

Philadelphia Platform

2019-2020



16 January 2019



The democratic members of the Philadelphia House Delegation created this platform document to outline our legislative goals for the 2019-2020 legislative session.

The Delegation's top priority for working toward a better Philadelphia is reducing the city's twenty six percent poverty rate. Our hope is to improve the lives of Philadelphia residents through workforce development and education, the strengthening of our commercial corridors, criminal justice and safety reform and an investment in infrastructure and exports.

The entire democratic membership of the delegation contributed to these efforts, from being in multiple work groups to offering valuable advice throughout the year. A special thank you from myself goes to the members who were in the initial workgroup who helped devise this plan. Apart from myself those members were Rep. Donna Bullock, Rep. Morgan B. Cephas, Rep. Pamela A. DeLissio, Rep. Jordan A. Harris, Rep. Joanna E. McClinton, Rep. Chris Rabb and Rep. Jared Solomon.

Together, we are committed to presenting this plan in a transparent, approachable way that highlights the benefits for each of our constituents. If you have questions about this plan please contact my Harrisburg office at (717) 787-1354.

Thank you,



State Rep. Jason Dawkins
Chair of the Philadelphia House Delegation

Philadelphia Platform

Introduction

The Philadelphia Platform outlines a series of four policy areas that are the primary priorities of the Philadelphia Delegation during the 2019-20 Legislative Session. By funding and enacting these, we believe that the well-being of our city, its people, and its economy will be measurably improved. The purpose of doing so herein is to present a clear, coordinated legislative agenda so that our colleagues in the General Assembly, the Governor, and our constituents know where we stand.

Platform Objectives

What is the best way to measure “well-being”? Population growth? GDP? Graduation rate? Unemployment?

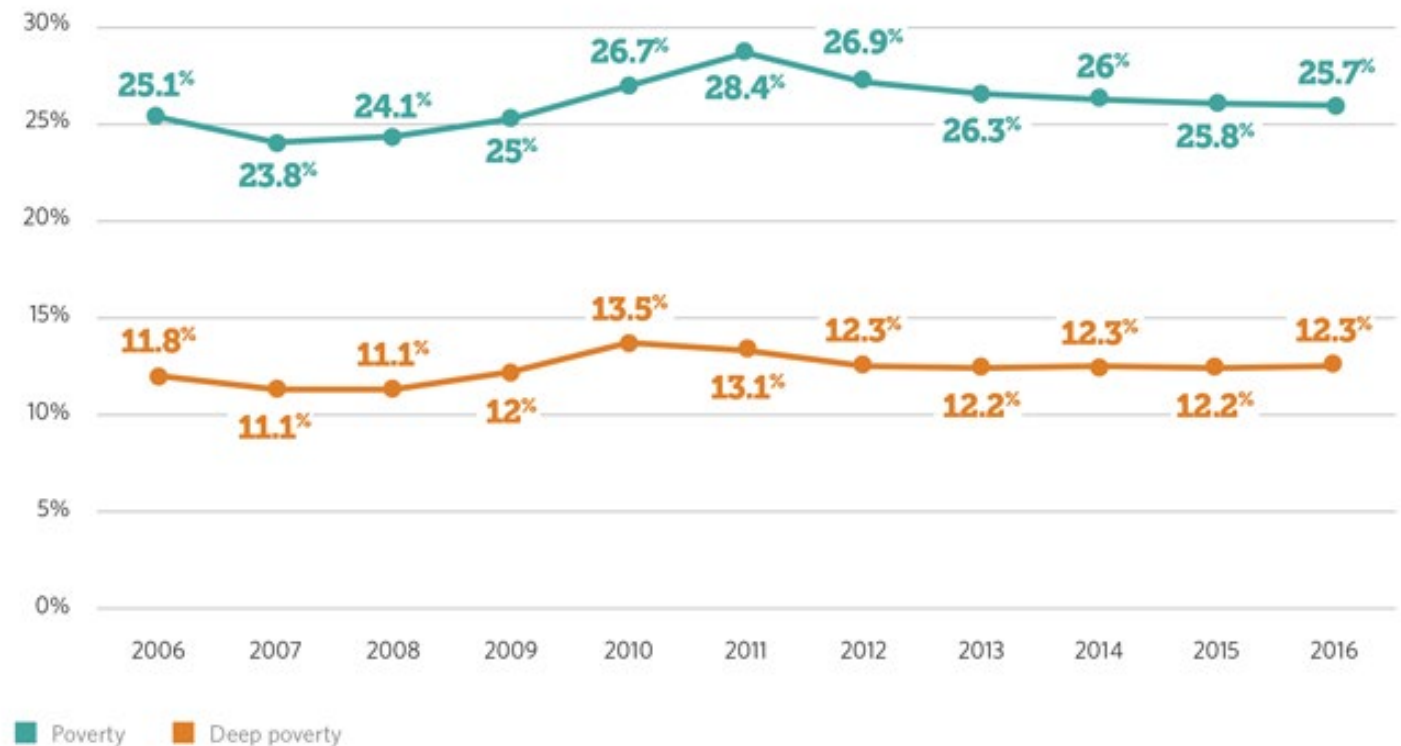
Certainly no one statistic tells the whole story.

But for the Philadelphia Platform 2019-20, our metric is poverty¹. Its persistence in the City of Philadelphia drives this agenda forward, and it is the measure against which this Platform’s success or failure should be judged.

The problem of poverty – and deep poverty² – in Philadelphia has nagged policy makers and politicians, companies and communities for decades. Despite ideas and innovations, funding and focus-groups, it remained at nearly the exact same level in 2016 as it was in 2006 (roughly 26%, and 12% deep poverty).³ And new data from the US Census Bureau showed that poverty rate remained at that level in 2017, while strikingly the deep poverty rate rose to 14%, higher than it was during the Great Recession.⁴

The location and composition of households in poverty in Philadelphia is also changing, with areas of poverty and high poverty increasing and expanding to new neighborhoods, according to a report by the Pew Charitable Trusts Philadelphia Research Initiative. It is present in most, if not all, of our legislative districts.

Philadelphia Poverty and Deep Poverty Rates, 2006 to 2016



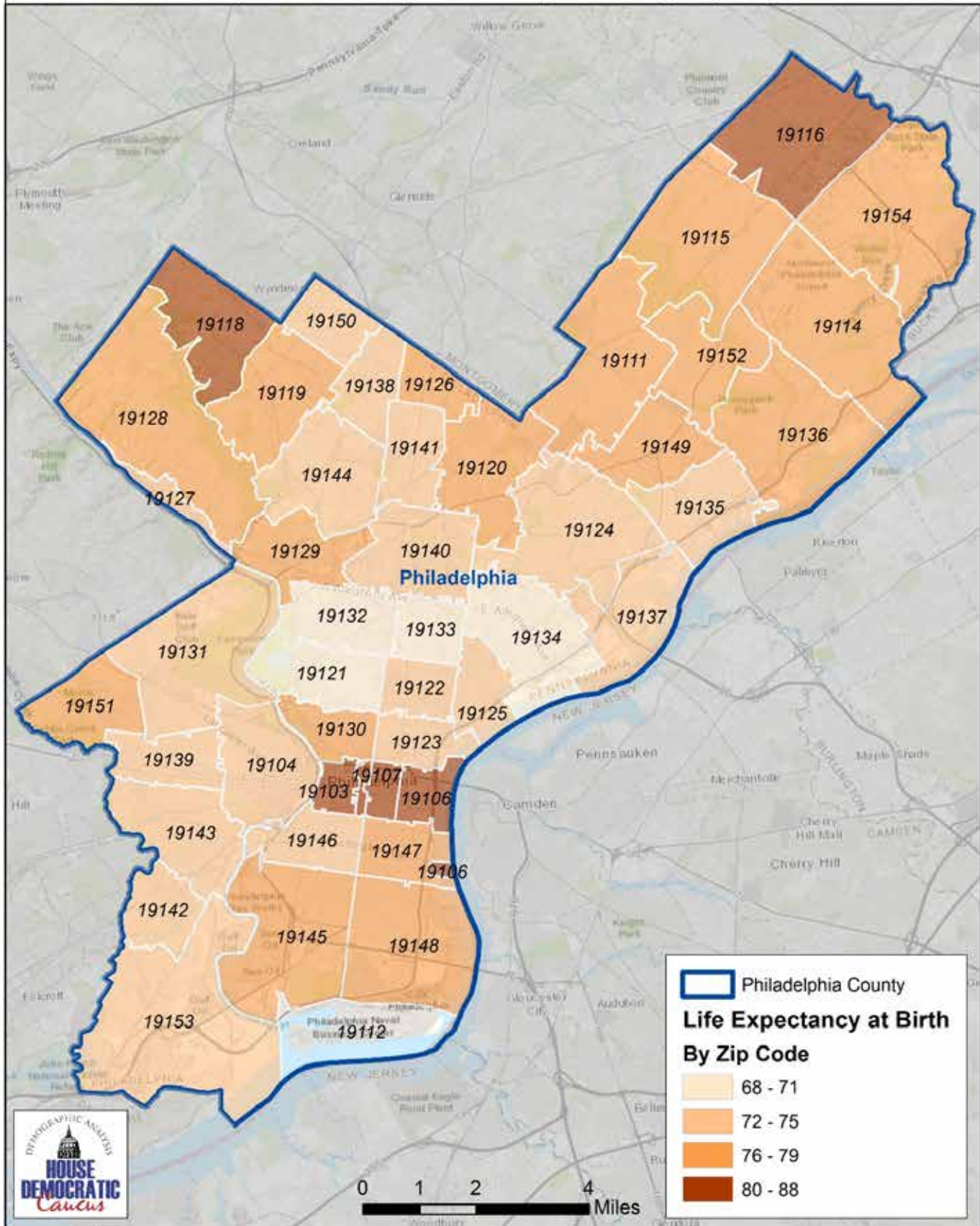
Note: Poverty is determined by income and by family size and composition. People in deep poverty are living on no more than half the poverty income threshold for their family type.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates

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High poverty, recent studies have shown, also correlates with worse public health outcomes, especially life expectancy. There is a 20-year difference in the life expectancy of someone born in affluent Society Hill (88 years) and in Strawberry Mansion (68 years).⁵ This “zip code lottery” highlights the inequality of opportunity based purely on the location of where you are born and raised.

Philadelphia County Life Expectancy by Zip Code



Philadelphia Platform

While this is disheartening, it should not deter us from redoubling our efforts. It compels action and courage. And it is why the Philadelphia Delegation puts forward this Platform for the 2019-20 Pennsylvania Legislative Session.

Poverty's staying power in Philadelphia should immediately dispel any notions of quick fixes. It is not something that we can eradicate on our own. Scores of people in neighborhoods, in City Hall, in Harrisburg and throughout the region work daily to tackle this scourge. This Platform is part of and in response to this wider effort.

To be clear, the causes of poverty are many and complex and thus so are the solutions. We can only move the needle if all sectors work in a coordinated fashion and play their part effectively. The private and non-profit sectors, working collaboratively with city and state governments, are the engines that can pull people and families out of poverty so long as government enhances their competitiveness and helps foster job growth.

The Philadelphia Platform aims at four key areas that we believe strengthen our communities and give opportunity to present and future generations to escape poverty.

Hopefully, with this plan in 2019-20 we will start to bend poverty to our collective will, and put more Philadelphians in position to pursue their dreams, support their families, and give back to their communities for years to come.

Methodology

In compiling this Platform, we interviewed legislators in the delegation, and consulted policy experts. Also reviewed were reports from leading regional think tanks, not-for-profit organizations, and state government, as well as news articles from local and national media outlets. After a preliminary thematic analysis, ideas were put before members for dialogue and deliberation. The Platform has also been vetted with key stakeholders in the region and the state.

The policy priorities herein represent only those items with near-complete consensus among members. Many additional issues merit attention in the coming Session. But the goal was always to find a few key areas of uniform agreement to push forward as a bloc.

The Philadelphia Platform will be updated each Session as both the needs of the region and the landscape in Harrisburg change.

Platform Planks:

Each plank of the platform comes at the central challenge of poverty from a different angle.

For people to pull themselves out of poverty, they must not only have access to good-paying jobs, they must have the skills to fill those jobs. Their communities must foster entrepreneurship and small- and medium-sized business growth. Their families must not be ripped apart by crime or an unfair justice system that keeps too many behind bars and unable to contribute to their economy. And government must make forward-thinking investments in infrastructure that ensure Philadelphia competes nationally and globally, thus providing a foundation for both our existing companies to grow, and also to attract new business and new jobs for our people.



Workforce Development & Education

Vision & Goal: Supporting young people, returning citizens, adult learners, and immigrants in fully participating in the labor force, pursuing family-sustaining careers, and creating a 21st century workforce in Philadelphia.

Policy Priorities:

- The Pennsylvania Guarantee – A place in employment, higher education or training for all young people at the completion of high school.
- School-Industry Partnerships – School-based pre-apprenticeship programs working from a curriculum designed by schools in partnership with business leaders, delivered in local schools, empowering young students to pursue new careers with the right skills.
- Adult (re)Education – Increase funding for adult literacy, math, and English as a Second Language (ESL), delivered conveniently, consistently, and cost-effectively in communities.
- Increase the number and quality of apprenticeship programs using state contracting and grant programs to incentivize this increase.
- Increase the number of summer jobs and paid internship opportunities.
- Expand training and coaching on participating in state procurement, bidding, and contracting processes, particularly targeting communities that currently do not have many companies bidding for state contracts.
- Educate and encourage Philadelphia workforce development community and partners – including Chambers of Commerce, Community Colleges, the School District, Philly Works and organized labor – to take full advantage of funding through PA Smart.



Commercial Corridors

Vision & Goal: The Commonwealth must intensify its efforts to support commercial corridors that are vibrant, dynamic hubs of neighborhood community and economic development.

Policy Priorities:

- Neighborhood Assistance Program – Increase applications for Neighborhood Assistance Program dollars citywide, taking advantage of recently increased NAP tax credits allocations.
- Keystone Communities – Increase applications and awards of Keystone Communities – Main Street and Elm Street – in Philadelphia and use Keystone Communities funding to train commercial corridor managers around the city.
- Leverage PennDOT and DCED Multi-Modal grants to improve neighborhood commercial corridor infrastructure.
- Help micro- and small-sized businesses access capital – via grants or low-interest loans – particularly aimed at minority- and women-owned enterprises.
- Promote key commercial corridors in distressed Philadelphia communities that were designated as Opportunity Zones under the new federal tax law to ensure that Funds invest in them and do so in a transparent and impactful way.

Criminal Justice & Public Safety Reform

Vision & Goals: The Commonwealth must look at the entire picture of the criminal justice system and make needed adjustments that keep guns out of the hands of criminals, and inject fairness and compassion into the process.



Policy Priorities:

- Illegal Guns – Declare a state of emergency around illegal guns and provide resources to all levels of crime fighting to eradicate them from Philadelphia.
- Bail reform – Pass comprehensive pretrial reforms that remove financial considerations and minimize bias in pretrial sentencing.
- Probation and Parole – Provide additional funding to reduce caseloads of probation and parole officers while implementing best practices to reduce probation recidivism.
- Board of Pardons - Reduce the backlog of cases by doubling the budget, focusing on increasing staffing levels.
- Mental Health – Divert the mentally ill from our jails and prisons into the medical treatment programs they need.
- Dignity for Incarcerated Women – Institute new structures and procedures that bring fairness and compassion to women – particularly new mothers.
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania must pay its constitutionally-mandated allotment for county courts and corrections, as ordered by the PA Supreme Court.

Infrastructure & Exports

Vision and Goals: The Commonwealth must ensure that the infrastructure of the Philadelphia region is well-positioned to support population and business growth, making the investments that only government can make to allow for the expansion of small- and mid-sized companies, attraction of larger corporations that provide jobs for our people, and stability for our families and communities.



Policy Priorities:

- School buildings – Start a comprehensive rebuilding program for Philadelphia public schools, addressing deferred maintenance, safety, and vital upgrades.
- Mass Transit – Support funding stability for SEPTA by allowing for greater local revenue in the capital and operating budgets.
- Port of Philadelphia – Attract more PA companies to use the Port to export PA products.
- Airports – Add new overseas and domestic routes to help capture more cargo and exports, both in terms of products and people.



Philadelphia Platform

Plank 1

Workforce Development & Education

Introduction

50,000 jobs. That is what Amazon promised to any municipality that won their HQ2 sweepstakes.⁶ Philadelphia made an unsuccessful all-out push to win this coveted prize, only to lose out to New York City, Northern Virginia, and Nashville. But if it had won, would Philadelphians have filled these new jobs? Do our citizens have the skills to be competitive hires? Or would these jobs be filled by others – either from the wider region or imported from other parts of the nation and globe?

The HQ2 process underscored the central challenge facing policymakers at the city, state, and national level: building a 21st century workforce capable of thriving in a highly-technological, globalized economy. In allowing our workers to compete and succeed, we enable them to live family-sustaining lives in our city and state.

A look at the current landscape shows we have much to do, which is why revamping education for this challenge is a paramount plank of the Philadelphia Platform 2019-20.

- Philadelphia ranks 96th out of the top 100 cities in the country in labor force participation – in some parts of the city it is as low as 65%.⁷
- 550,000 adults in Philadelphia or nearly 50% of the adult population lack the tools like literacy, computer skills, and credentials to succeed in the workforce.⁸
- An estimated 245,000 Philadelphians lack “basic” prose literacy skills, but there are only 569 classroom seats for these adults to learn.⁹
- By 2030, 600,000 Philadelphians (or 39% of the population) will not have the skills to secure the types of jobs available in Philadelphia.¹⁰
- Only 66% of the class of 2016 in District-run high schools graduated, which is well-below the national average of 82%.¹¹
- 27.4% of adults over 25 have bachelor degrees, and the geographic variation of educational attainment is extreme – Center City it is 75% and over, large parts of North, Southwest, West and Northeast Philadelphia is below 25%.¹²
- English language learning is increasingly a need, as nearly 200,000 people in Philadelphia (or 12.2 % of the population) are foreign-born, up from 100,000 or 6% in 1990.¹³

Given this, it is no wonder businesses looking to grow often have trouble finding Philadelphians to fill their job openings, particularly in middle- and higher-skilled professions like tech. Whether through infrastructure projects, state grants, or attracting new big employers to Philadelphia, people have to be ready to fill the jobs when they



become available. Sadly, too often this is not the case, and it is the most vulnerable populations, who need these jobs the most, who are left out.

The vast majority of funding to support workforce development stems from federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). But with the passage of PA Smart in the FY2018-2019 State Budget, there will be an injection of \$30 million in state workforce funding, an unprecedented investment. This is on top of the work Governor Wolf previously did to stimulate more apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships using DCED claw-back dollars through a new grant program.¹⁵

The details of these investments' impacts on Philadelphia and its workers are unknown at this early stage. However, it is incumbent on the Philadelphia Delegation to do everything in its power to leverage PA Smart for the Philadelphia Labor Force.

Workforce development and education are of course very intertwined, at least in theory if not always in practice. And preparing the next generation of workers begins at the earliest steps in the education journey – from early childhood education to the early years of school. The Governor's increase in funding for pre-K, as well as revamping of the Keystone Stars quality ladder¹⁶ puts more Philadelphia and Pennsylvania children on the pathway to success.

Vision & Goals

For our people to succeed, for our families to leave poverty behind, and for our neighborhoods and city to thrive, we need to address these structural inequalities.

To do that, we will focus in 2019-20 on four core target groups for education renovation and workforce development:

- Young people – All young Philadelphians, starting in middle school, must be equipped with 21st century skills for the 21st century workforce starting in school.
- Returning Citizens – Remove barriers for the formerly incarcerated to successfully re-enter society, get a job or start a business.
- Adult Learners – Drastically improve adult literacy and numeracy deficits to enable adult learners to access new jobs.
- Immigrants – Support immigrants' English proficiency and fluency to help them translate their skills and degrees from other countries to fully participate in the Philadelphia economy.

Policy Priorities:

Too often the priorities of workforce development and education are diffused and diluted through various silos – L&I, PDE, Governor's office, WIBs, CTE – and there is not a coordinated strategy. Nor is state investment commensurate with both the current and future needs of developing the workforce for the 21st century.



Proper coordination will ensure that training is done towards High-Priority Occupations (HPOs)¹⁷ and industries already growing, especially in the tech sector.

- 1) The Pennsylvania Guarantee – A place in employment, higher education or training for all young people.
 - a. The umbrella youth employment strategy for making sure all young people are on the path to a positive destination, tracking progress and outlining investments to meet State goals.
 - b. This strategy identifies the skills needed for 21st century jobs, when in the education journey those skills are acquired, and how best to hone such skills, whether in schools, pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, CTE, community colleges or elsewhere.
- 2) School-Industry Partnerships – School-based pre-apprenticeship programs working from a curriculum designed by schools in partnership with business leaders, delivered in local schools, empowering young students to pursue new careers with the right skills.
 - a. Partnerships can exist at individual school-to-individual business level, school district-to-industry partnerships, multiple school districts-to-chambers of commerce.
 - b. Involvement includes community colleges and workforce investment boards.
 - c. Grants to partnerships support the hiring of staff, purchase of equipment and software.
- 3) Adult (re)Education – Increase funding for adult literacy, math, and English as a Second Language (ESL), delivered conveniently, consistently, and cost-effectively in communities.
 - a. Funding should go to classes themselves, as well as empowering organizations and individuals to get certified in teaching literacy, numeracy and ESL.
 - b. Retrain returning citizens who were formally incarcerated to ensure that they are able to re-integrate into the workforce.
- 4) Increase the number and quality of apprenticeship programs using state contracting and grant programs to incentivize this increase. Whether for RACP, CFA or other state grants, or via state contracting, require bidders and applicants to provide apprenticeships to the community served by the project.
 - a. Use robust Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) in all state grantmaking and contracting.



- 5) Increase the number of summer jobs and paid internships. Summer jobs and internships are often the first rung on the career ladder. It is important to encourage more summer jobs and paid internships so young people can start this journey.
 - a. Increase state investment in summer jobs programs like WorkReady Philadelphia and encourage more private sector partners to participate in existing summer jobs programs.
- 6) Expand training and coaching on participating in state procurement, bidding, and contracting processes, particularly targeting communities that currently do not have many companies bidding for state contracts.
 - a. Direct the Department of General Services to develop and implement an Action Plan for achieving the goal of expanded procurement trainings statewide.
- 7) Educate and encourage Philadelphia workforce development community and partners – including Chambers of Commerce, Community Colleges, the School District, Philly Works and organized labor – to take full advantage of funding through PA Smart.
 - a. Ensure that Department of Labor and Industry properly publicizes and promotes funding opportunities to Philadelphia stakeholders and encourage significant allocation of these funds to Philadelphia workforce.



Philadelphia Platform

Plank 2

Commercial Corridors

Introduction

In Philadelphia, a commercial corridor is the spine of the neighborhood. Its health determines and indicates the strength of the wider community; if it thrives, so too does the surrounding community, and vice versa. Corridors provide the platform for entrepreneurs to open their businesses, young people to get their first job, and residents of all backgrounds to gather and celebrate.

Community, business, and government leaders have long understood this importance. That is why the City's Commerce Department prioritizes them for investments in storefront improvements, small-business lending, and commercial corridor managers. In fact, in 2016, the Department made \$5.8 million in investments to the city's corridors.¹⁸

While some of this is funded through state dollars, much of it comes from federal and city sources. Since many of these corridors are in fact state roads, the Commonwealth can do more to support these vital engines of community economic development. Right now, most of the state dollars that could be used to bolster these corridors go disproportionately (when compared with population) to other parts of the state versus the Philadelphia region.

Moreover, grant and tax credit programs often reward those corridors that already have strong organizational capacity to apply for them, which are likely to be in more affluent or stable communities and rarely in neighborhoods outside the downtown. But it is in these communities that three-quarters of all businesses and the majority of all jobs are located.¹⁹ And city and state leaders are going to continually rely on community leaders in these neighborhoods to implement policies to better the public realm, they need to boost these leaders' know-how to enable equitable distribution of taxpayer resources around the city. A community-based not-for-profit organization should not have to hire a consultant to complete a state grant application.

Furthermore, these corridors cannot succeed unless small businesses have access to capital to either get off the ground or expand. Organizations like the Merchants Fund and Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) help in this regard; in 2016 PIDC gave loans to 75 small businesses including 60% of this lending to minority- or women-owned companies.²⁰ In the state, much of the help comes from either technical or bureaucratic assistance through things like the Small Business Assistance Network (SBAN) or lending vehicles from the Treasury funneled through community banks. However, these programs and resources are often not the most user-friendly and most small business owners remain unaware of them.

Lastly, often the shared space along these corridors – the sidewalks, the roads – fall into disrepair or are unsafe for all users, thus holding these areas back from achieving their full potential. Many are indeed state roads. Again, those communities with the capacity and understanding to do so, target PennDOT grants to support streetscape improvements. However, planting trees, enhancing lighting, and improvement safety should not be the exception, but the rule no matter the neighborhood.



Vision & Goals

The Commonwealth must redouble its efforts to support commercial corridors that are vibrant, dynamic hubs of neighborhood community and economic development. By streamlining the pathways for commercial corridor organizations, small businesses and municipalities to access State resources, more businesses and neighborhoods can get the resources they need to thrive.

In 2019-20, investment and policy should focus on these areas:

- Grants and tax credit programs: Increase both the dollar amount and percentage share of existing DCED programs for Philadelphia corridors and ensure geographic diversity of participation throughout the city.
- Infrastructure: Facilitate coordinated planning between PennDOT and city and state agencies to ensure all corridors get equitable treatment in infrastructural improvements.
- Small business lending: Support the small businesses along Philadelphia's commercial corridors – particularly minority- and women-owned – through targeted lending and grants.

Policy Priorities:

The Philadelphia Platform in 2019-20 calls for directing more State resources and attention to supporting Philadelphia's commercial corridors in the following ways:

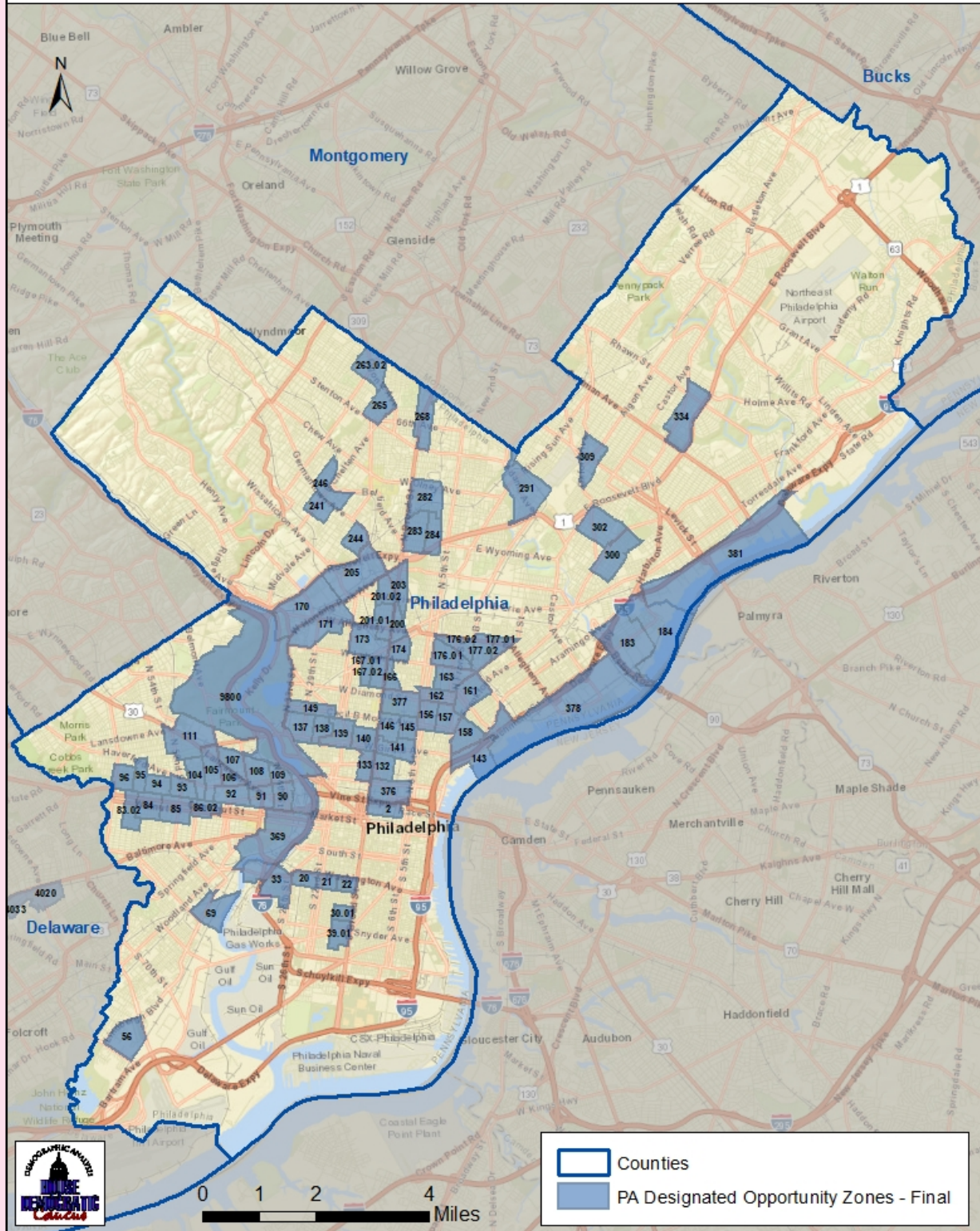
- 1) Neighborhood Assistance Program – Increase applications for Neighborhood Assistance Program dollars citywide, taking advantage of recently increased NAP tax credits allocations. Of the \$18 million already allocated for NAP, \$3 million goes to food insecurity and \$7.6 million is tied up in multi-year NAP commitments, meaning each year, roughly only \$8 million is openly competitive. And in 2017 there were \$32 million in requests from around the state. In the recent Session, the state successfully increased NAP credits to \$36 million²¹, which should help more corridors get more support.
 - a. Increase funding to \$50 million yearly.
 - b. Expand outreach – work with city, legislative and community partners to continue education about NAP and provide classes to neighborhood organizations on how and when to apply for these funds.
 - c. Increase accountability and reporting to ensure that all NAP dollars are achieving stated outcomes.
- 2) Keystone Communities – Increase applications and awards of Keystone Communities – Main Street and Elm Street – in Philadelphia and use Keystone Communities funding to train commercial corridor managers around the city. Last year's budget did increase the dollar amount for Keystone Communities by over 10% to \$13.5 million. But more needs to be done to expand local communities' ability to understand what this program does, and how they can access these dollars, much of which currently goes to the City's Storefront Improvement Program.



- a. Increase education, awareness, and training to communities around Philadelphia about Keystone Communities designation and funding.
 - b. Utilize Keystone Main Street Designation as a more accessible tool to build capacity among neighborhood commercial corridor organizations.
 - c. In communities without active commercial corridor organizations, the state establishes a fellowship program for one year to build up such capacity.
 - d. Fund manager training – for both commercial corridors and main streets statewide – to allow them to learn best practices for serving their corridors.
- 3) Leverage PennDOT and DCED Multi-Modal grants to improve neighborhood commercial corridor infrastructure. From lighting to paving, sidewalks to trees, state agencies and grants can do a lot to help improve the public realm on commercial corridors.
- a. Coordinate with the city so that communities get substantial notice on repaving and/or other state infrastructure improvements so that commercial corridors leaders can use this as an opportunity to make larger, corridor-wide upgrades.
 - b. Create a playbook for communities to maximize opportunities to invest in larger corridor improvements like lighting, multi-modal safety, environment and more.
- 4) Help micro- and small-sized businesses access capital – via grants or low-interest loans – particularly aimed at minority- and women-owned enterprises.
- a. Work with the Treasury and DCED to expand promotion and accessibility of existing lending vehicles to small business owners.
 - b. Treasury department securitizes loans for small neighborhood banks to support these local businesses.
- 5) Promote key commercial corridors in distressed Philadelphia communities that were designated as Opportunity Zones under the new federal tax law to ensure that Funds invest in them and do so in a transparent and impactful way. The Governor, working with local leaders, designated a quarter of eligible census tracts (300 in total) in the state as Opportunity Zones²². Now that they have been designated, it is imperative that we leverage this opportunity to meet its full potential.
- a. Work to provide additional incentives that encourage transparency of Opportunity Funds.
 - b. Identify methods for ensuring that investments in these zones are focused on positively impacting and growing communities.



Qualified Opportunity Zones in Philadelphia





Philadelphia Platform

Plank 3

Criminal Justice & Public Safety Reform

Introduction

The prevalence of illegal guns in Philadelphia is a public safety crisis. They are falling in the hands of teenagers with increasing frequency, who are in turn using them against fellow teens and adults alike. Though it is impossible to count how many illegal guns are circulating on the streets of Philadelphia²³ it is clear that the ubiquity and availability of guns is threatening our neighborhoods, our families, and our young people.

Moreover, our communities (and our workforce) are being held back by too many Philadelphians of working age being either behind bars, on parole/probation, or burdened by a criminal record. The reasons for this are many. No one disputes that violent criminals need to face consequences. But in looking at pretrial, parole and probation, and severe mental illness, we see multiple areas where the Commonwealth can take meaningful steps to keep people out from behind bars, contributing positively to their families, communities and their economy.

The evidence compelling these policy priorities is clear:

- Homicides are up 13% and over 300 people were killed in 2017 in Philadelphia²⁴, the vast majority of them by firearm and with increasing frequency by teenagers.
- 36% of Philadelphians discharged from parole or probation were re-incarcerated (by comparison, 1% of people from Allegheny County were).²⁵
- 16,000 Philadelphians are on probation, 16,000 on parole and 10,000 on accelerated rehabilitative disposition.²⁶
- In 2015, 31.5% of the city's jail population was awaiting trial and only 20% was actually serving a sentence.²⁷
- 29.1% of PA's prison population has a mental health problem, with nearly 10% seriously mentally ill; and in Philadelphia roughly 17% have a serious mental illness²⁸ there is also a higher recidivism rate in the severely mentally ill prison and jail population.

Reforms in these areas not only help reduce prison and jail populations statewide, but also allow more Philadelphians and Pennsylvanians to remain contributors to their area's economy and care of their family. They also can save the state over \$100 million, as the recent Pennsylvania Justice Reinvestment Initiative (Part II) demonstrates.²⁹

Vision & Goals

The Commonwealth must look at the entire picture of the criminal justice system and make needed adjustments that keep guns out of the hands of criminals, and inject fairness and compassion into the process.



In 2019-20, investment and policy should focus on these areas:

- **Illegal Guns:** Give law enforcement at the state and local level the tools they need to eradicate the scourge of illegal firearms from our streets.
- **Bail Reform:** Reduce bias – explicit and implicit – from the pretrial process by removing financial considerations from bail proceedings.
- **Parole & Probation Reform:** Support proper funding for probation and parole officers while piloting community-based treatments and rehabilitation for those on probation or parole.
- **Mental Health in Jails and Prisons:** Provide counties with grants to measure and track people within their jails with severe mental illness, and implement diversionary programs that keep these people in treatment they need and out of the criminal justice system.

Policy Priorities:

The Philadelphia Platform in 2019-20 around criminal justice and public safety targets two core areas: providing resources to crime fighters to tackle illegal guns, and reforming the system to keep violent offenders behind bars and keep the less dangerous, reformed, and ill out of the criminal justice system.

- 1) **Illegal Guns** – Declare a public health epidemic around illegal guns and provide resources to all levels of crime fighting to eradicate them from Philadelphia. Working with the Attorney General’s office, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), city and state police, and local district attorneys, the Commonwealth must implement a coordinated strategy to get these guns off our streets and out of the hands of criminals.
 - a. Declare a public health epidemic – draw resources and attention to this crisis.
 - b. Coordinated strategy – State and local law enforcement design and implement a targeted strategy.
 - c. Funding – provide law enforcement with the resources they need to effectuate this strategy.
 - d. Enable the city to have more officers on the street to enforce the laws that are already on the books.
 - e. Pilot and implement preventative measures that help de-escalate and deter gun violence.
 - f. Continue efforts to hold gun buyback events.
- 2) **Bail reform** – Pass comprehensive pretrial reforms that remove financial considerations and minimize bias in pretrial sentencing.
 - a. Determine what legislative changes are needed to reform bail process in Pennsylvania – constitutional or legislative, if any.



- 3) Probation and Parole – Provide additional funding to reduce caseloads of probation and parole officers while implementing best practices to reduce probation recidivism. The current system needs to be updated, modernized, and made more flexible.
 - a. Increase financial support to probation and parole officers and to counties to lessen caseloads for officers and improve outcomes.
 - b. Implement community-based treatment and programs rather than monitoring to reduce recidivism, such as Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS).
 - c. Allow lifers to appeal for parole.
- 4) Board of Pardons - Reduce the backlog of cases by doubling the budget, focusing on increasing staffing levels. As of November 2017, there were over 1,300 cases at the Board, and 680 applications awaiting to be reviewed by the Board of Pardons³⁰. This backlog prevents many people in Philadelphia and the Commonwealth as a whole from getting the second chance they deserve.
 - a. Double the budget to allow for more agents and more expedited processing of pardon applications.
- 5) Mental Health – Divert the mentally ill from our jails and prisons into the medical treatment programs they need. Our corrections system cannot and should not be the de facto mental health hospitals for our citizens.
 - a. Give counties the tools they need to measure and track the prevalence of the severely mentally ill in their jails.
 - b. Provide grants to implement more co-responder teams between police and mental health professionals to divert people from prison and into treatment.
 - c. Allow for greater information sharing between health services and crime fighters.
- 6) Dignity for Incarcerated Women – Institute new structures and procedures that bring fairness and compassion to women – particularly new mothers.
 - a. Establish a new committee for women and girls under the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.
 - b. Provide free feminine products to women, including but not limited to sanitary napkins, sanitary wipes and ibuprofen.
 - c. Allow primary caretaker parents to make a free weekly call to a child.
 - d. Offer parenting classes for primary caretakers serving under a 10 year sentence.



- 7) Commonwealth of Pennsylvania must pay its constitutionally-mandated allotment for county courts and corrections, as ordered by the PA Supreme Court. *Allegheny vs. Commonwealth* (1987) found that the Commonwealth is required by law to fund counties' common pleas court system, but the city is still paying the bill.
 - a. The City of Philadelphia has been picking up the tab for the court system for too long, when it is the state's responsibility to pay.



Philadelphia Platform

Plank 4

Infrastructure and Exports

Introduction

The City of Philadelphia faces a variety of infrastructural challenges, not all of which can be addressed in one legislative session. The priorities for this session begin to address core needs for our schools, our transportation system, and our port facilities.

This past summer, numerous Philadelphia public schools had to close early because they lacked air conditioning (only 27% of the School District's buildings have central air; some only have fans³¹) and local media also revealed the toxic levels asbestos and mold to which school children are exposed in decrepit buildings³². In total the Philadelphia School District has \$4.5 billion in deferred maintenance now, and that number will grow to \$8.7 billion in the next ten years³³. The time is now to right this ship and provide a better experience for our students and teachers.

In addition, for our city to grow, we need to help people start businesses, expand small- and medium-sized businesses, and open all our businesses to new, global markets. Investments in our regions infrastructure not only help regional businesses, but also those from around the state that rely on Philadelphia's facilities to ship overseas. If we boosted our regions export activity to be equal to the average of the country's 100 largest metropolitan areas that would translate into \$6.3 billion in new economic activity and 35,000 additional jobs.³⁴

Philadelphia is Pennsylvania's gateway to the world. And we have strong comparative advantages on which to build. But targeted investment, improved data, and long-range planning for our area's infrastructure are needed for the area to achieve its full potential.

The state plays a crucial role in this. From investments in the Port of Philadelphia to funding for mass transit, state dollars enable Philadelphia's key assets to grow and position for the future. We want to ensure that the area's infrastructure allows our small- and medium-sized businesses to grow, but also that it attracts companies from around Pennsylvania to use the region's exports assets for accessing global markets.

Markets are changing. Our greatest export is our people – both through services (which are greater than goods in terms of export percentage) and through tourism (which counts as an export). E-commerce is growing substantially. Our region also has comparative advantages in industries like pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and more on which we must capitalize.

Vision & Goals

The Commonwealth must ensure that the infrastructure of the Philadelphia region is well-positioned to support population and business growth, making the investments that only government can make to allow for the expansion of small- and mid-sized companies, attraction of larger corporations that provide jobs for our people, and stability for our families and communities.



In 2019-20, investment and policy should focus on these areas:

- School buildings: Establish secure funding stream so that public school buildings not only receive much needed maintenance but also improvements that make them fantastic learning environments for Philadelphia's public school students and teachers.
- Mass transit: While SEPTA expends much of the Act 89 funds on long-overdue maintenance, repairs, and system upgrades, the Commonwealth must position it to make the big system improvements and investments that support a growing economy, population and ridership in the 21st century.
- Port of Philadelphia: Support the Governor's capital investments at PhilaPort by attracting more Pennsylvania businesses to ship from the Port.
- Philadelphia Airports: PHL only captures 9% of export cargo within its core catchment area (which includes much of PA); the Commonwealth must help it increase this substantially, reduce leakage to other nearby international airports, and investigate ways of better utilizing regional airports.

Policy Priorities:

The biggest capital infrastructure priority of the Philadelphia Platform in 2019-20 will be Philadelphia's public school buildings. Other areas have recently received major state dollars; the Governor invested \$300 million in PhilaPort³⁵, PHL airport received \$2 billion since 2000, and SEPTA got Act 89 dollars. For these areas, this Platform includes prioritizing incentives, research, and enabling legislation to set the table for the larger scale investments down the road.

- 1) School buildings – Start a comprehensive rebuilding program for Philadelphia public schools, addressing deferred maintenance, safety, and vital upgrades.
 - a. Pass a sustainable, substantial funding increase for school building improvements against which the Commonwealth or the School District can borrow to address \$4.5 billion in deferred maintenance.
 - b. Develop a plan for funding security for building upgrades to school buildings around the state and for years to come.
- 2) Mass Transit – Support funding stability for SEPTA by allowing for greater local revenue in the capital and operating budgets. Currently, SEPTA is funded 60% by the federal government, 38% by the state, and only 2% locally.³⁶ The Act 89 funding mostly has gone to help make much-needed repairs, upgrades, and maintenance to the system. While SEPTA is working on the KOP rail extension and unveiling SEPTA Key systemwide, large projects like extending the Broad Street Line to the Navy Yard or Roosevelt Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit, are not close to realization.



- a. Pass enabling legislation to allow counties within SEPTA service area to raise additional revenue to support SEPTA budget and projects.
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- 3) Port of Philadelphia – Attract more PA companies to use the Port to export PA products. Right now it is cheaper for PA companies to travel to Baltimore or Bayonne to export because there are tolls on the Turnpike. That means the Commonwealth is losing this business to other states. We need to increase PA exports so that the vessels importing goods to our markets are not departing with empty shipping containers.
 - a. Turnpike toll reimbursement program for PA companies using PA ports of call.
 - b. Increased support for marketing of Philadelphia port to Pennsylvania companies.
 - c. Research to understand which counties within the core catchment area of the port are and are not shipping via PhilaPort.
 - 4) Airports – Add new overseas and domestic routes to help capture more cargo and exports, both in terms of products and people. Three areas that are vital for export growth in Philadelphia are pharmaceuticals, e-commerce, and services (i.e. people). All three are most efficiently transported to new markets and customers via planes. Philadelphia needs to be able to add new overseas and domestic routes to help grow.
 - a. Create new tools to incentivize new routes and/or offset some of the risk in establishing new routes at airport.
 - b. Research to understand which counties within the core catchment area of the port are and are not shipping via PhilaPort to stop or slow bleed to other nearby airports.
 - c. Investigate feasibility of better leveraging regional airports to serve freight and passenger routes.

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Endnotes

¹Poverty is defined by a household's size, its members' age, and income. The federal government sets poverty thresholds for each composition below which a family and its members are considered to be in poverty. The poverty rate is a statistical "yardstick", not a measure of what a family needs to live (U.S. Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/poverty-measures.html>).

²Deep poverty exists when a household's income is less than half of the poverty threshold. (U.C. Davis Center for Poverty Research, <https://poverty.ucdavis.edu/faq/what-deep-poverty>).

³Pew Charitable Trusts, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/analysis/2017/11/15/philadelphias-poverty-rates-explained-in-five-charts>.

⁴Philadelphia Inquirer, http://www.philly.com/philly/news/special_packages/broke-in-philly/census-data-poverty-income-philadelphia-suburbs-20180913.html?arc404=true

⁵Philadelphia Inquirer, http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20160418_In_Philly_your_zip_code_sets_your_life_expectancy.html.

⁶Amazon, <https://www.amazon.com/b?node=17044620011>.

⁷Philadelphia Office of Adult Education - http://philaliteracy.org/about_us/faq

⁸Ibid.

⁹WHYY, <https://whyy.org/articles/bottom-rung-american-education-stories-adult-literacy-class>.

¹⁰Philadelphia Office of Community Empowerment & Opportunity, <http://www.sharedprosperityphila.org/about-us/why-shared-prosperity>.

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¹²Ibid.

¹³US Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/censusexplorer/censusexplorer.html>.

¹⁴Office of Governor Tom Wolf, <https://www.governor.pa.gov/following-budget-passage-gov-wolf-launches-pasmart-with-new-investments-in-job-and-skills-training/>

¹⁵Office of Governor Tom Wolf, <https://www.governor.pa.gov/pennsylvania-establishes-new-apprenticeship-program>

¹⁶Lancaster Online, http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/pennsylvania-revamps-keystone-stars-child-care-rating-system/article_d23a4136-76f3-11e7-a523-4b6a470d3c44.html.

¹⁷Pennsylvania Office of Workforce Information and Analysis, <http://www.workstats.dli.pa.gov/Products/HPOs/Pages/default.aspx>

¹⁸Philadelphia Commerce Department, Commerce by the Numbers: Out 2016 Impact.

¹⁹Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Platform for Growth.

²⁰Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation, 2016 By the Numbers.

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- ²¹Philadelphia Inquirer, <http://www2.philly.com/philly/news/pennsylvania/tax-credit-neighborhood-assistance-program-community-development-dced-pennsylvania-20181113.html>
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- ²³Philadelphia Inquirer, <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/pennsylvania/philadelphia/teens-and-guns-yesterdays-muggings-todays-murders-20171210.html>.
- ²⁴Philadelphia Police, <https://www.phillypolice.com/crime-maps-stats/index.html>.
- ²⁵Billy Penn, <https://billypenn.com/2017/11/17/the-problem-with-probation-in-philadelphia-this-thing-is-bigger-than-meek-mill/>).
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