

# ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATS

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**FOR RELEASE:**

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## **CELESTE RILEY TAKES OATH OF OFFICE**

## **AS SOUTH JERSEY'S NEWEST ASSEMBLY MEMBER**

*Assemblywoman Becomes First Woman to Represent South Jersey's Third District,  
First Woman Legislator Ever from Cumberland County*

(TRENTON) – Former Bridgeton City Council President Celeste Riley today took the oath of office to become the newest member of the 213<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, assuming the 3rd Legislative District seat vacated when former Assemblyman Doug Fisher became state Agriculture Secretary.

“It has always been an honor to serve the people of Bridgeton and it is an even greater honor to have the ability to serve all residents of South Jersey,” said Riley. “New Jersey is at a real turning point in its history, and I look forward to joining my colleagues in addressing the challenges we face. I look forward to being a new voice and advocate for South Jersey’s hard-working families.”

Riley joins state Senator Stephen Sweeney and Assemblyman John Burzichelli as part of the District 3 team. The district spans 40 communities throughout Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties. According to the nonpartisan Office of Legislative Services, Riley is the first woman ever to represent the 3rd Legislative District and the first woman representative from Cumberland County.

“Celeste’s experiences and insights from her service as both a council member and a classroom teacher will be invaluable in the Assembly Democratic Caucus,” said Assembly Speaker Joseph J. Roberts, Jr. (D-Camden). “South Jersey’s working families today gained another voice of experience and compassion to stand on their side in the State House. Coming from a family with roots deep in South Jersey, Celeste is well-positioned to succeed.”

Riley was first elected to the Bridgeton City Council in 2006 and served as that body’s liaison to the city’s Library and Historical commissions and sat on the Main Street Design, Downtown Steering, Central Business District and Multi-Dwelling Complex Security committees. She also is a member of the Building a Better Bridgeton (B3) community pride program and a member of the Cumberland County Cultural Heritage Commission Grant Review Panel.

She is a teacher at the Morris Goodwin Elementary School in Greenwich. The school's fourth-grade and fifth-grade students were present in the Assembly Visitors' Gallery to witness her swearing-in.

Riley is a graduate of Cumberland Regional High School and received her bachelor of arts degree in music from LaSalle University. She has a master's degree in Arts Administration from Drexel University.

She is married to Richard Dawson and has two daughters from a previous marriage and three stepdaughters.

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