About

Tarik Khan is a frontline nurse, a community activist, and a born and bred Philadelphian where he attended public schools through graduation from Central High School. His father immigrated to Philadelphia from Pakistan, where he worked as an engineer for the city of Philadelphia, and his mom was raised in West Oak Lane by a single mother, became a nurse, and was the first in her family to go to college.

Tarik learned early the value of education and hard work from his parents, even following his mother's footsteps to become a nurse. He attended Roxborough Nursing School from 2003-2005. In his 16 years as a nurse, Tarik's seen firsthand the effects of social disparities on health outcomes.

Tarik does not stand on the sidelines— when he sees injustice he gets to work. During his tenure as President of the Pennsylvania State Nursing Association (PSNA), he helped lead the effort, alongside the state nursing association and labor unions, to author and attempt to pass the Patient Safety Act. He worked with environmental groups to protest the building of a toxic gas plant across from the health center in the district, and, as a Democratic Committeeperson for the 21st Ward, has registered hundreds of voters and knocked on thousands of doors for candidates up and down the ballot.

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the needs in our community, and Tarik is running to bring creative leadership to our government. In February of 2021, Tarik launched a program to bring unused COVID-19 vaccines to homebound residents who were unable to access the vaccine in any other way, including older adults and people with disabilities. The Biden Administration invited Tarik to a White House forum with the CDC to present his model to other states across the nation.

Tarik has a history of solving problems others can’t or won’t. When our leaders were absent during the crisis, Tarik stepped up both as frontline nurse and an innovative leader. He will bring that same tenacity, vision, dedication, and leadership to Harrisburg as State Representative in the 194th.

Why we’ll win

★ Tarik has a robust volunteer base and will have the necessary resources to run a successful campaign. Tarik raised over $165,000 last year and is on track to raise over $250,000, allowing for significant voter outreach through mail, digital, and canvassing. The campaign has already knocked on over 3,000 doors and will hit another 18,000 before the Primary.
★ Tarik Khan is building a broad coalition that includes progressive organizations, elected officials and labor unions. He has already been endorsed by The Philadelphia Metal Trades Council, Laborers District Council, Plumbers Local Union 690, IronWorkers Local 401, IUPAT 21, Operating Engineers 542, Reclaim Philadelphia, PASNAP, Emgage PAC, Second Generation PAC, Indian American Impact, and PSNA.

★ Grassroots insurgent campaigns in Philadelphia have been successful in recent years, and Tarik will run a campaign in a similar mold to now State Senator Nikil Saval and State Representative Rick Krajewski.

★ The district has a growing youth population, similar to the dynamic in previously successful insurgent campaigns. 30% of the primary electorate is UNDER 35, and the current HD is in the top dozen youngest districts across the Commonwealth.

★ The district is changing significantly in ways that benefit Tarik. With redistricting, the new 194th District is now entirely in Philadelphia. The incumbent's base in Lower Merion is no longer part of the district and the incumbent actually lost the remaining parts of the district in the 2014 primary election. The newly added portion of progressive Chestnut Hill, with some of the highest turnout in the city, has routinely given over 75% of the vote to the progressive State House candidate in recent elections and strongly favors an insurgent campaign like Tarik's.

★ Voting-by-mail is making it easier to organize in Democratic primaries to bank votes early and engage less frequent voters in coming out and caring about midterm primaries—which will be essential in our path to victory. Turnout is predicted to be around 8,000, so our win number is 4,000.

Why this race

★ We need Democrats in the State House who are leaders in the progressive movement. Having a strong proponent of Medicare for All, worker's rights, and public schools can have a massive impact.

★ A strong Democratic district deserves a leader who will advocate for meaningful change and not compromise on their values. This district deserves a leader who will fight to raise the minimum wage, enact important climate protections, increase funding for education, and work to regulate unchecked development.

★ As a frontline nurse before and during the COVID-19 crisis, the son of an immigrant, and a dynamic community activist, Tarik is the healthcare champion we need in the state legislature.