



Rep. Kerry Benninghoff

State Representative

171st Legislative District

First elected to the House of Representatives to represent the 171st District in 1996, Kerry A. Benninghoff is a leading advocate for government reform, spending controls, lower taxes and expanded access to high quality health care services.

As an eight-term Republican in the House - and former two-term Centre County coroner - Kerry currently serves as the chairman of the House Finance Committee and as a member of the Professional Licensure Committee. He also serves as chairman of the Rural Health Caucus.

A long-time 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.

In addition to his government reform efforts, Kerry has led efforts to deliver real and meaningful property tax relief for Pennsylvania homeowners. He is a fiscal conservative dedicated to lowering taxes and reigning in excessive government spending.

As a former orderly and two-term Centre County coroner, Kerry has a particular interest in health care policies and continues to push for measures to reduce costs and expand access to health care services. In his role as the chairman of the Rural Health Caucus, he focuses on developing policy initiatives specifically designed to benefit patients and health care providers in rural areas. Kerry also has been an outspoken advocate for childhood cancer research.

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 with his wife, Michele. Kerry 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.