

The Honorable John A. Kowalko, Jr.
Legislative Friend of Education

Raised in Philadelphia, John Kowalko apprenticed as a machinist at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard following high school. Throughout his career at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia Newspapers and at the Delaware City Refinery, he has been a union steward, union officer and general foreman.

He moved to Delaware in 1983 where his activism continued, this time in his community. His resume includes memberships in SURJ (Stand Up For What's Right and Just), Citizens for Legislative Accountability, Progressive Democrats of Delaware, Delaware Coalition for Health Care Now, Delmarva Power Consumer Council and Common Cause of Delaware.

He was first elected to represent the citizens of the 25th District in Newark in 2006, just four years ago. On the many issues of importance to him, he seeks "practical, informed solutions," solutions based on not only what's right, but based on facts, data over time, and research.

Significantly for us, last year, he advocated loudly for us: about the folly of large wage cuts to public employees and the wisdom of reforming Delaware's inefficient tax structure...

He took his research, data and logical solutions everywhere someone would listen. Along the way, even though he was opposed by the Governor, his own Party and some powerful interests in the state, he was undeterred. Although his package did not become law, enough revenue was passed to take an 8% pay cut down to 2.5%. No wonder he received the Political Courage Award from the Progressive Democrats.

Undeterred though often alone, John Kowalko stood up and spoke with authority and conviction on behalf of a better Delaware for all state employees and their families.