



From the Desk of
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 and Members of the
Polish American Congress
 Eastern Pennsylvania District
Political Action Committee

The upcoming election of mayor, City Council members and other officials reminds us of the vital importance of voting for every American citizen. Polish

Americans are recognized as a solid voting constituency. This stems from the fact that so many of our relatives left their ancestral homeland and emigrated to America not just to realize the American Dream of economic prosperity but also to enjoy American's freedoms, particularly the right to vote.

I strongly encourage all of Polonia to vote in the upcoming primary election. The right and power of people to vote is a sacred trust and should be exercised by everyone. Universal suffrage, the right to vote regardless of race, gender, belief or social status, was achieved at a great price. Polish Americans in particular have a great legacy of demanding our right to vote in a democratic society. In 1619 citizens of Jamestown were given the opportunity to vote for representatives in the Virginia Assembly. The Polish residents were initially denied this right despite their importance to the economic viability of the colony. The result of this injustice was the first documented case of civil disobedience in America. The slogan adopted to accompany this action was, "No vote, no work." Polish workers, in a famous labor action, refused to work until given the right to participate in assembly elections.

More recently, in Poland, Solidarity protested, struck and then suffered tremendous consequences for demanding democracy. Eventually, Poles forced democratic rule on Communist Poland, which has held free elections ever since. In the United States, numerous groups have fought for the precious right to vote, including women and African Americans.

I am pleased to report as a member of the Polish American Congress Political Action Committee that voter registration has increased through the efforts of the PAC. If you are not registered, please do so now. If you know of a family member or friend who is not registered, encourage her or him to register and vote. It is important to our community, our city, our state and our country.

Voter registration forms can be requested from the Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District office by calling 215-739-3408. The final day to register is Monday, April 16. The Pennsylvania primary election will take place on Tuesday, May 15. Forms in other states are available from your local elected officials. Remember, your right to vote has been made possible through great sacrifice. Exercise this cherished right proudly.

Polish American String Band Pride of Port Richmond

The Polish American String Band, founded in 1933, will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2008.

The band's headquarters is at the Columbia Social Club, 3500 block of Almond Street in Port Richmond, where the band gathers each Monday evening for rehearsal.

Anyone interested in hiring the Polish American String Band for parades or special events can call 215-852-4004 or 856-371-6289.

Congratulations Edward Dykla



Edward Dykla, President Emeritus of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), a national fraternal benefit society since 1873, was presented with the prestigious Crystal Diamond Special Heritage Award by the Council of Educators in Polonia (CEP).

Professor E. Filus, President of the CEP, presented the award to Mr. Dykla during a reception at the Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago, IL, on October 20, 2006. Mr. Dykla is a Trustee at Northeastern Illinois University, a position to which he was appointed ten years ago by the Governor of Illinois.

Mr. Dykla has the distinction of being the only Trustee on any Illinois University Board who is of Polish descent and has served for over ten years.

The Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, along with PRCUA, extend congratulations to Edward Dykla and wish him much success in the future. Sto Lat!

Some of the reasons why Polish Americans are outstanding citizens of Pennsylvania and the United States of America

1. Polish Americans are a major asset to the State of Pennsylvania and every state where they live. They consistently pay their fair share of taxes including income, wage, business, sales, and real estate taxes. These taxes make up a sizable portion of the revenue generated for municipal, state and federal government services.
2. They remain outstanding property owners who pride themselves with ongoing building maintenance, which in turn promotes real estate values and reduces crime.
3. They strive to maintain the communities where they live as clean, safe places, which in turn reduces law enforcement costs and adds to the quality of local communities.
4. They support educational alternatives for their children and the right of families to choose public, private or parochial schools. Very often, while increasing their own financial burdens, they select private and parochial schools, providing yet another tax reduction for taxpayers.
5. They support the mission of organizations like Polish American Social Services and others that assists individuals of all ages within their own communities. This saves considerable expense in the delivery of social services, especially when assisting individuals with language barriers to self-sufficiency. Polish Americans represent a major portion of the tax base for municipal, state and federal governments and make considerable contributions to social, cultural and educational programs, which benefit the general population.
6. Polish Americans sponsor public events to promote positive publicity and goodwill for the communities where they live.

These are a few examples why Polish Americans are an important part of America and its tax base. When Polish Americans ask for something, the request should be a top priority to local and national elected officials. In reality, it is a portion of Polish American tax dollars that make state-wide services, national services and international grants possible in the first place.

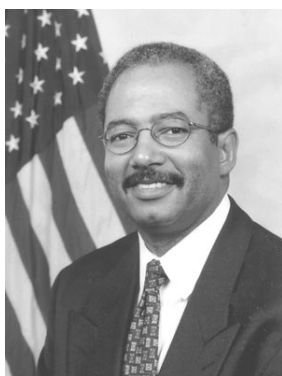
The Candidates For Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, PA Request Your Consideration on Election Day • Tuesday, May 15, 2007



Robert Brady



Dwight Evans



Chakka Fattah



Tom Knox



Michael Nutter



Al Taubenberg

Each candidate continues to make the public aware of how they envision the future of Philadelphia during public forums and by contacts with Philadelphia multi-cultural communities. If you are not registered to vote, the deadline for voter registration in the State of Pennsylvania is Monday, April 16, 2007. You can receive a mail-in voter registration form by calling the office of the Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, at (215) 739-3408.