



State Representative

WINTER 2022

# Stephen Kinsey



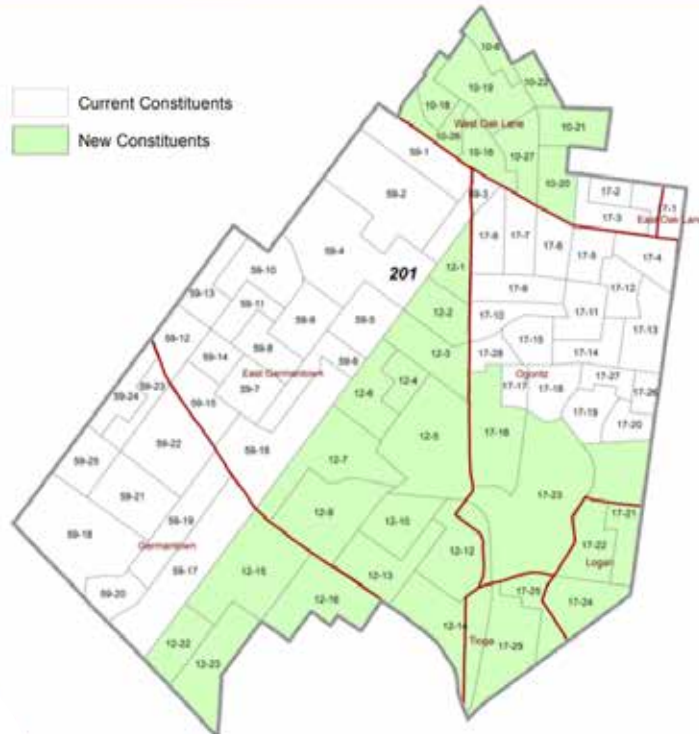
**KINSEY REPORT**  
**201st Legislative District**

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## Welcome to the 201st Legislative District



Beginning Dec. 1, the 201st Legislative District will look like it does in the above map. Every 10 years, the state updates its legislative districts to match the current demographic trends of the state. If this newsletter was mailed to you, then you will be a constituent of the new 201st district for the next decade. To those who will be remaining in the district, I look forward continuing to serve you. If you are a new constituent to the district, I hope to get to meet you and look forward to serving you! My office is always ready to provide any resident with any state services or assistance you need!

# KINSEY USHERS TUSKEGEE AIRMEN TO STATE CAPITOL FOR SIGNING OF HB 2586 TO COMMEMORATE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN COMMEMORATION DAY

I co-sponsored a bill with my Democrat and Republican colleagues to commemorate Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day in Pennsylvania. This bill has been signed into law by Governor Wolf, making March 29 every year, Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day.



The Tuskegee Airmen were the first group of African American military aviators, fighting with exemplary courage and distinction during World War II. Despite facing rigid racial barriers and constant segregation, these airmen were among the most accomplished and effective pilots of the entire war. Upwards of 900 pilots who graduated from Tuskegee Airfield flew 1,578 missions and 15,533 sorties, destroying 261 enemy aircraft and earning themselves more than 850 medals, collectively.

These pioneering airmen comprised the 332nd Fighter Group and 477th Bombardment group seeing action in North Africa, Italy and Germany. The 332nd's excellent combat record and distinguishing red markings painted on the tails of their P-47 Mustangs famously earned them the title "Red-Tail Angels." For their extraordinary heroism, they were awarded three distinguished unit citations, one Silver Star, 96 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 14 Bronze Stars, 744 Air Medals and 8 Purple Hearts. The "Red-Tails" were known for their utmost effectiveness in defending the lives of their fellow servicemen and exemplary service to their nation.

Every year moving forward, March 29 will be Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day in Pennsylvania. March is a special month for the Tuskegee Airmen as it is when the first aviation cadets completed pilot training, the first aircraft maintenance crews began training, the first squadron of airmen was activated, and when President George W. Bush presented the Tuskegee Airmen with the Congressional Gold Medal on March 29, 2007.

These heroes are more than deserving of having a day to commemorate their bravery, sacrifice and resiliency. Unlike their white counterparts of the time, the Tuskegee Airmen and Black veterans as a whole were not treated as well. Along with fighting in a war and risking their lives everyday to serve their country, they had to face barriers of racism, discrimination and segregation. When they returned home from the war, they were denied the benefits that white veterans were given simply because of the color of their skin.



While it is important to respect and honor all veterans, regardless of their race, for their bravery, sacrifice and commitment, it is also important to respect and honor veterans, such as the Tuskegee Airmen, for their bravery, sacrifice, commitment and the additional barriers they were forced to go through.



Pictured above is Mr. Nathan Thomas. He is one of the Tuskegee Airmen who was present for the bill signing, and a friend of mine who I've gotten to know during my time as a legislator. Mr. Thomas is a wonderful man who made the sacrifice to serve our country. I always keep folks like him and other veterans in mind when I'm in Harrisburg.

I am proud to see the Tuskegee Airmen have a day to commemorate their service to our country, but there is far more to do in ensuring veterans are taken care of when they return home or retire from their service.

A lot of veterans suffer from mental health issues when they return home, and due to this many are incarcerated. To address this issue, I introduced legislation to support veterans exiting incarceration in Pennsylvania. For all the sacrifices they make, we don't do enough to take care of them in ways needed. I will continue pushing for legislation to make sure our veterans are supported.



# Taking the Lead on Gun Violence

Gun violence is taking far too many lives in our community. Throughout the year, I have worked to eradicate this gun violence. I have joined law enforcement, local elected officials, community organizations, clergy and more to create an initiative called "Third Thursday." For this initiative, we go to a different neighborhood in northwest Philadelphia on the third or fourth Thursday of every month and march for an end to the gun violence as well as provide resources to community members.

We have been joined by many members of our community for this event who are tired of living in fear due to this violence. If we're going to eradicate this tragic issue, it takes an all-hands-on-deck approach. We must come together as a community to create a safe environment where our children can grow up, families can live in comfort, and we can all thrive! I will continue my part to keep us safe!



## Kinsey Brings Governor Wolf to Lingelbach Elementary School for Visit

Funding our schools is a critical issue for me. We must ensure our children receive a good and valuable education so that they have the best opportunities to succeed in their lives. It was great to host Governor Tom Wolf for a visit to Lingelbach Elementary School for a tour of the school and to speak with students and faculty.

The Governor and I have always had similar views on education, and for him to visit Lingelbach with me gave him a chance to see the needs of the students and school. The students at Lingelbach are tremendous children, and we must ensure they have the resources necessary to receive a good education and grow as people. I was very appreciative of the Governor for visiting and pushing for fair funding for our schools.



## Enon Eagles Capture National Championship



I joined my colleagues, state Reps. Darisha Parker and Isabella Fitzgerald in hosting the Enon Eagles 13U Youth Football Team to the state capitol for a visit. Their team won the national championship for their

age group in 2021. We gave them a tour of the capitol and presented them a citation for their achievement.

I am very proud of the players and coaches for their accomplishment and representing northwest Philly on the national level! As someone who grew up playing football and many other sports, I know how much hard work and commitment is needed for a team to win a championship and the Enon Eagles hard work and commitment paid off with a national championship.

Sports provide so many positive opportunities to our young people such as important life values, an activity to stay in-shape and a special bond with their teammates. I will always support youth sports programs in our community, and I hope to get another opportunity to do what we did with the Enon Eagles!



# Kinsey hosts New School District of Philadelphia Superintendent for Visit to MLK High School

I hosted new School District of Philadelphia Superintendent Dr. Tony B. Watlington Sr. for a visit to Martin Luther King High School. On the visit, we were joined by students, school administrators, elected officials and community organizations. We were escorted by King's Junior ROTC members.

On this tour, Superintendent Watlington was able to meet with the ninth-grade academy, which is led by African American men. There's a huge shortage of African American male teachers across the entire country, and for the superintendent to see the tremendous work they do was great!

I have a bill I introduced to create more diversity in the classroom. In a city like Philadelphia which has a large African American population, it makes sense to have teachers and staff who reflect what the students look like and can relate to their life experiences.

What might've been the best part of this visit was how interactive and engaged the students were! They asked tremendous questions and presented ideas of how we can improve the school overall.

It was great for Dr. Watlington to interact with the students and staff at King High School. It is my hope that this visit gave him an idea of the school's needs and that they can be met to ensure students at King High School, and schools across the city, can receive a valuable education that sets them up for success in life.



# Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Comes to PA State Capitol

I hosted members from my fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi for a visit to the state capitol. On their visit, we toured the Capitol, members got to meet House Democratic Leader Joanna McClinton, Governor Wolf and more of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle. I always welcome my fraternity brothers and constituents to the Capitol to share their legislative ideas and concerns with my colleagues.





# Legislation Introduced this Term

Throughout this term, I have introduced many pieces of legislation to improve Pennsylvania as a whole. There are many issues that I believe need addressed, and some of those issues I've introduced legislation to resolve include the criminal justice reform, education, gun violence, health disparities and much more. I have supported legislation that my colleagues have introduced to address these issues as well.

## REFORMING PENNSYLVANIA PRISONS

I was joined by more than 20 of my legislative colleagues and prison-reform advocates for a press conference to rollout a package of prison-reform legislation. We have a prison system in Pennsylvania, and the entire US, that is not working. While those who have committed a crime deserve to face consequences, they still deserve to be treated with basic dignity and to have the basic human rights. To address this broken system, the package of legislation we rolled out included bills that would:

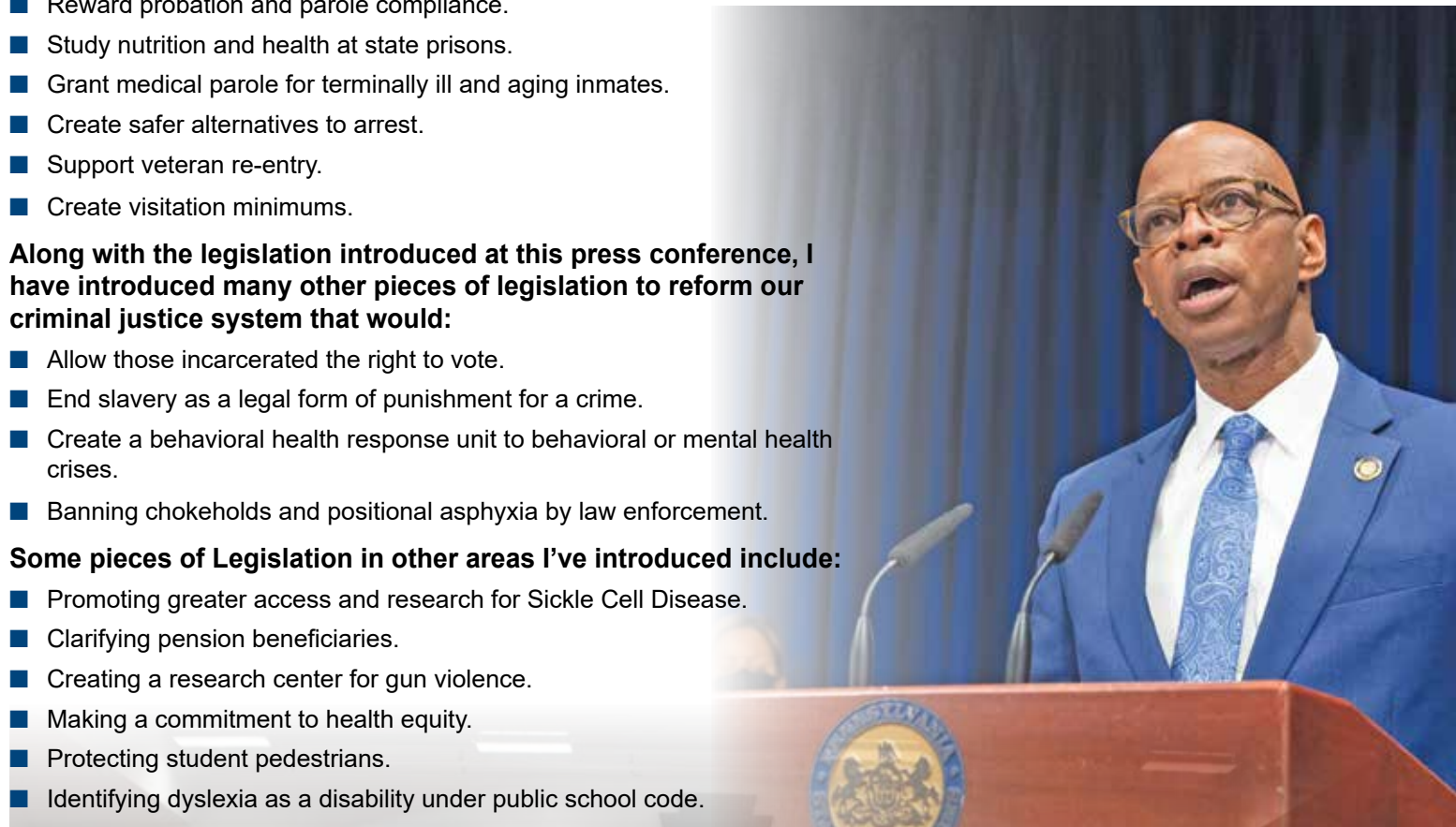
- Reward probation and parole compliance.
- Study nutrition and health at state prisons.
- Grant medical parole for terminally ill and aging inmates.
- Create safer alternatives to arrest.
- Support veteran re-entry.
- Create visitation minimums.

**Along with the legislation introduced at this press conference, I have introduced many other pieces of legislation to reform our criminal justice system that would:**

- Allow those incarcerated the right to vote.
- End slavery as a legal form of punishment for a crime.
- Create a behavioral health response unit to behavioral or mental health crises.
- Banning chokeholds and positional asphyxia by law enforcement.

**Some pieces of Legislation in other areas I've introduced include:**

- Promoting greater access and research for Sickle Cell Disease.
- Clarifying pension beneficiaries.
- Creating a research center for gun violence.
- Making a commitment to health equity.
- Protecting student pedestrians.
- Identifying dyslexia as a disability under public school code.
- Educational Improvement Initiative Tax Credit for Educational Improvement. Organizations serving Low-Achieving Schools.





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## Grants

I was able to help secure \$3.75 million in state funding for multiple redevelopment projects in our community. This funding came from Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program. Each of these projects will provide something of value to our community. I am glad to see these funds coming to the northwest, and I believe the most will be made out of them. The recipients of this funding include:

- 5616 North Broad Street Associates LLC received \$1.25 million to provide stabilization to the remaining building structure at 5616-20 N. Broad St.
- Nicetown Community Development Corp. received \$750,000 to rebuild the Barrett Playground.
- Chestnut Hill Hospital received \$1 million for modernization to its facility.
- Albert Einstein Healthcare Network received \$750,000 to enhance its security and patient rooms.

**REP. KINSEY  
ANNOUNCES**

**RACP GRANTS**  
FOR NORTHWEST PHILADELPHIA

**\$3.75 million**

*Awarded to 5616 North Broad Street Associates LLC, Nicetown Community Development Corp, Chestnut Hill Hospital, and Albert Einstein Healthcare Network.*