

1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held, including the one you're seeking?

I have been the Representative for the 200th Legislative District since 2016. Prior, I have been committeeperson in the 9th Ward Democratic Committee since 2006.

2. If you have previously held a government office:

a. What are the primary issue areas in which you were involved?

- Community economic development and wealth inequality
- Criminal justice reform
- Environmental justice
- Gun violence

b. What committees, caucuses or working groups have you served on?

I serve on the finance, commerce, judiciary, agriculture/rural affairs & state government committees as well as the Democratic policy committee. I also am a member of many caucuses including the PA Legislative Black Caucus, Climate Caucus, Cannabis Caucus, Women's Health, Early Childhood Education & LGBTQ Equality and am an advisor on the House Democratic Diversity & Inclusion Council. In 2018, I became the founding chair of the House Democratic Equity Committee.

3. What community or policy issues have you worked on, and in what capacity, outside of government? (Please provide the names of two or three individuals who can provide information about your previous work.)

Internet Freedom (aka net neutrality)

Hannah Sassaman, MMP

Todd Wolfson, 215 People's Alliance

Joe Torres, Free Press

4. Please provide copies of all your significant campaign materials, including position papers, and information on your campaign strategy, expected funding sources, and endorsements.

www.RabbForThePeople.com

5. What is your plan to win this race .

Same way as in 2016 and 2018: strong message based on inclusion, fairness & integrity, using a combination of traditional high-touch and innovative high-tech tactics, and executed by a largely volunteer-led team and some paid campaign workers earning \$15/hour.

ISSUES

Please note: Although many of the following questions may be answered “yes” or “no” you should feel free to elaborate if doing so would provide a clearer statement of your position. If you believe you do not have enough information to answer a question, or have not formed an opinion, please say so.

I. OVERALL

What would be your three highest priorities as a legislator? Explain.

- (1) Giving communities the economic tools they need to succeed in the 21st century with a focus on community-centered entrepreneurship;
- (2) Ending mass incarceration in Pennsylvania and proving that model to the country
- (3) Facilitating civic engagement through electoral, voting and media reform.

II. Education

- 1) Do you believe public college, or community college, should be tuition free?

I believe that the PASSHE schools should be *entirely free* to the majority of Pennsylvanians based on socio-economic factors, the most important one being family (financial) wealth.

- 2) What role do you believe standardized tests should play in evaluating teachers, schools and students, if any?

None - we have to give kids the ability to learn and succeed, not the ability to regurgitate specific information on tests devoid of a relationship with their socio-economic future.

- 3) What factors do you believe should be considered in determining *overall levels* of school funding in the Commonwealth, and funding *per school district*?

The main factor should be what it costs to provide a holistic, state-of-the education for students living in the richest country in world history. As for individual school districts, funding per school district should account for not just for the cost of living, but the range of collective needs of public school stakeholders within the socio-economic context that these students are living and studying, and into which they will be entering college, trade school or joining the workforce.

What we *cannot* do is invest in public education in ways that deepen the opportunity gap based on whiteness.

- 4) Approximately 33% of Philadelphia students are enrolled in charter schools. What is your position on the expansion of charter schools? Should they be given public money via vouchers or similar programs (like ESAs)? What role do you think public schools play in our city?

I believe we should place a moratorium on new charter schools, examine best practices and focus on properly funding our public school system. I would also increase oversight of existing charters.

III. Budget and Taxes

- 1) Do you support a Constitutional Amendment to permit progressive taxation in PA, in whole or part?

Yes, in whole.

- 2) Would you support raising the tax on unearned income as a way to increase state revenue without increasing burdens on working people?

Yes, and I introduced legislation to this end called the **Fair Share Tax bill** .

- 3) What changes if any would you support in corporate net income tax levels?

I would support lowering corporate net income tax levels as long as other responsible, recurring sources of revenue preceded such a cut.

- 4) What changes, if any, would you support in the personal income tax?

My Fair Share Tax Plan bill will cut personal income tax from 3.07 percent to 2.8 percent on wages and income. Passive income from net profits, dividends, net gains derived from rents, royalties, patents and copyrights, gambling and lottery winnings and net gains derived through estates and trust would see an increase to 6.5

percent. As a result, 85 percent of Pennsylvanians would see either a decrease or no change in their taxes due to the state.

5) Do you support full elimination of the Delaware loophole?

Yes.

6) Do you support a tax on fracking, and at what level?

I oppose a tax on fracking. Instead, I strongly recommend a carbon fee where the state imposes a price per ton on pollutants emitted (aka carbon pricing). I will be introducing such a bipartisan measure this year.

The biggest polluters are not households, but major corporations who must pay for this costly externality whose public health consequences are dire and unduly subsidized by taxpayers.

7) Do you support the Keystone Opportunity Zone program? Would you introduce legislation to eliminate it, or to limit the number of times a parcel's KOZ designation can be renewed or extended? More generally, do you support tax breaks to lure or retain businesses?

At the very least, I would seek to substantively evaluate and overhaul this program. However, generally speaking, I support eliminating corporate giveaways that reward races to the bottom.

I am introducing an innovative, multi-state compact bill that would prohibit company-specific corporate giveaways along with two other legislators, one progressive, the other liberterian.

IV. Public Banking

Would you support the creation of a Pennsylvania Public Bank, modeled after the Bank of North Dakota?

Yes, and I will be introducing legislation on this issue this year, after two years of research and collaboration with other stakeholders in other states who seek to do the same nationwide.

V. Women's Rights

1) Do you believe there should be any restrictions on a woman's right to choose? If so, what?

No, I fully support a woman's right to choose.

- 2) What additional protections should be enacted into law to protect women's health care?

We should pursue an amendment to secure the right to choose. Pennsylvania on its own should pursue one to further national conversations.

- 3) Would you support proposals to ensure that women and men working in the Commonwealth receive equal pay for equal work?

Yes.

- 4) Do you support legislation to protect individuals against sexual assault?

Yes, and there should be no loopholes in these laws that protect those in power.

I have introduced a bill that requires all employers to train their employees and interns about all forms of harassment, this includes agricultural and domestic workers.

VI. Children and Families

- 1) Should the state require businesses to provide paid family leave?

Yes, businesses as well as other organizations over certain reasonable revenue and payroll thresholds.

- 2) Should the state provide universal availability of affordable child care? If yes, how would you achieve this?

Yes. Governor Wolf has just made such a proposal, the details of which my colleagues and I are reviewing presently.

VII. Environment

- 1) What measures, if any, would you support to move PA off its reliance on fossil fuels and expand use of renewable energy sources?

I have proposed legislation that would move PA off its reliance on fossil fuels by 2050 through renewable energy expansion.

- 2) Do you support a ban on fracking in whole or part?

I am open to banning fracking prospectively as long as that is part of a larger strategy to transition PA to 100% renewable energy by 2050. I believe that once we commit to the subsidized proliferation of wind, solar and other renewable energy generation sources and once utility-scale battery storage nears the current low price of fracked gas, the shale gas industry will be no more.

Similarly, no one is calling for a ban on coal because even its strongest proponents know that this industry may be dead in a decade or less.

3) Do you think Philadelphia should be compelled or induced to sell PGW?

No. We should compel PGW's board to dedicate itself to converting to quasi-governmental entity that provides clean, safe, affordable, sustainably sourced heating and energy sources to Philadelphia homes, businesses and government entities.

4) The Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce advocates converting Philadelphia into an "energy hub" for oil and natural gas, or the "Houston of the East Coast." Do you agree or disagree with this vision?

No, I fundamentally disagree and view Philadelphia's future as a 100% renewable Energy Hub!

5) What, if any, other measures would you support to preserve or improve our environment? (water issues, park preservation, detoxification of school buildings, etc.)

We need to pass comprehensive reforms and I have co-sponsored legislation that would fully transition Pennsylvania to a 100% renewable economy by 2050, and get us most of the way there well before. We need clean drinking water, beautiful shared green spaces, clean schools and residences, and affordable carbon-neutral housing based on energy-efficient models.

VIII. Criminal Justice

1) Should stop and frisk be limited or outlawed?

I believe it is unconstitutional, and should be outlawed.

2) How would you deal with the problem of mass incarceration of [Black & Latinx people], particularly [Black] youth?

Reform misdemeanors, end death by incarceration, end cash bail, end solitary confinement, end mandatory minimum sentencing, reform civil asset forfeiture and increase evidence-based diversion programs.

Naturally, I support full and fair funding of public schools as well as universal, high quality pre-K.

3) Should [cannabis] be legalized for [adult] use?

I strongly support legalizing adult-use cannabis in ways that promote racial equity, community safety, community-centered entrepreneurship, worker rights, inclusive of organized labor, public health, environmental stewardship and a commitment to sourcing, producing and processing of cannabis locally and within the state.

Should privately-owned prisons be permitted in Pennsylvania?

No. They are an abomination. But we should also be working to close non-private prisons and investing in our communities instead of cages.

4) Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania?

Yes. And we should take it a major step further by equipping reentrants with the training and certification of qualified employment so that we don't just commit to removing a barrier to employment, but give returning citizens a springboard to opportunity.

5) Should PA continue to build new prisons?

No.

6) Should PA begin to close prisons? Explain.

PA has already begun closing prisons as of 2017 and should continue to do so as long as more of my fellow state lawmakers embrace more effective, humane, and fiscally sound policies as they relate to crime and punishment.

7) Do you support an end to the death penalty?

Yes. We have wasted a billion dollars executing 3 people since 1976, and each wanted to be executed. Suicide-by-court should not come at the expense of schools.

The death penalty is applied disproportionately against people of color and poor people, and convicts innocent people. It does not reduce crime, and cannot be carried out humanely. It is an affront to civilized society.

My bill H.B. 2211 would abolish the death penalty, and my co-prime sponsor is conservative Republican Rep. Frank Ryan (Lebanon County)

8) When if ever, should a juvenile be tried as an adult?

Never. Everything we know about the brain from neuroscience and adolescent psychology and other developmental studies shows juveniles must have less culpability than adults, and should never be tried as adults.

- 9) As a general matter, what do you think the state can do to reduce the murder rate in Philadelphia, while maintaining respect for civil liberties and the overall need for decarceration of our city?

The only evidence-based approach is treating violence as a public health issue instead of as a criminal one.

We need to invest in credible prevention models that are proven to work across the country, as well as decriminalize crimes of poverty, mental illness and substance use so that law enforcement stops going after low-hanging fruit in the name of convictions and instead focuses on clearing serious cases involving murder or rape, for which the clearance rate nation-wide, including in multiple Pennsylvania jurisdictions and not just Philadelphia, is abysmally low.

IX. Campaign Finance Reform

Would you support legislation to provide public financing for state and local election campaigns?

Yes. It is long overdue.

X. Labor

- 1) Would you support legislation to strengthen protection for workers trying to form or join a union?

Yes. And early in my candidacy for this seat in 2015, I helped unionize 1,500 fellow adjunct professors at Temple.

- 2) Should the minimum wage be increased? If so, to what level and should the increase be indexed to inflation?

Yes, \$15 and my One Fair Wage bill, H.B. 1215, achieves that goal. Further, since 2016, my campaign has paid its youth workers \$15/hour and offers its full-time staff a salary plus benefits.

- 3) Do you believe that Philadelphia and other municipalities should continue to be pre-empted from increasing the minimum wage on their own?

No. Local officials know their areas' needs; Philadelphia should be able to set its own wage minimums.

- 4) Do you support privatization of retail liquor sales in Pennsylvania? Are there any other services that you believe should be considered for privatization?

No. I strongly oppose privatization generally.

- 5) Philadelphia remains the most impoverished major city and about 75% of our residents lack bachelor's degrees. What policies would you implement to ensure that decent, high-paying jobs created here are accessible to the majority of our population, not just the relatively well-educated and already well off?

We need to stop wasting money on the prison-industrial complex and start investing in our public schools, teachers and labor unions that are the backbone of a working economy. We have to work toward doubling our Commonwealth and Philadelphia's union membership, provide resources for and access to job training and education opportunities free of charge, whether for college or vocational schools. And we must pass legislation that raises wages so that folks don't have to work multiple full-time jobs to have that quality life.

XI. Reforming Legislative Districts

- 1) Do you support legislation that would (1) form an independent commission, and (2) apply sound methodologies, to draw all congressional, State House, and Senate districts fairly in Pennsylvania?

Yes, I have long said that whatever your issue is, your second and third issues have to be electoral and media reform - we have to change how society engages with government.

The core of that is ensuring people's voices are heard - that their votes matter - and gerrymandering throws voices away. I fully support an independent commission that would draw fair lines. And I have co-sponsored legislation that would create such a commission.

XII. Public Health

Would you support state legislation to create a single-payer system in PA?

Yes. Healthcare is a human right.



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2020 Legislative Questionnaire

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CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: CHRIS RABB Office Sought: **State Legislator**

I have read the attached questionnaire responses and certify that the information provided is accurate and the opinions stated accurately reflect my own positions.

Candidate Signature: Christopher Rabb Date: 2/13/2020

Please complete, sign and return this form via email in Word format to info@phillynn.org and mail or fax a copy of the signature page to:

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