



Guest Speaker

BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH

Thursday  
February 22nd 6:00 PM

Jamel Curtis Holley  
STATE ASSEMBLYMAN EMERITUS

BELLEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTER

# Jamel Curtis Holley

## BIO

Jamel Curtis Holley is a highly accomplished public servant with over 15 years of experience in various local and state-level positions. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from New Jersey City University in 2002 and a Master of Public Administration degree from Kean University. Holley is known for his spirited energy and focus and has been a strong advocate for improving issues important to residents across Union County, New Jersey. Holley's demonstrated leadership has allowed him to bridge gaps and foster relationships on a range of issues, from preserving taxpayers' dollars to supporting youth recreation and preserving open space. In 2001, he was appointed by New Jersey's Deputy Majority Leader to serve as Chief of Staff, becoming the youngest Chief of Staff in the state for any of the state's 120 legislators.

In 2004, Holley won the General Election for Councilman At Large in the Borough of Roselle, becoming the youngest councilman in Union County at the age of 25. Later that year, he was honored by The Network Journal Magazine for his achievements and contributions to the African American community, and was tapped by the New Jersey Democratic State Committee to serve as a member of the Affirmative Action and Outreach Committee for the Democratic National Convention.

Holley's responsibilities in this role included expanding the base of individuals who could apply for positions in their communities, as delegates and members of outreach committees throughout New Jersey. He utilized his contacts with community African-Americans and other minority residents to further diversity and minority representation throughout the state.

Holley was successful in his 2007 and 2010 election bids for Councilman At Large, and in November 2011, he was elected Mayor, becoming the youngest Mayor ever elected in the Borough's 117-year history. In January 2015, Holley was appointed to fill a seat in the New Jersey General Assembly representing the 20th Legislative District, making him the first African American to represent the district in the New Jersey Legislature.

Holley later won the election bid for the full term in November 2017 and again in November 2019. He is also the former Director of Public Works for the Township of Irvington. Currently, Holley is the President and CEO of JCH Strategy Group, a firm that specializes in commercial and residential real estate development projects. Holley's future plans include continuing his public service to serve others using his experience and knowledge of local, state, and federal government. Holley is the grandson of the late Yvonne Holley and has two younger brothers, Jesse, a former wide receiver for the National Football League (NFL) teams New England Patriots and Dallas Cowboys, and Joseph.