

**PA STATE LEGISLATIVE 2022 QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR PHILLY NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS**

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CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Chris Rabb

Office Sought: PA HD 200

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:



Date: 2/17/2022

Please complete, sign and return this form via Email to:

Gloria Gilman: gmgilman@gmail.com

and

Stan Shapiro: shapsj@comcast.net

2022 PA State Legislative Questionnaire

BACKGROUND Please note: answers to questions 7–9 are optional.

1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held?

I have represented District 200 in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since 2016.

2. If you have previously held a government office:

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

Equity, voting rights, environment, criminal legal reform, labor / worker rights, healthcare.

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

I serve on the House Commerce, Finance, Judiciary & Agriculture Committees.

I also am a founder of the Progressive Legislators Working Group; a founding member of the PA Cannabis Caucus & the PA Legislative Climate Caucus. I am also the founding chair of the House Democratic Caucus Equity Committee. Additionally, I am a member of several other affinity caucuses including the PA Legislative Black Caucus, Women's Health Caucus, and LGBTQ Equality Caucus. Lastly, I was appointed by the former Speaker of the House to serve as the PA representative to the National Conference of State Legislators' Energy Supply Task Force and am the regional chair of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.

3. If you have not previously held a government office, what community or policy issues have you worked on, and in what capacity? (Please provide the names of two or three individuals who can provide information about your previous work.)

4. Please provide copies of all your significant campaign materials, including position papers, advertisement copy, and flyers.

Our campaign is currently producing these materials and will share everything we have with PNN as soon as we have them. You can find more information on social media (@Rabb4thepeople) and at RabbForThePeople.com.

5. What, if any, endorsements have you received? What others are you seeking?

So far, I have received endorsements from Free The Ballot and Reclaim Philadelphia, and have applied to the following other organizations who've endorsed me in the past:

6. What is your plan to win this race, including your fundraising goals and strategies.

We need roughly 11,000 votes in the new 200th district for this upcoming primary race, which shares a little over 90% of its voting population with the current Democratic electorate. To get those votes, we will knock doors, phonebank, text bank, and use the latest technology in our high-touch, high-tech campaign. And we will need to raise roughly \$200,000 over the course of the campaign to implement that plan, which is centered on paying young people at least \$15/hour to talk to their neighbors about the issues that matter most to them. We have already raised a substantial portion of that money, and will continue to rely on our local grassroots and national committed donor network to reach that goal.

7. What, if any, genders, do you identify with?

I identify as a cis-hetero man.

8. What is your sexual orientation?

9. What is your racial, ethnic identity?

I'm unapologetically Black.

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.

Voting rights, a green and care-based solidarity economy that prioritizes worker rights, criminal legal reform and shared prosperity.

II. Education

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

Yes. Education is a human right.

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

None. They perpetuate systemic biases and force teachers to teach to arbitrary metrics that reinforce class and race divides.

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

I have introduced HB 961 which requires that 100% of state education dollars be routed through the fair funding formula. We need to consider student need and equitable investments that address generations of intentional and abusive funding neglect.

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?

We need a charter school moratorium, and voucher programs are simply a way for private schools to take money from public schools. Public schools must be the fully funded and resourced educational model and backbone of our city.

I also have introduced legislation to require greater transparency & accountability in the EITC/OSTC programs that funnel tax dollars for the benefit of their wealthy sponsors and students accepted to non-public schools with little oversight.

III. Budget and Taxes

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

Yes, in whole. I am a co-sponsor of a bill that does just that.

2) What changes if any would you support in the corporate net income tax levels? See this: <https://krc-pbpc.org/issues/corporate-income-taxes/>

The CNI should be reduced while closing the Delaware loophole.

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

Influenced by KRC, I have recently recirculated my Fair Share Tax Plan which implements tax fairness by placing a proportionate tax responsibility on wealthy individuals.

- 4) Do you support the [Fair Share Tax Plan](#) proposed by the PA Budget and Policy Center, with its emphasis on raising the tax rate on unearned income?

Yes. I have been the prime sponsor of this bill in the House for 3 terms.

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

Yes.

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

I do not support a tax on fracking because such a fiscal policy would encourage the continuation of this insidious industry. Instead, I support carbon pricing which would put a per-ton fee on emissions from the state's largest corporate polluters.

- 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?

I cannot affirm the efficacy of the KOZ program in terms of its outcomes for vulnerable and minoritized communities. More generally, I do not support tax avoidance schemes that do not create community wealth where it's needed most.

On a related note, I have introduced a bill that prohibits PA from offering corporate-specific tax incentives so that taxpayers aren't funding race-to-the-bottom approach that too many cities and states employ to lure megacorporations. That kind of effort only hurts workers and local businesses.

IV. Public Banking

Would you support the creation of a Pennsylvania Public Bank, modeled after the Bank of North Dakota, and/or the creation of local public banks in PA cities and counties?

Yes. I will be introducing a bill to create a public bank on the state level that complements and strengthens efforts to do so on a municipal level.

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 have also proposed a satirical mandatory vasectomy bill to raise awareness among men in particular around the sexist double standard regarding government overreach relating to Pennsylvanians' bodily autonomy.

- 2) What additional protections should be enacted into law to protect women's health care in light of the pending decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to override or sharply curtail *Roe v. Wade*?

We need to enshrine *Roe* in Pennsylvania's Constitution, and we need to pursue creative legislation that emphasizes the logical and farcical conclusion of the kind of legal thinking it will take to overturn *Roe*.

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

Yes.

VI. Children and Families

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

Yes. Many nations are moving toward longer family leave. We need to move in that direction for the sake of our new families.

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

Yes. We can achieve this through equitable funding streams, like cannabis legalization or through carbon pricing. We could also develop alternative proposals, like a charter school-specific tax, or develop grant programs that ensure local communities are able to set up childcare systems.

VII. Environment

- 1) Do you support a ban on fracking in whole or part? Explain.

I support a ban on all new fracking activity because the future of our planet depends on our ability, right now, to transition to sustainable energy sources. Fracking draws more blood from our planet's heart at a time when we need to save the patient.

- 2) Would you support banning the use of single-use plastic bags?

Yes.

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

PGW is the largest publicly owned utility in the nation; it is, therefore, an asset Philadelphians own collectively. In that vein, it is ours to reinvent and overhaul in furtherance of environmental and socio-economic sustainability.

We must commit to reimagining PGW as a consumer-owned cooperative corporation committed to providing green, affordable and reliable energy that promotes deep decarbonization and environmental resilience.

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

One of my most popular bills (HB 100) would get Pennsylvania to carbon neutrality by 2050; we need to green our state, repair our buildings and infrastructure with an eye toward sustainability, and invest in green energy including by being a part of RGGI.

- 5) What criteria would you use in making appointments to the P.U.C.?

I would focus on people who can make equitable decisions about utilities, and people who understand the urgent need to transition to green utilities.

- 6) What steps would you take to ensure environmental justice in the placement and remediation of structures that pollute?

Community engagement has to be at the forefront. Nobody wants to live in pollution, and folks know where the pollution in their neighborhood is. We have to engage with people where they are to identify and remediate these kinds of situations, and we need to fund the kind of green maintenance and renovation programs that replace polluting structures with green ones.

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

Clean air, water, accessible and clean parks, and green schools are all core issues I have fought for. I believe we need a Pennsylvania Conservation Corps that is tasked with supporting exactly those issues – cleaning our environment, working to repair harm from pollution, and upgrading our schools so that they are green and inviting – e.g., solar panels on public school roofs along with gardens, and double-paned windows that insulate students instead of the iron bar system that is in too many schools.

VIII. Criminal Justice

- 1) Should stop and frisk be limited or outlawed?

Outlawed. It is both racist and unconstitutional.

2) How would you deal with the problem of mass incarceration of **Black and brown people**, particularly youth?

We need to decriminalize crimes of poverty, mental illness, substance use, or sex work; we need to dramatically reduce sentence length across the board, including ending the death penalty and death by incarceration; we need to invest significant resources into communities and public health systems instead of policing and incarceration. We need prevention – to treat violence as a public health problem – and to invest in violence interrupters, non-police healthcare responders, short-and-long-term at-home care support systems, and care economic jobs that pay folks to help each other out. We need to provide the services people need to have stable lives, and not treat every problem like it is a nail for the police to hammer.

3) Should marijuana be fully legalized?

Yes, and taxed equitably so that communities disproportionately impacted by its criminalization receive the benefits of its legalization.

4) Should privately-owned prisons be permitted in Pennsylvania?

No. They should remain un-privatized. We should also de-privatize halfway houses and all other actors in the supervision/surveillance space within the carceral system.

5) Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania?

Yes – as long as we implement policies and programs that address the pernicious tactics employers use to find proxies for race & ethnicity. I am working on legislation that would fast-track returning citizens reentry into the workforce by creating an on-ramp to earning a qualified employment certification for employers to affirmatively embrace as a formal affirmation of their viability as an employee.

6) Should PA continue to build new prisons?

No. If we build them we will fill them.

7) Should PA begin to close prisons? Explain.

Yes. Studies increasingly show there is no community safety benefit to prisons – they do not reduce recidivism at any point, and make later violence more likely. Ever since the first prison was constructed in the United States, people have seen their inhumanity and sought to close them. There are better ways of reducing violence, promoting public safety, and providing redress for harm.

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

Yes. for 3 terms I have introduced a bill to abolish the death penalty.

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

Never. I have authored a bill to end automatic sentencing of youth as adults.

10) 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 state should establish a well-funded, multi-agency entity to address gun violence as the public health crisis it is. We must understand the factors that cause it and appropriate, trauma-informed, non-law enforcement interventions. To build that understanding, we need to collect and evaluate necessary data to determine the complexity of this crisis.

We must also stop treating the pandemic like it is a blip, and start seriously investing in impacted neighborhoods so that we can build the local economy and service system people need. End the dangerous black marketization of controlled substances. Invest in violence prevention – violence interrupters, non-police healthcare responders, crisis intervention teams, wraparound service providers, school counselors instead of cops, and mental health services that allow people to turn somewhere other than police when a loved one is experiencing a crisis.

IX. Campaign Finance Reform

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

Yes!

X. Labor

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

Yes.

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

Yes. My #OneFairWage bill — HB 15 — raises the minimum wage over time to \$15/hour then indexed to inflation. My bill also abolishes the tipped minimum wage, strengthens wage theft protections and expands the minimum wage to incarcerated workers, gig workers and workers with disabilities.

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

No. Localities differ in cost of living; a given city may have a higher cost and may want to establish a higher minimum wage as a result.

- 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.

- 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 grants and training programs that offer benefits for local hiring and retention, and we need to create an educational environment that nurtures our talent so that people are well-placed to get those jobs. Our curriculum should offer multiple avenues for young people to find success – not just an expensive degree route.

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.

XII. Public Health

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

Yes. Healthcare is a right and single payer is the best and most cost effective way to achieve that.

- 2) How would you reduce or eliminate the racial disparities in the provision of health care, in particular the distribution of lifesaving COVID vaccines and medications?

Part of the answer is in producing more Black and brown doctors, especially from neighborhoods with disparities. The more we can invest in the people who have the trust of loved ones, the better we will be. We also need to scale up education and outreach programs, and incentivize vaccination and medication in a targeted way.

We also need to modernize, fully fund, appropriately staff and expand public health departments statewide.

XIV. Housing

- 1) How would you deal with the growing affordable housing gap in PA, both in the homeownership and rental markets?

Housing must be a right; we need an abundance of housing so that we are not constantly facing a gap. Mixed-income housing developments that carry substantial deeply affordable units are part of the solution, but we also have to work with federal allies to repeal the Faircloth amendment and build more sustainable and beautiful public housing, like other countries do.

2) Would you support a mandate requiring landlords to show good cause for evictions?

Yes.