



State Representative

KENYATTA JOHNSON

186th Legislative District

Winter 2010



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Raising Expectations through Experience and Leadership

Dear Friends,

My first year as your state representative was a challenging but exciting one. I authored and co-sponsored more than 160 pieces of legislation, all with a goal of improving the lives of my constituents in the 186th District. In addition, I was fortunate enough to be able to help more than 3,500 constituents in my local service offices on several issues including housing, employment, housing rebates and food assistance.

As 2010 kicks into gear, I am eager to move forward with many of my initiatives currently being discussed in committees and on the House floor. This includes my Internet crime bill, my mentor/protégé bill for small businesses, and my youth employment bill. I am also ready to work closely with my colleagues in Harrisburg to proactively develop a timely and adequate budget that supports the residents of the 186th District.

For updates on these and all of my legislative activities and priorities, visit my Web site at www.pahouse.com/Johnson and sign up for my e-mail alerts.

It is my pleasure to serve as your state representative, and I look forward to continuing to advocate for you.

Sincerely,

Rep. Kenyatta Johnson, D-Philadelphia

Hundreds attend town hall meeting for Philadelphia youth

Rep. Johnson recently hosted a unique event designed to bring young people from throughout the 186th District together for a panel discussion. The event provided the opportunity to engage them in dialogue with a group of premier panelists to address youth violence in the Philadelphia region.

More than 250 people attended the first Peace Not Guns Youth Town Hall Meeting in December. This event was designed to provide youth with a voice, and encourage them to address issues plaguing their community and seek answers to resolve the senseless acts of violence and murders in Philadelphia.

The discussion was moderated by Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, professor at the Teachers College, Columbia University. Panelists included such well-known community leaders as Common Pleas Judge Paula Patrick, Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams and Teri Woods, author of "True to the Game."



More than 250 young people attended Rep. Johnson's first Peace Not Guns Youth Town Hall Meeting in December and discussed the issues facing them today.



Rep. Johnson speaks to the crowd of young people gathered at the first Peace Not Guns Youth Town Hall Meeting.

"All of our young people can accomplish anything they set their minds to with hard work, motivation and a strong desire to help others," Johnson said. "This forum was designed to motivate our youth and help them understand that the choice between violence and peace is their decision."

Founded in 1999 by Johnson, Peace Not Guns Inc. seeks to eliminate the use of guns and violence among youth, aged 9 to 24, through education, mentoring and community partnerships.

FAST FACT:

In 2008, 333 homicides occurred in Philadelphia, with 145 of them involving youth between the ages of 17 and 25.

House committee approves Johnson measure to extend tuition benefits for vets

The state House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee has unanimously approved a measure sponsored by Rep. Johnson that would extend state tuition benefits for military personnel and their dependents. The measure now awaits consideration by the full House.

The bill (H.B. 830) would allow members of the military or their dependents who are called to serve active duty outside the Commonwealth to continue to be eligible for resident tuition rates until they complete their degree, essentially allowing them to pause their studies until they return from active duty.

Under this measure, active duty personnel would also be eligible to keep these benefits regardless of a change of major, giving them the opportunity to study whatever they choose.

“This measure allows our brave military personnel who serve our state and our country the flexibility to pause their studies while they are serving, as well as to alter their major based on interest and experience, while still qualifying for in-state tuition rates, which they have more than earned,” Johnson said.

He added that this issue is a personal one for him, as he was able to take advantage of similar benefits because of the bravery of his father, a veteran of the Vietnam War.

The legislation would update Act 287 of 1982, which defines residency for active military and civilian Department of Defense personnel who are stationed or transferred to serve in Pennsylvania. It would allow these individuals and their families to receive the resident tuition rates at community colleges, state-owned institutions and state-related institutions of higher education.

Johnson proposes legislation to assist small, minority-owned businesses

Rep. Johnson recently proposed legislation (H.B. 2145) that would establish a mentor/protégé program to partner small businesses with larger companies to mentor them through the process of competing for state contracts.

This mentor/protégé arrangement between a prime contractor and a minority-owned, women-owned disadvantaged subcontractor would become an important factor for consideration in the awarding of any state contract. It would also create jobs among small, women- or minority-owned businesses, and would help this often overlooked sector become a key player in generating tax revenues for the state’s economy.

This bill is part of a legislative package based on a report by the House Select Committee on Minority, Women, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Inclusion.

Good news for those struggling to stay warm this winter

LIHEAP program grants increased, extended

Pennsylvania’s Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, also known as LIHEAP, announced earlier this year that it will increase cash grant amounts by \$100 and extend the program through April 2.

The federally funded LIHEAP helps income-eligible households pay for heat during the winter months and is administered by the state Department of Public Welfare. A family of four with an annual income of up to \$33,075 can qualify for this assistance.

Johnson said LIHEAP’s closing date has been extended from March 15 to April 2. He added that, according to the state Department of Public Welfare, cash grants for this winter are expected to average \$326.

“This is good news for people who are struggling through this bitterly cold winter,” Johnson said. “These updates to the LIHEAP program provide much-needed relief to our friends and neighbors who are having trouble heating their homes because of economic difficulties.”

Johnson said people can learn more about LIHEAP by calling his local constituent service office at (215) 952-3378. Applications are also available through the Philadelphia County Assistance Office by calling (215) 560-1583.

Who is Eligible for LIHEAP?	
Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$16,245
2	\$21,855
3	\$27,465
4	\$33,075
Each additional person, add \$5,610	

Visit Rep. Johnson's Web site at www.pahouse.com/Johnson to sign up for e-mail alerts.



Rep. Johnson speaks at a news conference to unveil a 10-bill bipartisan legislation package designed to ensure participation in state contracts and purchasing from minority-owned, women-owned and disadvantaged businesses and small businesses.

Johnson legislation would make Internet impersonation a crime

Internet impersonation is a very serious issue and can have major repercussions for its victims. Rep. Johnson recently introduced a measure that would make impersonating another person on social networking sites, Web sites, and through e-mails or instant messaging a punishable crime.

“Internet impersonation can be damaging to an individual’s character and can cause serious harm to both personal and professional lives,” Johnson said.

The measure, which would make this crime a third-degree misdemeanor, is currently being discussed by the House Judiciary committee.

Johnson helping with Haiti relief efforts

Rep. Johnson is partnering with the Haitian Professionals of Philadelphia to assist with Haiti relief efforts. In addition to serving as an official drop-off location for supplies, Rep. Johnson’s local offices will also partner with local schools and community organizations as a part of long-term relief strategy.

Haiti continues to deal with the aftermath of the devastating 7.0 earthquake that ravaged the country on Jan. 12, 2010. Johnson understands that relief for Haiti will require ongoing efforts.

“As both a community member and legislator, it’s my goal to assist with ongoing efforts because I understand that short-term relief efforts won’t suffice,” he said. “It’s imperative that we implement long-term initiatives to help provide ample relief in Haiti.”

For more information, please contact any of Rep. Johnson’s local constituent service offices.

Current supply needs include the following:

- Medical supplies
- Generic medicine
- Hygiene/general items
- Tents
- Water

Task force created to address increasing unemployment rate

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, Pennsylvania experienced a stunning 8.6 percent unemployment rate in 2009. Not surprisingly, last year more than half of the constituents serviced in Rep. Johnson’s district offices needed job placement assistance. As a result, Rep. Johnson is developing a Job and Career development task force to address the unemployment issues in the Philadelphia region.

Its goal is to proactively assist in providing adequate training to individuals in Philadelphia. To do this, the task force will carefully and strategically identify challenges, obtain resources, and work to ensure that the community is well prepared and informed about employment opportunities.

For additional information, please contact the local constituent service office at (215) 726-4613.



Rep. Johnson joins fellow state Rep. Babette Josephs to honor police officers from Philadelphia’s 17th Police District for going above and beyond the call of duty to serve and protect the people of Philadelphia. Pictured with the representatives are Officer Charlie Wells and Deputy Commissioner Kevin Bethel.

Stand up and be counted!

Rep. Johnson encourages all residents to promptly complete the 2010 Census materials when you receive them in the mail. Census information affects the numbers of seats your state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. People from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and more.

When you do the math, it’s easy to see what an accurate count of residents can do for your community, including better infrastructure and more services. In fact, the information the census collects helps to determine how more than \$400 billion of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services like:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects
- Emergency services

In addition, as Philadelphia works to reverse high unemployment rates, the U.S. Census Bureau is hiring thousands of temporary workers to help complete the upcoming 2010 Census.

While these positions are temporary, they are well-paying jobs that will provide a weekly paycheck, mileage reimbursement and paid training, which would certainly help people who are unemployed or newly graduated college students.

Most of the positions, which are full-time, offer flexible hours, including evenings and weekends. Positions include census taker, census crew leader, census crew leader assistant, recruiting assistant and census clerk.

For more information, or to apply, visit the Census Bureau’s Web site at <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs>, or call the Census Bureau at 1-866-861-2010.

Local students wanted for Valley Forge Military College Initiative

As part of the Valley Forge Military College Legislative Appointment Initiative Program (LAI), Rep. Johnson is seeking outstanding students to recommend for admission to the Valley Forge Military Academy. The student must have a minimum score of 1000 on the SATs, or 21 on the ACTs, and an overall high school GPA of 2.5.

The Valley Forge Military College LAI Program serves to identify young men and women who possess or have demonstrated the highest physical, intellectual, moral and

leadership potential. In addition, the individual should be service-to-country-orientated, and have an interest in attending the two-year, postsecondary educational institution at Valley Forge Military College, the “Official Military College of Pennsylvania.” The initiative will also help facilitate the student’s receipt of financial assistance to attend the college.

For additional information and recommendation criteria, please contact Rep. Johnson’s local district office at (215) 952-3378.



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE KENYATTA JOHNSON

Save the dates for these important upcoming events:

- **Meet & Greet with Rep. Johnson at Southwest District Office**
Feb. 25
- **Peace Not Guns Youth Town Hall, Part Two**
March 2010
- **Women & Minorities Small Business Symposium**
March 2010
- **Christmas in April**
April 2010
- **Go Green Three-Day Event**
April 2010
- **Senior Sweethearts Ball**
May 2010
- **Job Fair**
May 2010
- **Pre-Prom Pampering, Teen Domestic Violence Discussion**
June 2010
- **Kiddie Olympics and Health Expo**
June 2010
- **Community Appreciation Day**
July 2010
- **Park Dedication**
August 2010
- **The Johnson Mentoring Project**
September 2010

For more information about any of these events, contact Rep. Johnson's local constituent service office at (215) 952-3378.

Protect your home against rising energy costs

When rate caps on electricity from PECO expire next year, that could mean devastating electric bills to many residents. Here are simple steps to lower electricity bills by reducing usage.

Winterize your home:

- Make sure weather stripping is on doors and windows, and install a heavy curtain in front of drafty windows.
- Wrap hot water heaters in an insulated blanket.
- Set thermostats to between 66 degrees and 68 degrees in the winter.

Conserve energy:

- Turn off and unplug appliances that are not in use.
- Make sure to unplug cell-phone and other chargers when not charging the device.
- Turn off lights in areas of the home not being used.

For more tips on how to save on your energy bills this winter, visit www.turnsealsave.org.

Rep. Johnson has three constituent service offices in the 186th District to serve you better

1610 S. Broad St. (215) 952-3378 2103 Snyder Ave. (215) 755-9185 5015 Woodland Ave. (215) 726-4613

- College and financial aid resources
- Housing issues
- Food assistance
- Employment issues
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate
- Notary services
- Car registrations, PennDOT forms
- Financial assistance for higher education
- Unemployment compensation problems
- Birth certificate applications
- Pennsylvania Income Tax questions
- Questions about Pennsylvania Department of Welfare services (food stamps, LIHEAP, etc.)
- Applying for PACE and PACENET drug coverage for seniors
- Citations from the House of Representatives
- Capitol tours
- And any other question related to state government!