NYS Conference of Black Senators



2009 Profile of Members

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OUR MISSION

To promote, advocate and initiate; social economic; political and legislative matters- which will positively influence the life and conditions of African Americans throughout the State of New York.

To assure maximum exchange of issues, ideals and information between conference members and conditions so that we may establish well formulated positions on social, economic, political and legislative matters.

Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson Chairwoman

District #36

Committee Assignments

- · Crime and Corrections-Chair
- Commerce
- Consumer Protection
- Housing
- Judiciary
- Rules
- Transportation



First elected to the New York State Senate in 2000, Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson brings years of public service and community involvement to her post as the Senator of the 36th Senatorial District. She currently represents parts of the Bronx and Westchester Counties Senator Hassell-Thompson was enstooled by the Akwamu Traditional Council in the Eastern Region of Ghana, as their Mpuntuhemaa (Queenmother for Development). Her enstoolment as Mpuntuhemaa was to bring about development for the people of Akwamu, taking into high consideration. Education and the needs of the area at large. Senator Hassell-Thompson was given the stool name Nana Addobea I of the 17 provinces' & villages that make up the Eastern Region

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Senator Shirley L. Huntley

Vice Chairwoman

District #10

Committee Assignments

- Mental Health
 Chair
- Children & Families
- Civil Service
- Codes
- Consumer Protection
- Education
- Higher Education
- Social Services



Senator Shirley L. Huntley was elected to office in 2007. Appointed to Co-Chair of the NYC School Governance Task Force, she holds a forum were testimonies can be expressed by parents, educators, administrators, students, advocates, community organizations, and leaders regarding the issues our school system needs to address. She continues to focus her efforts in the areas of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Healthcare, Education, and Youth services. Senator Huntley has memberships and affiliations with a number of organizations and committees. She continues to receive numerous awards, and honors commending her for dedicated service to the community.

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Senator Eric Adams

2nd Vice Chairman District #20

Committee Assignments

- Veterans-Chair
- · Racing, Gaming, Acting -Chair
- Banks
- Consumer Protection
- Energy & Telecom
- Finance
- Judiciary
- Mental Health



On November 7, 2006, following a distinguished 22-year career in the New York City Police Department, Eric L. Adams traded his blue uniform for a blue suit when the residents of the 20th Senatorial District elected him to the New York State Senate. He was re-elected in 2008, receiving votes as a Democrat and as a member of the Working Families Party. Senator Adams represents one of the most vibrant and wonderfully diverse districts in all of New York, covering sections of the neighborhoods of Boro Park, Crown Heights, Flatbush, Park Slope, Prospect Heights, Sunset Park, and Windsor Terrace.

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Senator Kevin Parker Treasurer

District # 21

Committee Assignments

- Energy & Transportation-Chair
- Codes
- Commerce
- Environ, Conservation
- Finance
- Higher Education
- Insurance
- Rules



State Senator Kevin S. Parker is committed to restoring the overall quality of life for the constituents of the 21st Senatorial District in Brooklyn. A lifelong Brooklyn resident, Senator Parker has been a Flatbush resident for more than 29 years. Having been nurtured, schooled and employed in the district, Senator Parker is intimately familiar with the needs of this ethnically diverse community that consists of 311,000 constituents in several communities which include: Flatbush, East Flatbush, Midwood, Ditmas Park, Kensington and Borough Park.

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Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins Secretary

District #35

Committee Assignments

- Local Gov't- Chair
- Homeland Security
- Banks
- Commerce
- Environ, Conservation
- Finance
- Health
- Labor
- Rules
- Veterans



In 2006, Andrea Stewart-Cousins was elected to represent Greenburgh, Mount Pleasant and Yonkers, Andrea Stewart-Cousins served for a decade as a Westchester County Legislator. During her tenure (from 1996-2006), she was elected Majority Whip and Vice-Chair, and she authored and passed landmark legislation, including: Westchester County's first human rights laws; living wage laws; smoke-free workplace laws; tougher gun laws; laws that prosecute "predatory lenders"; and laws that have provided tax cuts for seniors and veterans. As Chair of the Health Committee, Andrea Stewart-Cousins brought the "Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program" to Westchester County – after a successful pilot of this program in Yonkers. This model has since become a national cornerstone of enhanced community/medical rape crisis assistance.

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Senator John Sampson

Parlimentarian

District #19

Committee Assignments

- Judiciary -Chair
- Ethics- Acting Chair
- · Ad. Reg, Rev. Comm- Chair
- Banks
- Crimes & Correction
- Finance
- Health
- Insurance
- Veterans
- Codes



Senator John Sampson (Democrat, Brooklyn) was elected to the New York State Senate in 1996. He represents the 19th Senatorial District which encompasses Canarsie, East Flatbush, Parts of Brownsville, Crown Heights, East New York, portions of Old Mill Basin, Spring Creek Towers, and parts of Midwood and Kensington. As an active participant in community affairs, the Senator has conducted free legal clinics and represented candidates in election matters before the New York Supreme Court. Senator Sampson is a member of several political organizations, including the New Era Community Democratic Club and the New Era PAC.

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Senator Velmanette Montgomery

District# 18

Committee Assignments

- Children & Families Chair
- Agriculture
- Crime & Corrections
- Education
- Finance
- Health
- Mental Health
- Rules



Velmanette Montgomery is recognized for her effective leadership and steadfast commitment to her constituents of north and central Brooklyn, as well as to New Yorkers statewide. In her role as Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Children and Families, Senator Montgomery is committed to helping young people achieve positive outcomes through reform of the State's juvenile justice, foster care and adoptive care systems. In 2008 the Senator authored a law that allows adopted children to claim two parents of record, even if one parent dies before the adoption is final.

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Senator Bill Perkins

District #30

Committee Assignments:

- Corporations Chair
- Cities
- Civil Service
- Codes
- Environ. Conservation
- Finance
- Judiciary
- Labor
- Transportation



Senator Bill Perkins, Democrat was elected to the New York State Senate in November 2006. Senator Perkins represents the 30th Senatorial District which is part of New York County and encompasses Harlem, the Upper West Side and Washington Heights. A lifelong resident of Harlem, Senator Bill Perkins started his political career as a community activist and is known for his commitment to serving the community. The young, elderly and the most vulnerable New Yorkers have always been Bill's legislative priorities.

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Senator Malcolm Smith, Majority Leader

District #14

Committee Assignments

- Rules Chair
- Ex Officio all committees



Senator Malcolm A. Smith was elected Temporary President and Majority Leader of the New York State Senate by his fellow Senators in January of 2009, becoming the first African-American Majority Leader in New York State history and the first Democratic leader in almost 40 years. Upon election as Majority Leader, and based upon his prior leadership of the Democratic Minority, Senator Smith immediately took action to change the culture of the State Senate by making it more open, transparent, and bipartisan. On the first day in his new leadership role, Smith began delivering on these goals by introducing and passing rules changes which fundamentally reformed the way the Senate operates and increased transparency to the public.

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Senator Antoine Thompson

District # 60

Committee Assignments

- Environ, Conservation Chair
- Civil Service
- Finance
- Health
- Insurance
- Local Gov't
- Cultural Affairs, Tourism
- Veterans



On January 3, 2007, Mr. Thompson was sworn in as New York State Senator for the 60th District. Now in his second term, he holds a position of leadership as the Senate's Deputy Majority Whip and serves as Chair of the Environmental Conservation Committee. Senator Thompson also serves on the following committees: Civil Service and Pensions; Finance; Health; Insurance; Local Government; Tourism, Recreation, and Sports Development; and Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs. He is also a Co-Chair of the Senate's MWBE Taskforce. His areas of focus include the environment, education, healthcare, small business and economic development, and transportation. Senator Thompson represents parts of Erie & Niagara Counties, which include the Cities of Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Tonawanda, and the Town of Grand Island.

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