

Profile



State Senator Kim Ward

39TH DISTRICT

Westmoreland County

In 2008, Senator Ward won the Pennsylvania 39th Senatorial District seat and was the first woman ever elected to that seat. She was re-elected in 2012 & 2016. Prior to her election to the Senate, she served as a Westmoreland County Commissioner in 2008, and on the Hempfield Township Board of Supervisors from 2002-2007 where she was Chairwoman of the Board for the final three years.

Senator Ward has introduced and had legislation signed into law reducing spending on state subsidized methadone treatment transportation; implementing the federal E-Verify program to ensure workers on publicly funded construction projects were legally permitted to work; and re-authorizing the emergency services grant program. In addition, she led the successful effort to reform Pennsylvania's child abuse laws in order to provide greater protections for children against abuse. In July 2015, her Ready to Succeed college grant program legislation for middle-income families was signed into law. Recently, Ward helped to extend benefits to the families of campus police officers who die in the line of duty and was instrumental in moving the Commonwealth into compliance with the Federal REAL ID Act, thereby helping Pennsylvanians avoid the need for a passport to visit a military base, get into a federal building or fly domestically.

Senator Ward is currently the Chairwoman of the Senate Labor and Industry Committee, which includes among its purview unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, labor law and workforce development issues. In relation to her capacity as the Chair of Labor & Industry she also serves as the Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee, a member of the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board, Co-Chair of the PA Senate Manufacturing Caucus, member of the PA Film Advisory Board and a member of the History Center's leadership team in Pittsburgh.

Senator Ward is a member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Hempfield Township, the Italian Sons and Daughters of America, the NRA and is a Mentor for the Anne Anstine Women's Services. She is also a Fellow at the University Of Pittsburgh Institute Of Politics and 2012 Legislative Fellow at Indiana University of PA.

State Senator Kim Ward is a native southwestern Pennsylvania resident who grew up in Meadowlands, Washington County. She attended The Community College of Allegheny County Respiratory Therapy program, the University of Pittsburgh, and Middle Tennessee State University.

Before entering politics Kim worked as a Board Certified Respiratory Therapist at Allegheny General Hospital, Vanderbilt University Hospital and Hershey Medical Center.

She and her husband, Dr. Thomas Ward, have three sons, Tom, Michael, and Matthew.

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