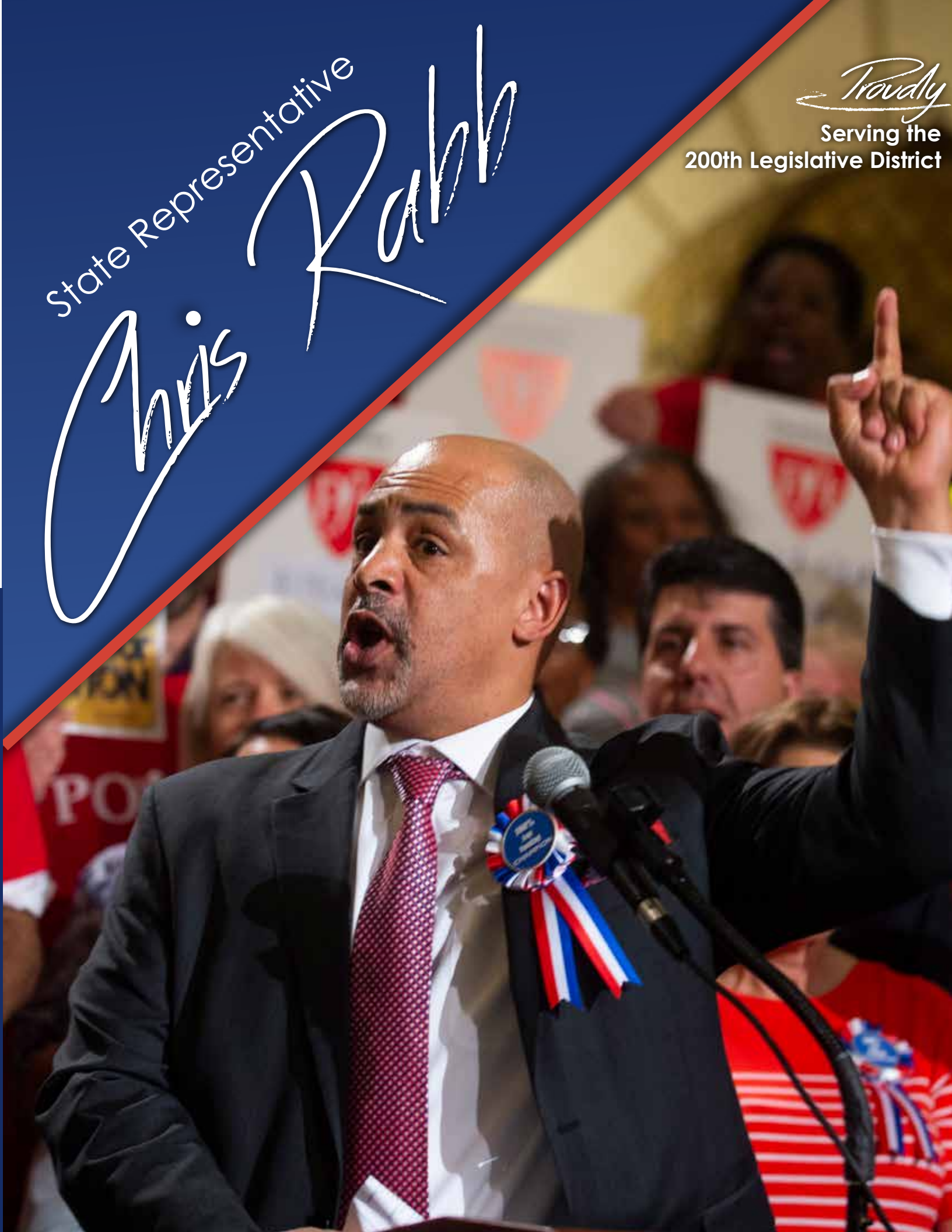


State Representative

Chris Rabb

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Serving the
200th Legislative District





**Rep.
RABB**
OFFICE OF STATE
REPRESENTATIVE
Christopher Rabb

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Dear neighbor,

As your state representative, I take my commitment to servant leadership seriously. I love my job because I relish in being a public servant who values transparency, accountability, social equity and public integrity. But most of all, I love helping people and amplifying the good work of innumerable local stakeholders across our district who continue their efforts to build community wealth in, for, and far beyond our own neighborhoods.

This newsletter is a review of the three important areas: legislation, constituent services and community engagement. I believe that it's vital that you are informed about what my amazing team and I are doing locally and statewide, whether it's 100 miles away in Harrisburg or here in Mt. Airy, West Oak Lane or Chestnut Hill.

You will learn about the many pieces of legislation I have introduced that would increase funding of our public schools, ensure a fair wage for our most vulnerable women and men in the workforce, and create an environmentally sustainable Pennsylvania.

We have hosted many community events throughout the year celebrating all members of our vibrant community - from our "grown folks" to our rising millennials as well as the powerful women role models who live among us.

Finally, I have highlighted some of the services that we provide in the satellite and district offices, including: SEPTA key enrollment, Property Tax Rent Rebate and LIHEAP application assistance and PennDOT services. You are always welcome to call or stop by, as my team of three and I are here to help you navigate government and address your concerns with professionalism and kindness.

We have satellite offices at Wadsworth Library, Pleasant Recreation Center and West Oak Lane Library. Also, we will be coming to Finley Recreation Center on a regular basis in the evening. Most importantly, I run a professional, technology-empowered office which allows my team to be highly mobile, responsive and accessible to the nearly 65,000 fellow Philadelphians I so proudly serve.

It is my honor to present this newsletter to you and pledge to continue my service to you with zeal and fidelity!

In Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Rabb".

Chris Rabb, State Representative



Community Engagement and Outreach

SENIOR CHAT 'N CHEW

I was proud to host a series of chat-and-chews throughout our district to listen to input from our seniors!

February Fling with Rep. Rabb

February Fling with Rep. Rabb focused on the importance of heart healthy practices for our seniors at the West Oak Lane Senior Center.



PHENOMENAL WOMEN



Through your nominations, we were able to honor the women in our district who have made an impact on our community! These matriarchs are our grandmothers, mothers, sisters, and daughters, who have been staunch advocates for our community.

Millennial Brunch

Just as our seniors are the originators of what makes our community great, it is the millennials who accept the torch in continuing these values. This spring, I hosted

my third annual Millennial Mixer. Constituents from ages 18 to 35 were invited to a brunch filled with music and networking opportunities. The Millennial Advisory Council was formed as a result of the ideas shared at the brunch and other millennial focused events.



Father's Day Sidewalk BBQ

We honored the fathers of our district with a community wide barbecue that included vendors, music, and healthy food demonstrations on their special day!



POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

I introduced legislation that aims to equalize our agriculture industry and public school funding; ensure fair wages for all workers, and guarantee true environmental justice!

Fair Funding

As state legislators, we have a constitutional obligation to properly fund our public schools, but our state's current school model unfairly sets our young people up to fail. Despite the Basic Education Funding Commission unanimously agreeing in 2015 to deliver 100% of state funding to public schools through the fair funding formula it developed, four years later our schools still only receive 9% of state funding through that formula. When income and zip code are considered, this percentage of funding drastically decreases for many public schools in areas across our commonwealth, like Philadelphia. It's time to end the educational apartheid systemic in our system!

I introduced legislation, H.B. 961, that would require 100% of state funds for public schools to be immediately distributed through the fair funding formula. It also acknowledges that significantly more funding is required to ensure each school district has enough resources to educate its students.

To garner momentum for immediate enactment, I hosted a press conference on the 65th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* landmark decision, in front of the Franklin S. Edmonds Elementary School to discuss the disparities that still exist in the way Pennsylvania funds public schools.

100% Renewable Energy

According to recent national reports, Pennsylvania ranked 42nd in the total number of states producing the most renewable energy. Despite ranking as the third highest state nationwide in generating electricity, only 4.3% of our electricity is generated by renewables, particularly wind power; ultimately placing us as the 25th lowest state with a 10-year growth in renewable energy.

Ensuring that our commonwealth converts to 100% renewable energy by 2050, I introduced H.B. 2132 that would establish a Clean Energy Transition Task Force, a Clean Energy Center of Excellence, and a Council for Clean Energy Workforce Development. The entities would be tasked with evaluating current pollution-related issues affecting the commonwealth and its residents while also working toward maximizing the environmental and economic benefits of developing the state's renewable energy industry.

The renewable energy industry is not only better for our climate and environment, but it is proven that it is also better for our economy. The renewable energy industry is more labor-intensive, harnessing a newly skilled workforce, giving academic institutions the opportunity to advance new fields of technology as they educate a new generation of Pennsylvania's technology-based workforce. Therefore, more jobs are created for each unit of electricity generated from renewable sources than from fossil fuels.

One Fair Wage

Pennsylvania's minimum wage has remained frozen at \$7.25 since 2009 and is the lowest when, compared to neighboring Delaware (\$8.25), New York (\$10.00) and New Jersey (\$8.60). Incredibly, the federal wage level, enacted in 2007, forced our state to raise the minimum wage from \$7.15 to \$7.25.

More than 40% of the workforce working minimum wage jobs are adults. Coupled with the low tipped wage, our meager minimum wage has led to a system that promotes unfair pay, which disproportionately affects women and people of color. Additionally, a tipped wage system promotes the exploitation of workers.

To ensure our entire workforce can adequately provide for their families, I co-introduced a bill to raise the minimum wage to \$12 per hour and continue to increase each year until it reaches \$15 per hour and tied to the consumer price index. In addition, this bill would set the tipped wage to the same level - ensuring all workers get paid a living wage.

The bill would also make these important changes:

- Allow municipalities to create their own wage ordinances.
- Guard against wage theft by having the Department of Labor & Industry recover wages and penalties for all violations of the act, not just when a complaint is filed.
- Increase monetary penalties for violations, which in some cases have not been updated since 1968.
- Bring enforcement in line with the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act by allowing workers to receive damages, and unpaid wages.
- Requiring the Department of Human Services to calculate and publish the impact of a minimum wage increase on its programs, and mandate that savings be used to increase childcare and home and community-based services to ensure that these providers can pay the increased minimum wage.


Crop Grant Program Bill

Our commonwealth has been a strong contender in producing valuable commodities like hemp, hops, honey and hardwood, but these crops are not eligible for the federal Specialty Crop Block Grant program. I was proud to introduce H.B. 1519, a bipartisan, first-of-its-kind legislation that establishes a state level grant program to encourage farming of high-priority crops, ultimately allowing Pennsylvania to reconnect to its history of being a longtime leader in cultivating them and making access attainable for all.

My bill, which was signed into law by Gov. Tom Wolf, complements the federal Specialty Crop Block Grant Program by awarding grants for small producers and sets aside 10% of grant funds for successful applicants from rural and urban communities that have at least 20% poverty for at a minimum of 30 years. This bill equalizes the agriculture industry by removing barriers to entry and cultivating future generations of leaders in historically economically distressed regions.

To stay up to date on policies important to your community and find out about events in the district follow me:

 www.pahouse.com/Rabb |  www.facebook.com/RepRabb

 @RepRabb |  RepRabb | Email: RepRabb@pahouse.net



State Representative

Chris Rabb

P.O. Box 202200
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2200

lpo.ad.1019

Constituent Services

There are three satellite offices located throughout the community to better serve you. If you have any questions or need access to state programs, you can always visit our district office centrally located at 7216 Germantown Avenue, 19119. You'll be greeted with a smile, a beverage and your choice of music as we address your needs.

Number of Individuals Served

JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2019

SEPTA Key: 313

Event Attendees: 1,708

Social Media:

Facebook Video Views:
16,900

Instagram Views & Likes:
2,138
(January 2019)

Wadsworth Library

1500 Wadsworth Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19150
(First Thursday)

West Oak Lane Library

2000 E. Washington Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19138
(Second Thursday)

Pleasant Recreation Center

6757 Chew Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19119
(Third Thursday)

Announcing Thankful Thursday!

Our satellite offices will be open on Thursdays, rather than Fridays. Please call our office for details.