



## STATE SENATOR JAY COSTA

*Serving the 43rd Senatorial District and the people of Pennsylvania*

### PROFILE

#### ■ BACKGROUND

Elected to Senate, April 23, 1996-Present, 43rd District  
Shareholder, Grogan Graffam P.C., Pittsburgh  
Register of Wills, Allegheny County (1992-96)  
Deputy Sheriff, Allegheny County (1984-89)  
Juris Doctorate, Duquesne University (1989)  
Bachelor of Arts, Indiana University of Pennsylvania (1979)  
Allegheny County Police Academy (1985)

#### ■ FAMILY

Jay Costa is the son of the late Allegheny County Treasurer Jay Costa Sr. He is married to the former Roxanne Ross. They have three children, two sons and a daughter. His brother, Paul Costa, is a member of the state House of Representatives.

#### ■ STATE PUBLIC SERVICE

- Jay Costa began serving his third full term as state Senator from the 43rd District in January 2005. He was first elected to the Senate in a special election on April 23, 1996 and was sworn in on May 13, 1996. He was reelected in 2000 and 2004.
- Senator Costa is the Senate Democratic Caucus Chairman. He serves as Democratic Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He is a member of the Public Health and Welfare, Transportation, and Policy Committees.
- Senator Costa also garnered appointments to the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, Pennsylvania Community Bank Operations Committee, Public Employee Retirement Commission, Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing and the Industrial Resource Center Strategic Advisory Board. He was also a member of the select Senate Committee that investigated the operation and management of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association.
- Jay Costa is a former adjunct professor to the Community College of Allegheny County and a member of the Pennsylvania and Allegheny County Bar Association. In 2001, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the University of Pittsburgh. In 2004, he was appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Community College of Allegheny County. Also in 2004, he began a term as a member of the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center Board and the Neighborhood Legal Services Board. He is also involved with a variety of civic, community and athletic groups throughout the district.

#### ■ SENATE DISTRICT

43rd District: Pittsburgh Wards 7, 15, 16, 29, 31 and Part of Wards 4, 14, 17; Penn Hills, Wilkins Townships; Baldwin, Braddock Hills, Chalfant, Churchill, Edgewood, Forest Hills, Homestead, Mt. Oliver, Munhall, Swissvale, Verona, West Homestead, West Mifflin and Whitaker Boroughs.

#### ■ OFFICES

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**■ LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- *Championed the fight for a new law to reduce the inequitable inheritance tax by 25% which resulted in a savings of millions of dollars each year for Pennsylvania families.*
- *Authored a new law that would provide for a life-sentence to those who commit rape or involuntary deviate sexual intercourse when serious bodily injury occurs to victims thirteen years or younger.*
- *Toughened a law that would impose a rigorous 0.02% blood alcohol content for school vehicle drivers and providing for suspension of driving privileges for up to one year if convicted and enhanced penalties for those who are driving under the influence with a minor child in the vehicle.*
- *Strengthened legislation requiring Internet Service Providers to remove child pornography from their services or face tough criminal sanctions.*
- *Led legislative effort to overturn anti-employee Superior Court decision in Shick v Shirey to prevent retaliatory firings of at-will employees who file worker's compensation claims.*
- *Prime sponsored new law which enhances reporting requirements for school district financial advisors in order to protect districts from future fraudulent investment activities.*
- *Improved Pennsylvania's crime data reporting system to ensure that municipalities report crime statistics to the state police which will leverage additional federal funds for local crime fighting activities.*
- *Advocated increase to Pennsylvania State Police complement and emphasized that additional troopers be dedicated to Homeland Security and big truck safety enforcement.*

**■ LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

- Prime sponsor and lead advocate of state plan, FAIRx, to expand coverage and reduce prescription drug cost for seniors by leveraging additional rebates from drug manufacturers.
- Reform education to emphasize a back-to-basics approach in elementary schools coupled with smaller class sizes and a focus on implementing new state-of-the-art technologies.
- Upgrade personal safety and security by enactment of new protections for homeowners from home invasion crimes.
- Crafted legislation to increase the grading of all theft offenses and fraudulent or deceptive business practices against businesses and government officials who steal.
- Crafted legislation that would provide enhanced penalties to those who are driving under the influence with a minor child in the vehicle.
- Enact a new law designed to provide a personal tax break for employees whose companies institute guaranteed transportation benefit plans.
- Sponsored and promoted a plan to trigger a guaranteed automatic property tax cut when state surplus revenues exceed fiscal benchmarks; an effort which compelled the Governor to propose the \$100 per homeowner state tax rebate in 2001.
- Recognized the economic imperative of supporting legislation which led to the construction of two new stadiums and an expansion of the David Lawrence Convention Center.