics time and again to take on the status quo and protect everyday Pennsylvanians.

As a State Representative, Josh wrote and passed some of the toughest ethics laws in state history. Philadelphia Magazine wrote that Josh was “a blast of oxygen in the smoke-choked back rooms of quid-pro-quo Harrisburg,” and his work earned him a national reputation as a bipartisan consensus builder.

Then, as Chairman of the Montgomery County Commissioners, he led a fiscal and ethical turnaround, took early steps to combat the heroin epidemic, helped the first LGBT couples in Pennsylvania marry and fired Wall Street money managers to save retirees millions. His work on behalf of victims and for criminal justice reform as the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency earned him the trust of law enforcement leaders from both parties.

As Attorney General, Josh has restored integrity to the office and is standing up for the rule of law and safeguarding Pennsylvanians’ rights — no matter what they look like, who they love, or who they pray or don’t pray to.

He has taken on child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, identifying 301 predator priests and thousands of victims and spurring investigation across the United States. He has twice secured national injunctions protecting women’s access to no-cost contraception as required by the Affordable Care Act. He is fighting our country’s opioid epidemic on every front— including leading a multistate investigation into pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors.

Josh Shapiro earned his law degree at night from Georgetown University, and is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar. Josh was raised in Montgomery County, where he met his high school sweetheart, Lori, and where they are raising their four young children.

## PA State Treasurer - Joe Torsella



Joseph M. Torsella is a successful civic leader who brings integrity, energy, and vision to the office of Pennsylvania State Treasurer.

Joe is the kind of commonsense problem-solver we need in public life. Because Treasury manages \$100 billion in public funds and has pre-audit authority over every single check the Commonwealth issues, it's an ideal platform for someone with Joe's record of bringing efficiency, sound management, and innovation to the public sector, a theme of Joe's career.

And because the Treasurer – who sits on nearly twenty consequential boards dealing with issues ranging from infrastructure to pensions to higher education – has such a wide-ranging role, Joe will be a strong voice for smart policy, fiscal responsibility, and public integrity on many, many issues that will shape Pennsylvania's future:

**A Record of Leadership and Service.** From Philadelphia's City Hall to the National Constitution Center to the halls of the United Nations, Joe has spent much of his career in public service, delivering impressive results even in challenging environments.

**Committed to Transparency and Integrity.** Joe's efforts brought unprecedented new transparency to United Nations operations, and he has already won praise for his proposals to bring new accountability to Pennsylvania. As PA's fiscal watchdog, Joe will open the state's books, empowering every citizen to act as auditor. Under Joe's leadership, Treasury will set the bar nationally as a leader in integrity and transparency.

**Lifting the Fortunes of Low and Middle Income Families.** Joe has a vision for Treasury as an engine for creating more prosperity for more Pennsylvanians. As America grapples with inequality and income disparities, Joe is preparing policies to help more Pennsylvania families improve their financial literacy and save for college, steps that can meaningfully change the economic lives of hard-working families.

**Proven Results for Taxpayers.** As Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning under Ed Rendell, Joe championed reforms that closed a \$1.25 billion deficit without raising taxes and led to what the New York Times called "one of the most stunning

turnarounds in recent urban history.” He will bring the same drive for efficiency and fiscally responsible management to Treasury.

From serving as an U.S. Representative to the United Nations to leading the development of the sparkling new National Constitution Center so effectively that the Philadelphia Inquirer declared him “a modern-day founding father,” Joe Torsella has always valued the need for innovation and new ideas in public service.

From 2011 to 2014, Joe was US Ambassador to the UN for Management and Reform. He was the architect and chief public spokesperson for the Obama Administration’s UN reform plans released in 2012, and was the United States government’s lead fiscal watchdog at the UN, from its \$36 billion in annual budgets to its \$41 billion pension fund to its \$2 billion headquarters renovation project. In his tenure, the US reversed a decade-long trend of unbridled growth in UN budgets, brought new transparency to the UN through webcasting of meetings and publication of UN audits, and won milestone reforms toward ending sexual exploitation and abuse of civilian populations by UN peacekeepers and ending the unfair exclusion of Israel in UN bodies. Torsella’s plainspoken style earned him praise from UN watchers and from publications ranging from Le Monde to the New York Post, and he was recognized for his successful use of social media and public diplomacy to promote US policy. A UN outsider, Joe spoke frankly and colorfully about the need for the UN to end “business as usual” and frequently reminded his UN colleagues that the “obligation to our taxpayers” is to “do more with less.”

Prior to his service as an UN Ambassador, Joe served as Chairman of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education. In that role, Joe opened the board’s workings to the public – holding board meetings outside of Harrisburg for the first time in decades – and led the board to set forth an agenda around high school reform, teacher quality, healthy and safe schools, and college affordability. The Board’s hearings and proposals on making higher education more affordable won national notice and sparked legislative action in Pennsylvania.

From 1997 to 2003, Joe was the founding President and CEO of the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, a non-profit museum and education center dedicated to explaining and celebrating American ideas and ideals. As the driving force behind the concept, construction, and opening of the \$200 million facility on Independence Mall, Joe led the Constitution Center to international acclaim, financial stability, and an unparalleled institutional reputation. He returned to the Constitution Center for a second term as CEO from 2006 to 2009, persuading President George H. W. Bush to join the Center as its Chairman, and working to establish the Center’s international program, including democracy education work in Afghanistan. Joe was asked to lead the National Constitution Center by then-Mayor Rendell.

Between 1992 and 1993, Joe served as Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning in Philadelphia under Rendell. He helped devise initiatives that helped resolve a \$1.25 billion cumulative deficit. The New York Times hailed this nationally-acclaimed financial recovery as “the most stunning turnaround” in American municipal history. In addition to his career in government, Joe has served in a variety of high profile civic posts. In 2005, he co-chaired the Greater Philadelphia bid for the 2016 Olympic Games. A former successful small business owner, he serves on several corporate boards, and he served as a Distinguished Visiting Fellow in Public Policy at Drexel University.

Raised in Berwick, PA, Joe graduated from Wyoming Seminary high school. After graduating with honors from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Economics and History, Joe studied at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. He lives with his wife, Carolyn P. Short, in Flourtown, Pennsylvania; they have four children.

## Pennsylvania State Senate District 17 – Amanda Cappelletti



Amanda Cappelletti is running for the 17th State Senatorial District. She currently serves as the Vice Chair of the East Norriton Board of Supervisors, having stepped up to run after the 2016 election, wanting to do more for her community.

An attorney with a Master's in Public Health, Amanda has worked in Harrisburg to advance progressive policy. She worked with Representative Donna Bullock and as a Fellow for the ACLU of Pennsylvania. She was a member of the first group awarded the William Penn Fellowship through the Governor's office: first as an advocate for children at the Office of Child Development and Early Learning, and then at the Department of Human Services as a policy specialist tracking legislation to assess implementation. Most recently, Amanda served as Director of Policy for Planned Parenthood advocating for proactive reproductive legislation.

Amanda knows how Harrisburg works, and more so, how it doesn't work. Right now, Harrisburg isn't working for many people on many levels. What's more, the quality of leadership in the state senate isn't committed to delivering real change. That's why Amanda is running. She's a true progressive who is ready to lead.

As a Senator, Amanda will work tirelessly with her colleagues to introduce and support legislation to address funding for our public schools, defend access to healthcare, and protect our environment. At home, she will be out in the community, listening to the people in our neighborhoods, ensuring their voices are heard in Harrisburg.

Amanda will advocate for our progressive values while working across the aisle towards shared values. She'll be a senator who will restore integrity and refocus the conversation on the issues.

A life-long resident of Pennsylvania, Amanda grew up in Boyertown with her parents where she attended public school and graduated Boyertown Area Senior High. She attended Chestnut Hill College for her undergraduate degree, and received her Law Degree and Master's in Public Health from Temple University. She currently resides in East Norriton with her husband, Gregory McQuiston, a U.S. Navy veteran.

## Pennsylvania State House District 165 – Jennifer O’Mara



“I’m running because we need representatives in Harrisburg who will put people over politics.”

Jennifer O’Mara believes there is more that unites us than divides us, and is committed to being part of a government that works to serve the people. As a member in the State House of Representatives, she is committed to improving public education for our children, ensuring access to affordable healthcare, and expanding job opportunities at all skill levels. Her dedication to public service is deeply rooted in her own experience, and her ability to deliver practical solutions has been shaped by her challenging personal journey.

Jennifer is the daughter of a union firefighter. When she was thirteen years old, her father died by gun suicide. Everything changed for Jennifer and her family. They moved to Delaware County and her mother found a job as a school bus driver. Thanks to essential public services, her father’s pension, and her mother’s union job, Jennifer’s family made it through.

“My family made it because of public services that were there for us when we needed it the most.”

After graduating from Interboro High School, Jennifer faced familiar challenges. As the daughter of the single mother with two younger brothers at home, affording college seemed impossible. But, Jennifer supported herself through college by working three jobs and was able to earn a dual degree from West Chester University with the help of financial aid and student loans. Studying history and secondary education, she became a certified teacher.

“I believe in government serving the people. We need to bring honest governance back to Harrisburg.”

Jennifer’s friends, family, and community members know her as an advocate who is always ready to help others. Jennifer is incredibly hardworking and puts the needs of her community ahead of her own. She also served as an advocate with the Department of Veterans Affairs for her now-husband, Bradford Bitting, a combat veteran and two-time Purple Heart recipient.

Jennifer O’Mara holds a Masters degree in English and history from the University of Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Lion’s Club and sits on the Board of Directors of the Delaware County Historical Society.

Jennifer and Bradford were married in 2017. They currently live in Springfield with their rescue dog, Ladybug.

## **Pennsylvania State House District 166 – Greg Vitali**



### A CHAMPION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Greg has dedicated his life to environmental protection. He is considered by many to be the leading environmental legislator in Harrisburg. He has received numerous statewide environmental awards.

Greg has served for 26 years on the Environmental Resource and Energy Committee -- four as Democratic Chairman.

His primary focus has been on climate and energy. He was the first Pennsylvania legislator to introduce climate change legislation and the first to introduce the idea of a severance tax on natural gas.

Greg has also been recognized as a strong advocate for brick and mortar public schools, women’s rights, criminal justice reform, sensible gun control policies, government reform, and equality for all under the law.

Greg has often been referred to as “the Conscience of the Legislature” because of the principled stands he takes on issues. he is not afraid to speak truth to power. His frank and blunt style often puts him at odds with powerful politicians.

Greg is a lifetime resident of Haverford Township and graduate of St. Joseph’s Prep. He received his B.S in Economics (cum laude) from Villanova University and his J.D from Villanova University School of Law.

As a solo practitioner in Havertown for 12 years, Greg learned both how laws affect real people and how to run a small business.

In 1992, building on his success as a community activist and knocking on nearly every door in the neighborhood, Greg became the first Democrat ever elected to the 166th Legislative District of Pennsylvania. He has been reelected 14 times, winning with his own brand of “shoe leather” campaigning - not special interest money.

As an adjunct professor at Villanova University, Greg taught classes on state and local government.