



# PENNSYLVANIA REDISTRICTING Reform Commission



Appendix 2: Members of the Commission

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*(Note: The Governor's Executive Order called for a 15-member Commission, but the Republican leadership opted not to appoint members as outlined in the Order. So, the Commission operated with 13 members. The Chair of the Commission communicated or met with Republican leadership at the outset of the process, and the Republican leadership was also provided with Commission briefing materials and drafts at every step of the process.)*

### **Lee Ann Banaszak**

Lee Ann Banaszak received her PhD from Washington University in 1989. Her primary research interests are in comparative political behavior, social movements, and women and politics. Her work has been published in the *American Political Science Review*, *Electoral Studies* and *Public Opinion Quarterly*, and her books include *Why Movements Succeed or Fail* (Princeton University Press), *The Women's Movement Inside and Outside the State* and *Women's Movements Facing the Reconfigured State*, edited with Karen Beckwith and Dieter Rucht (both Cambridge University Press). She came to Penn State in 1994 from Iowa State University.

### **Dr. Damary Bonilla-Rodriguez**

Dr. Bonilla-Rodriguez ran for State Representative in the 189th District of Pennsylvania in the 2016 election cycle where she became the first Hispanic candidate to make a state ballot in two counties (Pike and Monroe). She is a board member of Latina VIDA, Latinas on the Plaza, and Los Compadres, Modern Caballero and on the advisory board of several organizations, including the Board of Hispanic Caucus Chairs and the Alliance for Positive Youth Development. She was recently appointed by Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf to serve on his statewide Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs. She is also the author of two books, *Ethics, Gender, and Leadership in the Workplace* and *Today's Inspired Latina (Volume II)*.

Dr. Bonilla-Rodriguez holds a BA in Spanish and Social Work from the College of New Rochelle. She also holds a MS in Organizational Communications and a Specialized Certification in Corporate Communications from New Rochelle and a Doctorate in Education focusing on Executive Leadership from St. John Fisher College.

### **Susan Carty**

Susan Carty joined the Chester County League of Women Voters (LWVCC) in 2009. From 2010-2012, she chaired the Public Education Committee offering public panel discussions with a focus on education funding, the role of the State Auditor General and the impact of School Boards. She was elected President of the LWVCC in 2012, prioritizing membership diversity and inclusion, and in 2013 became President of League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Carty's professional career transitioned through the role of Insurance Underwriter to that of Secondary School Biology teacher, where she coached Science Olympiad and served as a union representative. She received the Pfizer Education Initiative Distinguished Teacher Award in 2001 after crossing the Pacific Ocean as Teacher at Sea with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In addition to serving on her township Planning Commission for ten years, Ms. Carty serves as Board Member for Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts.

Ms. Carty received her BA in Bio-Psych from Immaculata College and achieved a Masters Equivalent with coursework from West Chester University, Widener University, and Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory.

### **Senator Jay Costa**

State Senator Jay Costa was elected in a special election in April 1996. He is now serving his fifth full term representing the Pittsburgh-area 43rd District and was elected Senate Democratic Leader in 2010.

Beyond his legislative work, Senator Costa serves on the board of trustees of the University of Pittsburgh and is treasurer of the Community College of Allegheny County board. He also is on the boards of the Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Sen. John Heinz History Center, 3 Rivers Wet Weather, Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, CLO, Forest Hills Community Development Corporation and a lifetime trustee of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Before his election to the Senate, Senator Costa was a deputy sheriff in Allegheny County and Allegheny County Register of Wills.

A graduate of the Community College of Allegheny County (AS, 1977) and Indiana University of Pennsylvania (BA 1979), Costa also holds a JD from Duquesne University's School of Law (1989). He is currently a Principal at Pittsburgh law firm Dickie McCamey & Chilcote P.C.

### **Kathy Dahlkemper**

Dahlkemper took office as Erie County Executive on January 7, 2014, where she currently serves. Kathy Dahlkemper grew up in Erie and earned her BS in Dietetics from Edinboro University in Pennsylvania. Kathy was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for the 3rd District of Pennsylvania and served from 2009-2011, working on the Agriculture Committee, Science & Technology Committee and the Small Business Committee.

Prior to serving in Congress, Ms. Dahlkemper and her husband co-founded Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park (LEAF), a nonprofit where she served as Executive Director for 10 years.

Ms. Dahlkemper has completed the Executive Education program "Women and Power: Leadership in a New World" at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

She was a faculty member for The 2012 Project at Chatham University, which aimed to elect more women to public office. Committed to encouraging women to run for office, she currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Pennsylvania Center for Women & Politics.

### **Charlie Dent**

Charlie Dent recently joined the law firm DLA Piper after representing the 15th District of Pennsylvania in the U.S. House of Representatives for seven terms. He provides strategic advice and counsel to clients on the federal, state and local level on subjects including defense, life sciences, transportation, homeland security, infrastructure, health issues, energy, and international investment, trade and commerce.

During his time in Congress, he served on the House Committee on Appropriations, where he chaired the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agency. He was also the chair of the House Ethics Committee from 2015 to 2017.

Dent served as an aide to Congressman Donald L. Ritter before serving in the PA House from 1991 to 1998 and in the Senate from 1999 to 2004. He graduated from Penn State University and holds a MPA from Lehigh University.

### **Rep. Frank Dermody**

Representative Frank Dermody, the Democratic leader of the PA House of Representatives since 2011, has represented the 33<sup>rd</sup> District (Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties) since 1991.

Dermody grew up in Clarks Summit, PA and attended Columbia University, where he played football and earned a Bachelor of Arts in history in 1973. He also earned a law degree from Indiana University School of Law - Bloomington in 1982.

Prior to his election to the House, Dermody worked as an assistant public defender in Harrisburg and then as assistant district attorney in Allegheny County for five years, prosecuting rape, murder and child-abuse cases. He was also appointed by Governor Bob Casey to fill a District Judge vacancy in 1989 and served for seven months.

### **Amanda Holt**

Amanda Holt was appointed to fill an at-Large vacancy on the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners in July 2014.

A native of Lehigh County, Amanda Holt is best known for her efforts on state redistricting, which eventually led her to a historic victory before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 2012. After offering her own reapportionment, the court ruled that the bipartisan Legislative

Reapportionment Commission had failed to meet the Pennsylvania Constitution's mandate not to split political subdivisions "unless absolutely necessary".

Amanda has also worked as a volunteer with children and nursing home residents for nearly twenty years. She also served as an elected Judge of Elections from 2009 to 2014. In 2012, she was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Patriot News and was honored by the American Association of the University of Women with their Impact Award. In 2014, she was the recipient of the Public Service Achievement Award from Common Cause.

### **Reverend Robert L. Johnson**

Rev. Robert L. Johnson is a native of Philadelphia. He earned an Associate of Arts degree from Morristown College and a Bachelor of Arts from Albright College. He then headed to the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio where he received his Master of Divinity degree. While in Dayton, he also served as pastor to Residence Park United Methodist Church from 1992 to 1995.

After completion of his Seminary education, Rev. Johnson was appointed to Simpson-Fletcher United Methodist Church. Rev Johnson served as the senior pastor at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church from 2009 to 2014, where church attendance increased and a feeding ministry was created. He was appointed the Pastor of Tindley Temple United Methodist Church in July 2014.

Rev. Johnson is a member of Historic Tindley Temple UMC, Black United Methodist Preachers, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the Lupus Foundation, the Black Empowerment Group, the NAACP and the Interdenominational Pastors Alliance.

### **Sharmain Matlock-Turner**

Sharmain Matlock-Turner has served as President and CEO of the Urban Affairs Coalition since 1999. The Urban Affairs Coalition unites government, business, neighborhoods, and individual initiative to improve the quality of life in the region. Prior to leading the Urban Affairs Coalition, Ms. Matlock-Turner was associate vice president of legislative and community affairs for Mercy Health System and AmeriHealth Caritas, chief of staff to the late Senator Roxanne H. Jones and a staffer in the PA House of Representatives and Philadelphia City Council.

Ms. Matlock-Turner is co-founder and chair of the West Oak Lane Charter School. She serves on numerous boards and committees including the Peirce College Board of Trustees and the Regional Federal Reserve Bank's Economic and Community Advisory Council.

Ms. Matlock-Turner holds a BA in education from Temple University and is a graduate of Harvard Business School's nonprofit leadership. She received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Peirce College and is a Senior Fellow at the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania.

## **Jessica Myers**

Jessica Myers is the Director of Policy for the Pennsylvania Department of State where she assists with policy agenda development and strategy in the areas of elections, charities, corporations and professional licensure. Myers was promoted from Deputy Director of Policy in March 2019. She returned to the Department of State in July 2017 as Deputy Policy Director.

Myers worked previously for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) as a Research Program Specialist from 2010 to 2017, managing projects related to voting system standards, testing and certification. Prior to the EAC, Myers worked for the PA Department of State's Bureau of Commissions, Elections & Legislation, where she began in 2006 as Chief of the Division of HAVA (Help America Vote Act) and was later promoted to Chief of the Division of Campaign Finance and Lobbying Disclosure.

Myers holds an MA in local history from the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland and a BA in peace and conflict studies from Gettysburg College.

## **Wes Pegden**

Wesley Pegden is an associate professor of mathematical science at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, specializing in discrete mathematics, including probabilistic combinatorics, combinatorial game theory, graph theory and discrete geometry. He has co-written academic papers on gerrymandering and appeared as an expert witness on redistricting before the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court in 2017.

A professor at Carnegie Mellon since 2013, Pegden received his doctorate from Rutgers University in 2010 and was a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow from 2010 to 2013. He earned his BS in mathematics from the University of Chicago in 2004.

## **David Thornburgh**

David Thornburgh is currently President and CEO of the Committee of Seventy, a Philadelphia-based nonprofit and nonpartisan good government group. Recently, he launched Draw the Lines PA, a statewide public mapping competition that equips citizens with the digital tools to draw political maps.

Before Seventy, Thornburgh was Executive Director of the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government. There, he created a national Public Policy Challenge student competition in partnership with Governing magazine. Previous to Fels, he served as Executive Director of the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia, where he co-founded Graduate! Philadelphia to encourage adults to complete a college degree, and also Campus Philly to increase the magnetic pull of the Philadelphia region for college graduates. Earlier, he was Director of the Wharton Small Business Development Center, where he founded The Enterprise Center, a nationally recognized business accelerator for minority entrepreneurs, and co-founded the Philadelphia 100, an annual celebration of the region's fastest-growing new companies.

Thornburgh has a BA in political science from Haverford College and an MPP from Harvard Kennedy School. He is the second son of former Pennsylvania Governor and US Attorney General Dick Thornburgh.