Know Your Representatives

As a Philadelphia resident, you have representation in the Mayor’s Office and in Philadelphia City Council!

The Mayor and City Council work together to:

✔ pass and carry out legislation;
✔ create policies to improve the lives of Philadelphia residents and businesses; and
✔ establish annual budgets that reflect our city’s priorities.

Philadelphia City Council is made up of 17 members.

Ten of the members are “District Councilmembers,” meaning they represent one part of the city. The other seven Councilmembers are “At-Large,” meaning they represent every Philadelphian.

Philadelphia’s Mayor is James F. Kenney. The Kenney Administration is responsible for carrying out laws passed by Philadelphia City Council and proposing new programs and policies. In early 2020, the Mayor’s Office announced its priorities for the second term.

You can reach the Mayor’s Office at james.kenney@phila.gov and 215-686-2181.

MAYOR’S OFFICE

These 7 Councilmembers are “At-Large,” meaning they represent every Philadelphian.

Kendra Brooks
408 CITY HALL
215-686-0461/62
kendra.brooks@phila.gov

Allan Domb
316 CITY HALL
215-686-3414/15
allan.domb@phila.gov

Katherine Gilmore Richardson
581 CITY HALL
215-686-0454/55
Katherine.gilmore.richardson@phila.gov

Derek S. Green
594 CITY HALL
215-686-3450/51
derek.green@phila.gov

Helen Gym
592 CITY HALL
215-686-3420/21
helen.gym@phila.gov

David Oh
319 CITY HALL
215-686-3452/53
david.oh@phila.gov

Isaiah Thomas
330 CITY HALL
215-686-3446/47
Isaiah.thomas@phila.gov
How to Get Ready for the 2020 Election

On November 3, 2020, registered voters in Philadelphia can vote for national and state representatives:

- The President of the United States;
- Representative in Congress;
- Attorney General;
- State Treasurer;
- Senator in the General Assembly; and
- Representative in the General Assembly

Philadelphians who have voted in previous years will notice many new changes to the voting process in 2020, two of which are:

- It is now easier for registered voters to make their choice prior to Election Day because Pennsylvania updated its procedures and timelines for absentee and mail-in balloting.
- There are new voting machines in every county in Pennsylvania, including Philadelphia County

Step 1: Register to Vote

Eligible Philadelphians must register by October 19, 2020 to vote in this November’s election. Not sure if you are registered? Check out bit.ly/VoteStatusPA.

There are different ways to register in Philadelphia—just choose what’s best for you!

REGISTER TO VOTE ONLINE

You can register to vote through the Pennsylvania Department of State’s online application. Before you begin, be sure to have your Pennsylvania driver’s license or PennDOT ID card handy. If you don’t have one, there are other options. Once you submit your online application, it will be forwarded to the appropriate county voter registration office for processing. Visit bit.ly/RegisterVotePHL to get started.

REGISTER TO VOTE IN PERSON

You can register to vote at:

The Philadelphia Voter Registration Office
520 N. Columbus Blvd, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19123
Mon-Fri, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

The Philadelphia County Board of Elections
Room 142 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Mon-Fri, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

REGISTER TO VOTE BY MAIL

The City Commissioners and the Philadelphia Voter Registration Office supply Voter Registration Mail Applications to all persons and organizations who request them, including candidates, political parties, political bodies and other federal, state, and municipal offices.

Voter Registration Applications are also available at:
- U.S. Post Offices
- Philadelphia Public Libraries
- State Liquor Stores
- Other State Government Offices

You can download and print the application at bit.ly/VoteAppPA.

REGISTER TO VOTE AT PENNDOT

You can register to vote at a PA Department of Transportation photo license center when you obtain or update your driver’s license.

Step 2: Learn the New Voting System

Philadelphia voters started using new voting machines in 2019. These machines are designed to be simple and secure. For more information and a preview of what you’ll see in the voting booth in 2020, check out the Philadelphia City Commissioners’ website at bit.ly/VotingSystemPA or call 215-686-1590.
How to Garden Safely in Philadelphia

Under the leadership of Ash Richards, the Director of Urban Agriculture, Philadelphia Parks and Recreation kicked off the planning process to create Philadelphia’s first ever Urban Agriculture Plan in 2019. The project is being supported by Soil Generation, a Black and brown-led coalition of gardeners, farmers, individuals, and community-based organizations; and Interface Studios, a local city planning and urban design firm.

Philadelphia has a rich history of agricultural practices that are rooted in African American, immigrant, and refugee communities. Many of these community spaces have been nurtured for generations. Urban agriculture is healing, it produces healthy and low-cost food, and it can provide a path to self-reliance and determination. Check out our tips on how to garden safely in Philadelphia!

*Photos by Ali Mendelson.*

**Use Raised Beds**

Much of Philly’s land has been used for industrial or commercial operations. That means the soil may be contaminated with heavy metals like lead. Plant in raised beds to avoid contact with contaminated soil. Consider lining the raised bed with a barrier like landscaping fabric or cloth. This helps control weeds and keeps plant roots from growing into the ground soil.

These photos are from a series of workdays held at five community gardens throughout the city in 2016. The project was supported by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council, Philadelphia Land Bank, and Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation. Throughout the project, close to 500 people learned about soil safety, built raised beds, and took steps to limit soil contamination in the following gardens:

- HANNAH HOUSE GARDEN (911-25 W. Auburn St.)
- PENN KNOX GARDEN (5335 Green St.)
- 5 LOAVES AND 2 FISHES GARDEN (55th St and Jefferson Ave.)
- 25TH AND TASKER GARDEN
- SMITH-BARRICK PLAY GARDEN (2046-52 E. Hagert St.)
- HANSBERRY GARDEN (5150 Wayne Ave.)
Use Compost

Adding compost to your soil reduces the concentration of contaminants that might be in the soil. Compost also helps grow healthier plants because it is full of nutrients.

Cover Soil

Cover walkways and common areas to limit contact with soil dust. Soil dust may contain harmful contaminants like lead. Use materials like mulch, wood chips, landscape fabrics, or stones. You can also plant grass or other ground covering plants to prevent tracking contaminated soil into your home.

Cover the area around your plants to reduce soil contamination. Salt hay is a good material because it helps keep the soil moist.
Wash Hands and Wear Gloves

Always wash your hands after working in soil and make sure to wear gloves. This prevents soil from getting on your hands and then into your mouth. Make sure to use soap and water, not hand sanitizer.

Leave Soil in the Garden

Leave tools, boots, and gloves outside. Clean off or take off dirty clothes and shoes before going inside. Soil can turn into soil dust, which is then breathed into your body.
Wash and Peel Produce

Wash all produce before eating it. This is especially important for leafy vegetables like lettuce, collards, spinach, and kale. You can also remove the outer leaves before washing.

Peel all root vegetables like potatoes, turnips, and beets. They grow deep in the soil so washing and peeling these vegetables after harvest will prevent you from accidentally eating soil.

Know What to Grow

Avoid growing root vegetables and leafy greens in contaminated soil. Fruiting plants like tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, apples, and peppers are less likely to be affected by contaminated soil.

Keep an Eye on Children

Children can follow this guide too! Children are still growing and developing so contaminants like lead are especially harmful. Children are also more likely to put their hands in their mouths and may accidentally eat soil.

Create a Garden for All to Enjoy

Consider building your raised beds at different heights. A height of 20 inches is good for small children. A height of 24 inches is good for someone seated in a wheelchair. A height of 30 inches is good for someone who prefers to stand. Consider creating wider garden paths for wheelchair and walker accessibility.
How Well Do You Know Philly’s Transit System?

If you’re a Philadelphia resident, you’ve probably spent time on public transit in our city. Although many of us know how to use our city’s trains, subways, and buses, how well do you really know the history and features of transit?

Fill out this quiz and check out page 47 for the answers. Then share it with a friend and compare your scores!

**Question 1**
How many transit agencies service the City of Philadelphia?

**Question 2**
What year were tokens introduced as a payment option for Philadelphia transit?

**Question 3**
Which SEPTA line carries the largest number of passengers? The Market-Frankford line or the Broad Street Line?

**Question 4**
Which SEPTA mode carries the largest number of passengers? The Regional Rail, Subway/Elevated Line, Trolley, or Bus?

**Question 5**
Where does SEPTA rank in terms of total ridership among U.S. transit agencies?

**Question 6**
What is one SEPTA bus route that runs 24 hours a day?

**Question 7**
How much does one ride on SEPTA cost with SEPTA Key?

**Question 8**
When was the Broad Street Line completed?

**Question 9**
How many electric buses does SEPTA operate?

**Question 10**
How many metric tons of carbon dioxide does Philadelphia avoid collectively thanks to transit riders?

**Free or Reduced Transit Fares**
SEPTA, PATCO, and NJ Transit all provide discounted fares for some riders, including students, older riders, and riders with disabilities.

**Perks for SEPTA Key Users**
Want to get free admission to a museum or discount on your next ice cream cone? Visit www.iseptaphilly.com/perks to learn how your SEPTA Key can get you there!

**Changes Are Coming**
In 2019, SEPTA completed the redesign of 15th Street Station, making one of the city’s busiest transit hubs accessible to residents and visitors with disabilities for the first time. More changes are on the way in 2020 and beyond:

- **MFL Changes**: The Market-Frankford Line is SEPTA’s busiest line, and it just got easier to get on board. Starting this spring, all MFL trains stop at all stations, and more trains will run during rush hour.

- **Franklin Square Station**: If you’ve ever taken the PATCO Speedline from Camden into Center City, you may have noticed the train passing by a stop called “Franklin Square.” PATCO has received a federal grant to begin planning the re-opening of this station in Chinatown and expects to launch the effort later in 2020.

- **Bus Network Remapping**: Some of SEPTA’s bus routes date back to the era of horse-drawn trolleys. SEPTA and the City want to find out how Philadelphia’s bus network can work best for riders in the 21st century. Stay tuned for more information on how you can get involved!

To learn more, contact SEPTA Customer Service at 215-580-7800.
Throughout the Greenworks Review, you’ll find references to climate change. Climate change is a global problem facing Philadelphia and elsewhere throughout the world. It is caused by human activity that releases carbon dioxide and other “greenhouse gases” that warm our atmosphere and leads to higher global temperatures. We are already experiencing the impacts of climate change today, through heat waves, severe storms, and flooding.

We know that every step we take to limit the release of greenhouse gases today will help leave a better world for Philadelphians tomorrow. In Philadelphia, most of our “carbon footprint” (a measure of the release of greenhouse gases) comes from our buildings and industry. Transportation and waste also contribute to our carbon footprint.

To learn more about climate change and what the City of Philadelphia can do about it, check out the report to the right. Powering Our Future: A Clean Energy Vision for Philadelphia provides a roadmap to achieving Mayor Kenney’s goal of reducing carbon emissions 80% by 2050. It highlights actions you can take at the local, state, and federal levels.
When mobilizing against the issue of litter and illegal dumping, identifying the most commonly littered items is a great first step. That’s why the Citywide Litter Index was created. It helps us understand the how, why, where, and what of litter in Philadelphia. Local groups like Trash Academy are already working to understand and address the issue of trash. They create fun yet informative games. We’ve borrowed their illustrations to create our own game based on the Litter Index. Can you rank these items from most-to-least common in Philadelphia?

**City-wide Litter Index**

Cut on the dotted lines then sort the cards from most-to-least common in Philadelphia. Each card has an image on the front and a fun fact on the back.

**DIRECTIONS**

**TRASH ACADEMY** is a project of Mural Arts Philadelphia’s Restored Spaces Initiative. The group uses art and creativity to transform communities and shift perspectives. Trash issues are often seen as behavioral issues but Trash Academy works to reveal systemic injustice. Following the principles of environmental justice, the intergenerational group supports those most impacted by environmental challenges to be at the forefront of crafting solutions.

Learn more about Trash Academy at [www.trashacademy.org](http://www.trashacademy.org).
Litter Index

Last year the Zero Waste and Litter Cabinet released its 2019 Litter Index Report. As part of the report, over 36,000 blocks in Philadelphia were surveyed, including streets, parks, recreation sites, public schools, SEPTA property, and more. According to the Litter Index, single-use disposables like paper, bottles, cans, and plastic bags are the most common across the city, while oversized materials like construction debris and furniture tend to be concentrated in certain areas.

Check out the Litter Index and find out how you can help keep Philadelphia on its path to becoming litter free!
How to Regrow Vegetables

An estimated 30-40% of the food supply in the United States goes to waste. This is caused by many reasons and can occur during harvest, processing, shipping, storage, retail, or once the food reaches the consumer. You can reduce your food waste by buying only what you know you’ll use, donating unwanted packaged goods, and composting. Check out the guide below to learn how you can grow vegetables using food scraps!

**Avocado**
- Use toothpicks to balance pit, root side down, in small jar of water
- Place in sunlit area
- Change water every day
- When tree is seven to eight inches tall plant in 10-inch pot

**Celery**
- Place celery base in small bowl with water, stalks facing upright
- Place bowl in sunny area
- Change water every other day
- After five to seven days, move base to planter or garden and cover with soil up to leaf tips

**Green Onions, Leeks & Scallions**
- Place greens in jar with water
- Put jar on windowsill
- Change water every other day

**Cilantro**
- Place stems in jar of water
- Place in sunny area
- Change water every day
- When roots grow, plant stems in a pot

Images courtesy of Custom Made, Inc.
**ACTIVITY**

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### Basil

- Strip leaves from ⅓ of stems
- Place stems in jar of water
- Place in sunny, but not too hot, area
- Change water every other day
- When roots grow to about 2 inches, plant stems in 4-inch pot

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### Romaine Lettuce

- Place bottom of romaine hearts in a bowl with a ½ inch of water
- Change water every day
- Keep bowl in a sunny area
- Once lettuce sprouts, plant hearts in garden

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### Potatoes

- Cut potatoes into two pieces
- Make sure each half has at least 1-2 eyes
- Let pieces sit at room temperature overnight until they are dry to the touch
- Plant about one foot apart in 8 inches of soil

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### Tomatoes

- Rinse tomato seeds and allow to dry
- Plant in pot with soil
- Once sprouts are a few inches tall, transplant them outdoors
What are Natural Lands?

Philadelphia’s forests, waterways, and meadows make up our natural lands. The City of Philadelphia has almost 6,000 acres of natural lands spread throughout our watershed parks (Fairmount Park, Wissahickon Valley Park, Pennypack Creek Park, Tacony Creek Park, Cobbs Creek Park, Poquessing Creek Park), and other parks like FDR Park. These areas make up 60% of our city’s 10,200 acres of parkland.

The Natural Lands team is a very small but dedicated group within Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and the Fairmount Park Conservancy. They work to restore and protect our natural lands by planting native species and removing non-native and invasive species.

Get Involved!

01 To see a forest restoration project in process, head to the Fairmount Park Horticulture Center in West Fairmount Park. You’ll find trails that meander through the forest and along the grounds.

02 Volunteer with the Natural Lands team by lending a hand at a cleanup on the second Saturday of every month. Volunteers help remove debris and invasive species, plant trees, and more.

www.volunteerphillyparks.ticketleap.com

03 Do you Love Your Park? Participate in Love Your Park cleanup days in May and November. Thousands of volunteers come out to clean, green, and celebrate more than 100 Philly parks each year.

loveyourpark.org

To learn more, visit myphillypark.org.

Natural Lands

The Natural Lands team works all throughout the city. They even have their own nursery in West Fairmount Park called Greenland Nursery. Each year, thousands of native plants and shrubs are propagated from seeds, then eventually planted all throughout Philadelphia’s parks.

Natural lands have a huge impact on the city. They not only provide habitat for wildlife, but they create an opportunity for Philadelphians to escape into nature. Natural lands prevent erosion, provide us with clean water, purify the air we breathe, and help combat climate change.

Forest Restoration at Fairmount Park Horticulture Center

The Natural Lands team recently planted more than 5,000 native trees and shrubs as part of a multi-year forest restoration project in West Fairmount Park. At the start of the project, this 30-acre forest was filled with invasive and non-native trees and plants that provided few, if any, ecological benefits to the site. The forests and Lansdowne and Montgomery creeks were also heavily degraded due to deer, erosion, and illegal dumping.

The first phase of the project involved the removal of thousands of non-native and invasive species, such as Norway Maple, Devil’s Walking Stick, and invasive vines such as porcelain berry. Virtually no insects and other wildlife benefited from these species as they slowly took over the forest.

The team then planted the area with thousands of native trees and shrubs, such as oak and hickory, beech, ironwood, hornbeam, and holly, just to name a few. Not only are these species native to the area, but they’re much more beneficial to insects, birds, and mammals than the non-native plants.
Did you know that native plants provide much-needed habitat to birds, mammals, and other organisms? The following native plant species can be found at the Forest Restoration site at the Fairmount Park Horticulture Center. Can you connect the native plant to the animal it supports?

**HINT!** Sometimes the name of the species can help you make the match.

**DIRECTIONS**
Draw a line to connect the native plant to the bird or mammal it sustains.

**Connect the Native Plant to an Animal it Supports**

**ANSWERS**

1. **Eastern Red Cedar** *(Juniperus virginiana)* and **Eastern Bluebirds** *(Sialia sialis)*
2. **Eastern Red Cedar** *(Juniperus virginiana)* and **Cedar Waxwings** *(Bombycilla cedrorum)*
3. **Spicebush** *(Lindera benzoin)* and **Spicebush Swallowtail** *(Papilio troilus)*
4. **White Oak** *(Quercus alba)* and **Eastern Chipmunk** *(Tamias striatus)*

**IN THE KNOW**

*Answers to the Quiz on page 30*

**Question 1:** Three! SEPTA, New Jersey Transit, and PATCO. **Question 2:** 1968. **Question 3:** The Market-Frankford line. **Question 4:** Bus. **Question 5:** 6th **Question 6:** SEPTA bus routes running 24 hours a day are called Night Owl bus routes. Night Owl bus routes are Route 6, 14, 17, 20, 23, 33, 41, 47, 52, 56, 60, 66, 73, 79, 108, 109, G, and R. **Question 7:** With a SEPTA Key, one ride costs $2. If paying in cash the fare increases to $2.50 unless you have a weekly or monthly pass. **Question 8:** Although service on the northern half of the Broad Street Line (BSL) began in 1928, the BSL reached its current length in 1973 with the opening of Pattison Station (now NRG Station) in South Philly. **Question 9:** SEPTA currently operates 25 electric buses, with at least 10 more on the way later this year. **Question 10:** SEPTA has estimated that transit usage in Philadelphia cuts our carbon footprint one million metric tons, the equivalent of taking more than 200,000 passenger vehicles off the road in a year.