

About Jim Gerlach

Jim Gerlach grew up in the small western Pennsylvania steel town of Ellwood City, Lawrence County, just north of Pittsburgh. At the age of five, his father was tragically killed by a drunk driver, leaving behind Jim, his mother and two sisters. Together, with the love and support of his family, Jim learned first-hand how a community can rally behind others and help those in need. Thanks to his mom's hard work, financial aid and a part-time job, Jim attended and graduated from Dickinson College and Dickinson School of Law.



Jim entered public service in 1991, where he served in the State House of Representatives for four years, then eight years in the state Senate. In 2002, Jim was elected to Congress from Pennsylvania's 6th Congressional District, representing parts of Berks, Chester, Lehigh and Montgomery counties.

Congress

In Congress, Jim has continued his hard work for the taxpayers, families and seniors of his district. Dubbed a "thoughtful lawmaker" by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Jim's priorities have included making the federal tax cuts permanent - saving Pennsylvania taxpayers on average over \$2,000 per year. He has also supported measures that increase access to affordable healthcare, break our dependence on foreign oil and improve our regional transportation infrastructure. Jim is a leading advocate in Congress for protecting open space and preserving farmland, and has also fought for tax incentives to ensure businesses create jobs here in the U.S. instead of shipping them overseas.



Additionally, Jim sponsored the law establishing a new national veterans' cemetery in Southeastern Pennsylvania, founded the bi-partisan Land Conservation Caucus in Congress and supported Medicare's prescription drug benefit for seniors - a plan that took effect in January, 2006 and provides millions of seniors' access to affordable prescription medications at a savings of over \$1,100 per year. Further, Jim's work on the Medicare Part

D bill has resulted in prescription assistance savings for Pennsylvania of over \$750 million, which is now being used to assist thousands of more seniors through the state PACE program.

Jim Gerlach has been named a *Legislator Leader* by the National Manufacturers Association for helping to keep good-paying jobs in Pennsylvania, called a Friend of the American Farm Bureau for his pro-farmer record, repeatedly honored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for supporting small businesses and local jobs, and earned numerous healthcare awards.

State Legislature

Jim helped streamline government bureaucracy and promote efficiency as a member of the IMPACCT Commission, as Vice Chairman of Governor Tom Ridge's PRIME Council and as a state legislator - saving taxpayers well over \$500 million in government waste. He was the prime sponsor of the 1996 landmark welfare reform legislation that reduced Pennsylvania's welfare rolls by nearly 200,000 cases, and Jim's historic land use legislation provided local officials the tools needed to combat suburban sprawl and promote smart growth. For his work, Jim was repeatedly named a "Taxpayer Hero."

Political Campaigns

Congressman Gerlach has proven to be a winner and a tough campaigner in one of the most competitive districts in the country. Not only is he the last remaining Republican Congressman in the Philadelphia suburbs, he is now one of only five Republican Congressmen in the entire country re-elected to a congressional district won by Democrat Presidential candidate John Kerry in 2004.

In 2006, now-NBC News Political Director Chuck Todd said, "[Gerlach ran] the best race of the cycle" in his 3,000 vote win. That year, over \$7.3 million was spent by Democrats to defeat him on top of the countless resources expended by liberal special interest groups like MoveOn.org and ACORN. In 2008, during one of the worst Republican election years since Watergate, Gerlach earned more votes than any other Republican in his district and his largest margin of victory ever - despite a net increase of 50,000 Democrat registrations.

A hard-worker and tireless public servant, Jim and his wife Karen have three children and three stepchildren. Together they make their home in Chester Springs, Chester County.