

# CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON

## COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Phil Mendelson was first elected to the Council in November 1998 as an At-Large Councilmember. He served the District in that role until June 2012 when, following the resignation of the previous Council Chairman, Phil was selected by his colleagues to take over that role. In November 2012, 2014, 2018, and 2022 District voters elected and re-elected Phil as Chairman of the Council.

As Chairman, Phil leads the Council on all legislative matters. Phil also presides over the Committee of the Whole which has purview over matters concerning the DC Auditor, the District's budget, pre-k through 12 education, the Department of Buildings, federal relations, planning and zoning, regional bodies (except WMATA and DC Water), the retirement system, statehood, and the University of the District of Columbia.

Prior to becoming Chairman, Phil served eight years chairing the Council's Committee on the Judiciary (2005-2012). In that role he was responsible for all legislation affecting criminal laws in the District, as well as oversight over the District's public safety agencies, including the Metropolitan Police Department, Fire & Emergency Medical Services, the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Corrections, and the Office of the Medical Examiner.

During his tenure on the Council, Phil has authored hundreds of laws. Major accomplishments include: establishing an elected attorney general and an independent Department of Forensic Science (the city's crime lab); authoring Budget Autonomy, the District's gun control laws (post-*Heller*), marriage equality, Universal Paid Leave, and the District's tree canopy protection law; recrafting Mayor Bowser's homeless shelter plan to close DC General, and Mayor Gray's plan to build the DC United Soccer Stadium; establishing the District's first renewable portfolio standard for electricity generation; coordinating an increase in the minimum wage with Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties; and implementing the recommendations of the 2012 Tax Revision Commission that has made the District's individual income tax one of the most progressive in the nation and reduced the business franchise tax by almost 20%.

Phil has also been a regional leader, serving twice as Chairman and three times as President of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC). Four times he has chaired the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board. He is also a Past President of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO).

Phil believes that government should be an honest, efficient deliverer of services, and that the District should help those least able to help themselves to develop the skills to become self-sufficient and end the cycle of poverty. Phil also believes that government must accomplish this without increasing the tax burdens already shouldered by our middle-income residents. Throughout his years of public service, Phil has maintained that the District, as the nation's capital, should be a model of service delivery in public education, public safety, and public health.

Phil has been an active participant in District politics since 1975, when he became an officer of the McLean Gardens Residents Association. In that role he was a large part of the effort to save that 43-acre housing complex from destruction. In 1979, Phil successfully ran for a seat on the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) and continued to serve as an ANC Commissioner until he took office as an At-Large Councilmember.

Phil came to the District from Cleveland, Ohio in 1970 to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from American University. He grew up in a family dedicated to public service. His mother was a national crusader for nursing home reform. His grandmother, who had been President of the Michigan State League of Women Voters, was appointed by President Roosevelt to the Federal Office of Price Administration, and was a founder of the Grand Rapids Urban League.

Phil has a daughter, Adelaide, who recently graduated from DC Public Schools. He lives in Southeast DC.

**Legislative Accomplishments:**

*\*Elected Attorney General*

*\*Budget Autonomy*

*\*District's gun control laws*

*\*Marriage equality*

*\*Universal Paid Leave*

*\*Establishment of the Department of Buildings*

*\*Minimum wage*

*\*Tax reform*