

Kerry A. Benninghoff is a fiscal conservative and leading advocate for government reform, lower taxes and reining in excessive government spending.

Kerry was elected by his colleagues in November 2018 to serve as Majority Whip. As the Majority Whip, he is responsible for tracking House votes, aiding the Majority Leader in advancing the Caucus agenda, and informing his Republican colleagues on upcoming issues and important pieces of legislation.

Prior to serving as Majority Whip, Kerry served on the Leadership team for two terms as the House Majority Policy Committee chairman. In this role, he held legislative hearings in every corner of the state, building a strong case for important policy issues like tax reform, regulatory reform, welfare reform, job training and career readiness, opioid addiction and economic development.

Kerry also previously served as chairman of the House Majority Finance Committee, which oversees matters relating to taxation and fiscal policy, investment of the Commonwealth's money and regulations of the Department of Revenue. He has also served as chairman of the House State Government Committee.

A longtime supporter of efforts to reform Pennsylvania government, Kerry has led efforts for greater government transparency, to end late-night voting in the House and to prohibit "lame duck" sessions.

As a former hospital orderly and two-term Centre County coroner, Kerry has an interest in health care policies and has been an outspoken advocate for childhood cancer research. He is the founder and current chairman of the bipartisan Cancer Caucus.

Kerry is a charter member of Leadership Centre County and formerly served on the board of directors of Easter Seals of Central Pennsylvania and the Bellefonte YMCA. He is a member of the Bellefonte Kiwanis Club, the Fraternal Order of Police, Bald Eagle Lodge No. 51, as well as an active member of Faith United Methodist Church in Bellefonte. He serves on the board of directors of Centre Home Care Inc. and also formerly served as co-chairman of the bicameral Penn State Forum on Higher Education.

Kerry is a graduate of State College Area High School and attended Pennsylvania State University. He is a graduate of the Certified Coroners Training Program conducted in Hershey by the state of Pennsylvania.

Kerry resides in Bellefonte and is the father of five children – Michael, Heather, Amy, Kelley and Ryleigh. At the end of 2010, Ryleigh succumbed to cancer.

The 171st District includes portions of Centre and Mifflin counties. Kerry was first elected to the House of Representatives to represent the 171st District in 1996.