

A REPORT FROM

State Representative

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SUMMER 2017



Rep.
RABB
OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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"Thank you for allowing me to be your representative for the 200th Legislative District."

– Rep. Rabb

Dear Friend,

It has been an honor being your voice in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives after my swearing-in on January 3. I am grateful for the privilege of representing and meeting so many of you; either by you visiting my district office, attending one of my events or having the opportunity to speak at a community gathering.

As a freshman representative, I have witnessed many challenges. Despite members of the House Democratic Caucus standing together on several issues, we are always out-voted by the Republicans, who have the largest majority in 60 years. The math behind this daunting reality also proves difficult for many Democrats when it comes to ever having our legislation become law.

Despite that difficulty, I have introduced several bills, which you can read more about in this newsletter. The challenges of being a member of the minority caucus are especially strong during budget time. As you may recall, a \$32 billion spending plan was passed on time, but how to pay for it has remained to be seen. In July, I joined some of my Democratic colleagues from Philadelphia in urging House Speaker Mike Turzai to call the full House back to Harrisburg and work on finalizing the state budget. While he granted our wish by having us return on a Saturday, nothing was accomplished and we were sent home. The state legislature should not be held hostage by one man!

Whether it's the budget, legislation or any issue in Harrisburg or here in the 200th Legislative District that impacts you and your family, I strive to keep you informed, whether it's through town hall meetings, Facebook Live events or just hosting informal coffees. I will remain true to my word with providing you information as I can on the issues and concerns while continuing to fight for our collective interests.

Christopher Rabb

Committees and Caucuses

Agriculture & Rural Affairs

Commerce

Finance

Policy

State Government

Urban Affairs

Select Subcommittee on Tax Policy of the Finance Committee

Philadelphia County Delegation

Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus (Treasurer)

PA SAFE Caucus (Vice Chair)

Climate Caucus (Founding member)

Financial Rescue Caucus (Founding member)

Early Childhood Education Caucus

Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Caucus

LGBT Equality Caucus

Mental Health Caucus

Looking to the future of the 200th District and our city and state

In February, at a time when there was a lot of anxiety about our nation's new president and his administration, I hosted a community forum to bring people together in one room to ask questions, be heard and draw on the collective wisdom of the public.

The event was titled "Where We Go from Here" and was held at the Masjidullah Center for Human Excellence. The main goal of the forum was to help determine the next steps on a local level for a nation in transition by strengthening local communities' future through conversations that matter; engaging with local and state government officials; and enabling networking between citizens committed to action.

Dozens of people attended the forum, which consisted of several roundtable discussions on several topics, including equality protection, voting rights, public education, and health care.

My staff and I developed a plan on how to address the outcomes of these topic discussions. Some of the results thus far comprise proposed legislation, school visits and hosting Facebook Live events. You can read more on a few of the results under the events that I have hosted and legislation proposed section of this newsletter.

You are always welcome to stop by my office, give your input, attend our events and, of course, volunteer.



Dozens of people gather at Masjidullah Center for Human Excellence to participate in the "Where We Go from Here" community forum. Thank you everyone who participated and to Masjidullah for helping to make it happen.



Rep. Rabb visits students at the Parkway Northwest High School for Peace & Social Justice.



Rep. Rabb with members of Delta Sigma Theta at the state Capitol.



Principal Tammy Thomas at Emlen Elementary presents Rep. Rabb with a certificate of appreciation.



Rep. Rabb, the late Peter Javscas and a constituent at the Northwest Village Networks meets with the Pennsylvania Secretary of Aging.



Rep. Rabb presents a citation to Mark Webb, a Mr. Pennsylvania Football runner-up.

Events that Rabb has hosted & attended in his first 200 days

December 2016

27-29 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program drive

January 2017

- 12 Open House/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- 17 Unemployment Workshop w/Sen. Art Haywood, Councilwoman Cherelle Parker
- 23 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Resolution

February 2017

- 1 Spoke for Black History Month at Emlen Elementary School
- 14 Spoke to civics class at Parkway Northwest H.S.
- 18 Keynote speaker at Keystone Progressive Summit in Harrisburg
- 24 Speaker at Temple University Adjunct Rally
- 25 Community Forum: Where We Go from Here

March 2017

- 2 Good Government Seminar (with Sen. Daylin Leach), Cabrini College
Dr. Seuss Day, Emlen Elementary School
- 10 Environmental Work Group, District Office
- 11 Intellectual Disabilities Support Network Annual Event
Madam CJ Walker Luncheon, Hosted by Coalition of 100 Black Women, Philadelphia Chapter
- 18 Block Captain Bootcamp, hosted by Councilman Curtis Jones
- 23 Stop & Go public meeting, hosted by Reps. Fitzgerald & Kinsey
- 24 Screening of 'Hidden Figures,' Emlen Elementary School
Phila. IDS "My City, My Place, Brighter Future Awards"
- 25 Spoke at Affordable Care Act Rally, Vernon Park
- 29 First School Tour in 200th Legislative District: Hill
Freedman Academy, Charles W. Henry Elementary,
Eleanor Emlen Elementary, John Story Jenks Elementary,
Henry E. Houston Elementary

- 30 Spoke to Legal Writing Composition Class, Lincoln University
- 31 Dept. of Behavioral Health Intellectual Disabilities Services Brighter Future Awards Luncheon

April 2017

- 1 Coffee with Rep. Rabb
- 11 Hearing on Intellectual Disabilities and Autism, co-hosted with Reps. Fitzgerald & Kinsey
- 28 SEPTA ID Day at District Office

May 2017

- 5 SEPTA ID Day at Wadsworth Library
- 6 Mt. Airy Day
- 24 SEPTA ID Day – Chestnut Hill Center for Enrichment CHCE (Senior Center)
- 30 End of School Year Tour: Private Schools in the 200th

June 2017

- 3 Strawberry Festival
- 10 Shredding event at New Covenant
- 15 End of School Year Tour: Public Schools in the 200th
- 24 Summer Kick-Off at Emmanuel Rec Center

July 2017

- 1 Summer Reading Program with Freedom School at Henry Houston Elementary
- 7 Senior ID Day at West Oak Lane Senior Center
- 8 Rep. Rabb Info Session and BBQ at New Covenant Manor
- 15 Community Health Fair and Block Party

August 2017

- 1 National Night Out with Rep. Isabella Fitzgerald
- 15 Zoning Hearing on Medical Cannabis Dispensary proposed for 8319 Stenton Ave.
- 18 School District of Philadelphia Back to School Rally

CONSTITUENTS SERVED – 2,556

Volunteers – 35 • High School/College Interns – 9 • Event Attendees – 756

Rabb opposes location of medical cannabis dispensary proposed for 200th Legislative District

In June, the Pennsylvania Department of Health granted an operational license for a proposed cannabis dispensary on Stenton Avenue in Mt. Airy.

While I strongly support legalizing cannabis, I'm disheartened that the Department of Health granted a license to operate a dispensary at a location in a quiet, but densely populated residential area not suited for such a business.

I have grave concerns that revolve around public safety issues related to a cash-only business that will be open 7 days per week with armed guards on a corridor not unfamiliar with violent crime.

My staff and I remain on top of this matter and will continue to engage and collaborate with key community stakeholders to make sure the best collective interests of the neighborhood are protected. I also reiterate my call

for Congress to change federal law to make our communities safer by finally allowing medical cannabis providers to have access to the banking system the same as other businesses do, and I invite you to contact your members of Congress – particularly U.S. Sens. Pat Toomey and Bob Casey – in support of that change.

Key legislation introduced by Rep. Rabb



H.B. 1367 – Would prohibit concealed-carry permit holders from carrying a firearm while intoxicated in Pennsylvania.

H.B. 1368 – Would prevent needless deportations and keep families together by adjusting the maximum one-year sentences for some Pennsylvania misdemeanors by one day.

H.B. 1369 – Would increase protections to consumers who enter into contracts with automatic renewal provisions.

H.B. 1454 – Would direct the Pennsylvania Department of State

to conduct a pilot program to determine the costs, benefits, and feasibility of a statewide system involving the electronic collection of signatures for nomination petitions.

H.B. 1465 – Would overhaul and modernize Pennsylvania's voting system, helping to make voting and registering to vote easier and more convenient, while maintaining the security of state elections.

H.B. 1466 – Would repeal the death penalty in Pennsylvania.

H.B. 1572 – Would order a \$100,000 fine against a state legislator who is guilty of a felony

and resigns from office. The fines collected would reimburse county boards of elections for the costs associated with holding special elections.

H.B. 1604 – Would ensure Pennsylvania allows law enforcement officers to do their jobs without federal interference.

H.B. 1674 – Would establish the First Chance Fund, a public charitable trust to fund educational scholarships and support services for our most neglected youth.

Additional legislation Rep. Rabb plans to introduce

Reproductive Health Equity Act

– Would require health insurance plans cover a number of services, drugs, and procedures relating to reproductive health.

Mandatory Budget Impasse Hearings

– Would require that, in the case that there have not been comprehensive spending and revenue bills introduced by June 19, key executive branch and legislative leaders would be required to participate in compulsory daily public hearings on the budget.

Fair Share Tax Plan – Would take a major step toward fixing Pennsylvania's broken tax system and raise the revenues needed to invest in the public goods that are critical to creating thriving communities and individual opportunity in our state: education, infrastructure, protection

for our air and water, and human services.

100 Percent Renewable Energy Act – Would steadily transition the commonwealth to 100 percent clean, renewable energy by 2050 to:

- (1) avoid pollution of our air, water and land, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and ultimately eliminate our use of fossil fuels and other polluting and dangerous forms of energy;
- (2) increase energy security by reducing our reliance on imported sources of energy and maximizing renewable energy production in Pennsylvania and in our region;
- (3) increase economic development by stimulating public and private investments in clean energy and

energy efficiency projects;

- (4) create local jobs by harnessing Pennsylvania's skilled workforce, business leadership, and academic institutions to advance new technologies, improve the energy performance of homes and workplaces, and deploy renewable energy across the commonwealth; and
- (5) improve the quality of life and economic well-being of all Pennsylvania residents, with an emphasis on communities and populations that have been disproportionately affected by pollution and high costs under our energy system.

Public safety bill inspired by the melee in Charlottesville, Virginia.



Sign on Wadsworth Avenue shows Rep. Rabb's new office location.



Reps. Rabb and FitzGerald at their joint shredding event.

Celebrating community with a Summer Kick-Off

In June, I hosted a Summer Kick-Off to bring the community together and to get a chance to meet new people in the 200th Legislative District.

During this event, I provided opportunities for our youth to make a pledge against bullying and gun violence. The pledge honors the role that young people, through their own decisions, can play in reducing bullying and gun violence.

We are all aware of the violence that stems from guns getting into the wrong hands. Whether it's our community, family or friends, many of us have witnessed and been affected by the disruptive acts, and the majority of the time, our youth are traumatized the most.

In June, a 33-year-old man and a 21-year-old woman were shot and killed in East Mount Airy, located in our district. I met with residents from that area to provide resources to them in the aftermath of that incident. Our communities are awash in trauma from lethal weapons and we must fix that. We can't let this become normal. The issue is not about eliminating guns. This is about owning up to the simple fact that too many people are dying, being shot or traumatized by senseless violence. This is about demanding sensible, evidence-based solutions to this crisis.

The lives of our children are not only threatened with the increased probability of gun violence, many of them have dealt with or witnessed bullying. It's happening in our schools and in our neighborhoods and it's not just face-to-face. Our youth are confronted with cyber-bullying through social media and texts.

As a father of two young sons, I am deeply concerned about their well-being, as well as the well-being of all our young people. I encourage all of them to sign the pledges to help end gun violence and to stop bullying.



One in 10 residents has unclaimed property waiting for them

The Pennsylvania Treasurer's Office currently holds \$2.3 billion in unclaimed property, and would like to turn it over to its rightful owners. Does the Commonwealth owe you and you are not aware?

As your state representative, it is my responsibility to bring this to your attention. Please remember: there is never a fee to claim what is yours.

You can obtain applications and forms to

claim your property by logging onto the Pennsylvania Treasurer's Office website at www.patreasury.gov – or call the treasury toll free at 1-800-222-2046. You can also call us at 215-242-7300 to look up what you might be owed.

If you have questions about this service or any other state-related issues, please call or stop by my district office for assistance. We also can help you download or complete the appropriate forms.

You may have unclaimed property if:

- You were named as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy;
- You opened a savings account and forgot about it or your account went inactive because you did not make deposits or withdrawals for a period of time;
- You moved, forgot to change your address at the post office, and had money coming to you;
- You left your job to start a new one, and never received your final paycheck;
- You forgot to redeem a gift certificate and it expired.



Rep. Rabb at the state Capitol with his district office staff.



Rep. Rabb was honored to stand with these two gentlemen during his district office grand opening.



State Representative Chris Rabb

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Upcoming Events

September 1

Back to School Supplies Drive

October 14

Grown Folks Fall Festival

November 16

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

December 18 - 22

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Drive

Town Hall Meetings

September 7 – 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. (50th Ward)

Dorothy Emanuel Recreation Center

8500 Pickering St., Philadelphia, 19150

September 14 – 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. (22nd Ward)

Dare to Imagine Church

6611 Ardleigh St., Philadelphia, 19119

September 28 – 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. (9th Ward)

Chestnut Hill College, Sugar Loaf Campus

9220 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, 19118

My office can further help with:

- Information on financial aid for higher education
- Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies
- Any problem with state government!



Rep. Rabb is proud to serve everyone in the 200th Legislative District.