

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Morgan Cephas

192ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



Summer 2019

5921 Lancaster Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19151 • (215) 879-6625

104-B East Wing • P.O. Box 202192 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2192 • (717) 783-2192

pahouse.com/Cephas • [f /RepCephas](https://www.facebook.com/RepCephas) • [@RepCephas](https://twitter.com/RepCephas) • [✉ RepCephas@pahouse.net](mailto:RepCephas@pahouse.net)

Did you know?

Everyone's raving "Cephas takes the 192nd to Approps!" but do you know what that means?

The Appropriations Committee is charged with setting aside money for specific use by state government and its departments. This is an exciting appointment and I look forward to continuing to prioritize the needs of middle neighborhoods like the 192nd.



Dear neighbor,

With my second term in office underway, I continue to prioritize the diverse needs of the 192nd District. Environmental justice was one issue brought to my attention. So, on April 13th I partnered with the Overbrook Education & Environmental Center (OEEC) to bring the many stakeholders to the table for a roundtable discussion about environmental issues in and around our communities and to brainstorm the needs and action steps moving forward.

The following day, we held an Environmental Justice & Wellness Fair, bringing some of those same agencies to an outdoor celebration of environmental justice and wellness education. The Secretary of the PA Department of

Environmental Protection took part in the discussion and stuck around to meet and greet residents. As we look forward to the growth and development of our city, it remains critical to have targeted conversations, such as this one, to address the unique challenges facing urban areas in a majority rural state. Read on to find out more about what I'm doing to address the vast needs of the district.

As always, if you have a state-related concern, please call or stop by my office – we are here to help.

Working for You in Harrisburg

It's an honor to serve our community for a second term and I'll continue to fight to make sure we're prioritizing the needs of the 192nd in Harrisburg. My priorities for this term include fighting for economic growth in the region and reforming our health care system to protect the most vulnerable among us. I am working with the rest of the Philadelphia Delegation to establish education and training programs for workers and I am also taking proactive steps to protect the Affordable Care Act and CHIP, following federal-level threats. To put it simply, I want to help create good jobs that treat people fairly and I want sick Pennsylvanians to have access to treatment when they need it. This is common sense to me and many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I am working on several bipartisan efforts to fight for Pennsylvanians across the commonwealth.

I am also pleased to share that I have taken on expanded responsibilities in the state House. I have been selected to serve on important committees including Appropriations; Labor and Industry; and Agriculture and Rural Affairs. These appointments put me in a position to better serve Philadelphia and the rest of the Commonwealth by helping our government prioritize spending on programs that emphasize workforce development and family stability. My top priority will always be advancing policies that tackle our 26% poverty rate and help to fill gaps in middle neighborhoods, like many of those in our district.

Fighting to Protect Mothers

Rates of Severe Childbirth Complications

HOSPITAL	NUMBER OF DELIVERIES	Complication Rates (in percentages)		
		ALL MOTHERS	BLACK MOTHERS	LOW-INCOME MOTHERS
Philadelphia Hospitals				
Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia	11,162	0.9	0.8	0.5
Pennsylvania Hospital	19,609	1.3	2.2	1.5
Temple University Hospital	11,068	1.7	2.0	1.7
Hospital of the University of Pa.	16,378	2.2	2.2	2.0
Hahnemann University Hospital	7,686	3.1	3.8	3.4
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital	7,489	3.3	3.7	2.8
Montgomery County Hospitals				
Lankenau Medical Center	11,119	0.7	0.9	0.9

PA Median: 1.1
U.S. Median (for 13 States): 1.4

Source: USA Today

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Across the world, maternal mortality rates are falling, but in America more and more mothers are dying from pregnancy-related complications. For black women, the maternal mortality rate is up to 4 times higher than it is for white women. To find solutions to this problem, I hosted a public hearing to receive testimony on the facts surrounding maternal mortality.

I believe that lawmakers have a responsibility to protect mothers across the commonwealth. That is why I will be introducing a series of bills to expand Medicaid to cover doula

and family planning services for up to one year. Additionally, I want to establish a doula registration and certification process and establish a review board to study severe maternal mortality. I also strongly support Governor Tom Wolf's Maternal Mortality Review Committee, which reviews death cases that are identified by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. We need to close the gaps in services and resources for women to ensure they have access to quality health care and to decrease the maternal mortality rates in Pennsylvania and across the nation.

The House Democratic Policy Committee with Rep. Cephas at the April 3rd 'Meaningful Solutions to Maternal Mortality' hearing.



Other pieces of legislation that I am working on include but are not limited to:

- A childcare package that would create a tax credit for employers who furnish child day care facilities, expand eligibility for Child Care Works and would require postsecondary educational institutions to consider childcare expenses in student financial aid decisions.
- Pathways to college legislation that would create tax credits for employers that make contributions towards employee student loan debt, ban-the-box from college

admission applications and create tax exemptions for online textbooks purchases.

I'm also working to pass a bipartisan proposal that addresses sexual harassment in the workplace by expanding resources for both employees and employers to prevent and respond to workplace incidents as well as prohibiting non-disclosure forms as a condition of employment.

Money Coming Back to the District!

I am excited to announce that over the past few months I have helped successfully secure funding for a very worthwhile project in the 192nd District. It is extremely rewarding to see the state invest in our local community, which will help it to grow and prosper.

- **\$600,000 to protect pedestrians on Haverford Avenue**

A pedestrian safety grant was awarded to the Overbrook Park Civic Association and the Haverford Avenue Business Association to make the Haverford Avenue business corridor safer for pedestrians. The funds will pay for new traffic signals with pedestrian countdowns, as well as curb extensions to shorten the crossing distance, which should make the intersections much safer.

I joined Senator Vincent Hughes, Councilman Curtis Jones Jr. and some of our neighbors at a ceremonial crossing for the new traffic signals that will be installed at Haverford Avenue and Rhoads & Sherwood.



Upcoming Events

What a fun-filled summer ahead!

Night Market Philadelphia – June 20th
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
63rd & Lancaster Avenue

Senior Fruit & Veggie Voucher Distribution – July 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th, August 6th, 13th & 20th
Various times & locations
Stay tuned for details.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events.

Summer Jam – August 10th
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
60th Street between Arch and Chestnut streets

3rd Annual District Day – August 17th
State Resource Tables Noon to 4 p.m.
Tustin Recreation Center
5901 W. Columbia Ave.

Real ID Seminar – Fall 2019
More details coming soon



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Harrisburg, PA 17120-2192

LPO.KAF.0519

What's Next?



I'm looking forward to continuing our work throughout the 192nd and working with community stakeholders to bring state resources to other areas of the district like Shepard Recreation Center. Over the next several months, we will be working with local and state departments to secure funding to plan for a new recreation center and build a new pool house. I will also be partnering with neighborhood organizations to bring additional services to my district office. Stay on the lookout for more information about the Community Connections HUB - Helping You Build, with dates extending through the rest of 2019. The first part of this series utilizes ACHIEVEability's housing services to connect you to local and state home-related resources with a focus on foreclosure and tax delinquency issues.



Residents in line to dispose of sensitive documents at my free shredding event on April 6th.



Overbrook Park Civic Association's Angela Reason at the clean-up at Rose Playground on April 6th.



April 14th Environmental Justice & Wellness Fair at Overbrook Park Education and Environmental Center (OEEC).