

First elected to the House of Representatives to represent the 171st District in 1996, Kerry A. Benninghoff is a fiscal conservative and leading advocate for government reform, lower taxes and reining in excessive government spending.

Kerry was selected by his colleagues in November 2014 to serve on the Leadership team as the House Majority Policy Committee chairman. The House Majority Policy Committee travels across the state conducting hearings about important issues, gathering testimony and information from key stakeholders in order to develop sound policies to address those issues.

Before being elected as House Majority Policy Committee chairman, Kerry 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.

A longtime supporter of efforts to reform Pennsylvania government, Kerry served on former Speaker Dennis O'Brien's Commission on Legislative Reform. In past sessions, Kerry has led efforts to end late-night voting in the House and prohibit "lame duck" sessions that take place between the General Election in early November and the completion of the two-year legislative session at the end of November.

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 a founder and current chairman of the 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 also 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 and his district offices are located in Bellefonte and Reedsville.