

# UPTOWN STANDARD

MAY 2020

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## CHRIS RAAB FOR TWO MORE YEARS!!



In 2016, Chris Raab, then a professor at Temple University, shocked the PA political scene by upsetting the local establishment. "I wasn't supposed to have won in 2016 as an outsider who beat the odds," said Raab. I remember visiting polling locations during the 2016 Special Election. I was overly impressed with the strong "Write-In" campaign that he was running. At that point, standing in front of Grace Epiphany Episcopal Church, it dawned on me he's

going to beat the machine in a couple of months in the 2016 Primary. And that he did. Ever since Rep. Raab has been working hard and fighting for the citizens of this district. "I have sought through hard work and relationship-building to earn the trust of my constituents and colleagues to continue my efforts in service to residents of Mt. Airy, West Oak Lane and Chestnut Hill" said Raab.

Although Raab has been

fighting hard for our district legislative victories are hard to come by for Philadelphia legislators in the GOP controlled legislature. When asked what was his biggest legislative accomplishment he had this to say "as a progressive legislator of color in the minority party, I was able to get a bill enacted into law in 2019 with unanimous bipartisan support. It wasn't a glamorous bill, but one that has become a state law that created an opportunity and funding for organizations in poor urban and rural communities to expand the hemp and related specialty crops that can lead to good, local and family-sustaining jobs in majority Black and other neighborhoods in Philadelphia and elsewhere."

There's a list of hot issues that today's progressive legislators are fighting for, when asked what about the issues he planned to fight for he responded by saying "I plan to continue fighting to increase the minimum wage; promoting

the transition to 100% renewable energy; securing Philadelphia's fair share of state education dollars for our public schools; charging corporate polluters for every ton of pollution they produce; establishing a public bank for municipalities to join together to avoid being fleeced by Wall Street at taxpayer expense; expanding and protect voting rights and election reforms; and ending the death penalty and other injustices related to mass incarceration."

Rep Raab is the Democratic vice chair of the House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee. Which is interesting for a legislator from Philly, considering the divide between rural and urban PA residents, to vice chair a committee that mainly focuses on rural issues. When asked about this division Rep. Raab had the following to say "I don't see a divide between urban and rural voters. I see a divide between the people who represent them. So

few rural legislators visit cities, and vice versa, which is why I make myself leave my comfort zone and learn about rural issues. And every time I do, I see more things that what we have in common than what separates us."

Now we enter the 2020 Primary and Rep Raab is running unopposed, seeking a third-term. After his strong showing in the 2018 Primary, most seem to believe that he deserves another term. Raab will be running unopposed in the Primary Election and the General Election. However, Raab is still campaigning and taking his message to the voters "I seek the support of voters who are tired of conventional politicians and long for authentic public servants who exhibit integrity, vision, determination, empathy and passion"

By Brandon Brown, Editor  
Photo Courtesy of the Chris Raab Campaign

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## PRIMARY ELECTION BATTLE FOR PA 198 DISTRICT MEET THE CANDIDATES-QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



### FAREED ABDULLAH

Fareed Abdullah was raised in a community saturated with all the problems plaguing poor inner city communities. As a public-school teacher, Fareed discovered his passions for children. He saw the need to become active in making his community better. Inspired and determined to do more, He educated himself. He holds a B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology, a Master in Educational Leadership. Currently, Fareed is enrolled at Drexel University Philadelphia, pursuing his Doctoral degree in

Educational Leadership and Administration. Through his experiences and life lessons, Fareed realizes hard work, education and determination, can get the results he wanted in life.

#### **What made you decide to run for elected office?**

Putting his life lessons, passions and formal education to work, he decided to become a voice for the voiceless. His desire to become a representative that creates meaningful,

successful, life changing, legislation for people from all walks of life is now.

#### **Please list some issues that you plan to champion, if elected?**

Career & Entrepreneurial Business Development: Major issue in Philadelphia is unemployment and underemployment for the average adult. Fareed aims to provide the tools and programs to help ready his constituents for the workforce. This is a multifaceted initiative that includes making accessible community-based projects that promotes community job growth, advocating for an increase business diversity, as well as fighting to reenact vocational school programs at junior high & high school levels.

Mental Health: Part of this issue with mental health care today is a lack of resources for education and proper treatment. Insensitivity and ignorance also fuel negative treatment of mentally ill individuals in the workplace. To promote mental health awareness and adequate treatment, Fareed Abdullah aims to create community-based counseling and therapy programs with train professionals, provide mental

health awareness training and workshops, as well as, develop programs surrounding greater enforced workplace harassment policies.

Justice System Reform: Fareed plans to create sustainable programs that will divert young people from going down the wrong path. Programs will be educational training, job training and placement. He plans to use social engagement and legislation to shift first time offenders from going to jail but rather programs that is geared for rehabilitation. He plans to work with jails to make sure that inmates are developing interpersonal skills while incarcerated and create policies that allow ex-offenders the opportunity to become employed by state and governmental jobs, depending on their crimes. Lastly, Fareed intends to create policies that makes it mandatory that police officers go through sensitivity training for working with communities that may be hostile.

Education Reform: Philadelphia's education system is not currently giving our children the tools need to succeed in the world. Therefore Fareed Abdullah will urge the importance in implementing Financial literacy & Social Skills

Training, increasing teachers' salaries, and lowering class sizes for more direct student-to-teacher learning. Fareed also believes that investing our children's safety not just in school but after school by adding more after-school programming and events to the public-school sector.

Home Ownership & Community Investment: Community 1st option reinvestment in homes and community ventures, Senior tax freezes & abatement, and Community programs helping homeless.

#### **Please briefly tell our readers why they should vote for you.**

Readers should know that "I believe that the common man/woman deserves to be counted in the number of success. No matter the color, race, gender or economic status, we are all one. As someone who aspire to be elected in Philadelphia, I will always be the voice of the voiceless as well as put the people's agenda at the forefront. I am not to be served but rather serve, that's a real leader".

By Uptown Standard Staff  
Photo Courtesy of Fareed Abdullah



### BERNARD WILLIAMS

Bernard A Williams grew up in the lower Northwest section of Philadelphia. After going through Cheltenham and Philadelphia public schools, he decided to stay in Philadelphia to attend college, majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. While attending college, his political career began immediately. He interned and then became a district coordinator for the 182nd legislative district here in Philadelphia. In

2014, he began working on campaigns in Philadelphia and surrounding suburbs. In 2016, Bernard was appointed by the chair of the National Young Democrats of America Black Caucus as the chair of the Pennsylvania Black Caucus of the Young Democrats of America. Currently, Bernard is a payroll Consultant by day, and he serves on the 39th Police District Advisory Council. He also serves as the chairperson for the Youth Aid Panel which is a diversion program

at the District Attorney's Office.

#### **What made you decide to run for Elected Office?**

I have been working in our district and its surrounding communities since I was fifteen years old. Last year, I realized that young people like myself need to have representation in Harrisburg: someone that will advocate for the issues of the millennial generation as well as older citizens. So I have decided to run for State Representative in the 198th, because we need to put hope back into our communities. In order for us to move towards a future with hope, we must fight for education through social justice and creating an economic plan that works for all people.

#### **Please list some issues that you plan to champion, if elected?**

Education, Criminal Justice, Environment, Social Justice, and Economic Development

#### **Please list all of the organizations that have endorsed your candidacy.**

Working Families Party, One Pennsylvania, Run For Something, Philly Vote PAC, and Citizens Networking for Change PAC.

#### **Please briefly tell our readers why they should vote for you.**

I have been a resident of the district for 25 years now and with my experience, and understanding of the community issues I know I can be the leadership we need in the 198. The 198 needs leadership, that will be transparent, show accountability, and have compassion for the community. Over the last decade I have demon-

strated those qualities through my work in the community. Through my knowledge of public policy, public relations, and community organizing, I know we will bring hope back to the people and the district.

By Uptown Standard Staff  
Photo Courtesy of Bernard Williams

WHOS ON THE BALLOT

<b>PRESIDENT DEMOCRATIC</b> [1] BERNIE SANDERS [2] JOSEPH R BIDEN [3] TULSI GABBARD	<b>AUDITOR GENERAL DEMOCRATIC</b> [5] H SCOTT CONKLIN [6] MICHAEL LAMB [7] TRACIE FOUNTAIN [8] ROSE ROSIE MARIE DAVIS [9] NINA AHMAD [10] CHRISTINA M HARTMAN	<b>STATE TREASURER REPUBLICAN</b> [106] STACY L GARRITY	<b>CONGRESS REPUBLICAN 3RD DISTRICT</b> [107] MICHAEL HARVEY <b>STATE SENATOR DEMOCRATIC 3RD DISTRICT</b> [13] SHARIF STREET	<b>STATE REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRATIC 200TH DISTRICT</b> [15] CHRIS RABB
<b>PRESIDENT REPUBLICAN</b> [101] DONALD J TRUMP [102] ROQUE ROCKY DE LA FUENTE [103] BILL WELD		<b>CONGRESS DEMOCRATIC 2ND DISTRICT</b> [12] BRENDAN F BOYLE		<b>STATE REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRATIC 201ST DISTRICT</b> [15] STEPHEN KINSEY
<b>ATTORNEY GENERAL DEMOCRATIC</b> [4] JOSH SHAPIRO	<b>AUDITOR GENERAL REPUBLICAN</b> [105] TIMOTHY DEFOOR <b>STATE TREASURER DEMOCRATIC</b> [11] JOE TORSELLA	<b>CONGRESS REPUBLICAN 2ND DISTRICT</b> [107] DAVID TORRES	<b>STATE REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRATIC 198TH DISTRICT</b> [15] DARISHA K PARKER [16] BERNARD A WILLIAMS [17] FAREED ABDULLAH [18] SUPREME DOW	<b>STATE REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRATIC 203RD DISTRICT</b> [15] ISABELLA FITZGERALD
<b>ATTORNEY GENERAL REPUBLICAN</b> [104] HEATHER HEIDELBAUGH		<b>CONGRESS DEMOCRATIC 3RD DISTRICT</b> [12] DWIGHT EVANS		
				BALLOT INFORMATION COURTESY OF PHILLYVOTES.COM

BALLOT QUESTIONS

**Ballot Question No. 1**  
Shall the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to create a Department of Labor, headed by a Cabinet-level Director, to enforce City laws that protect Philadelphia workers; to oversee labor relations, such as collective bargaining, with the City’s unionized workforce; to investigate compliance with worker protections set forth in City contracts; and to manage programs concerning City employees; and to create a Board of Labor Standards to review and adjudicate matters arising from such work?

**Statement:**  
The City’s Home Rule Charter is like the City’s constitution; it sets up the rules for City government. If you vote “Yes” on this ballot question, it means you want to change the City’s Charter so that it creates a Department of Labor and a Board of Labor Standards. The City has an Office of Labor now that was created by Executive Order of the Mayor. If the Office is established as a Department in the City’s Charter, it becomes more permanent. The Office of Labor would continue to:

- Enforce City laws that

protect Philadelphia workers;

- Oversee the City’s labor relations, such as collective bargaining, with the City’s unionized workforce;
- Investigate compliance with worker protections in City contracts; and
- Manage programs concerning City employees.

The City also has a Board of Labor Standards, created by an ordinance of City Council. If the Board is established in the Charter, it becomes more permanent. The Board of Labor Standards hears cases and appeals related to the Department of Labor’s enforcement of workers’ rights.

**Ballot Question No. 2**  
Shall the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to revise rules pertaining to prohibited activities of appointed City officers and employees, to generally allow such officers and employees to volunteer for state and federal political campaigns outside of work time and without using City resources; to continue to prohibit participation in any political campaign for a City office or Philadelphia-based state office; and to revise penalty provisions pertaining to such restrictions and prohibited activities generally?

**Statement:**  
The City’s Home Rule Charter, which is like the City’s constitution, prohibits its most City officials and employees from taking part in the conduct of anyone’s political campaign for any elected office, whether local, state or federal. These are known as the Charter’s political activities restrictions. The Charter also sets forth certain penalties for a violation of these and other restrictions that pertain to City officials and employees. This proposed amendment to the City’s Charter would remove such restrictions for most City officers and employees with respect to certain political campaigns. Under the new rule, such officers and employees gen-

erally could participate in volunteer activity in support of candidates for federal offices and in support of candidates for many state offices. City officers and employees generally would remain restricted from participating in campaigns for Philadelphia offices and from participating in campaigns for state representatives, state senators and local judges for whom Philadelphia voters cast votes. Officers and employees in these offices and departments would still be prohibited from engaging in political activities: Sheriff, City Commissioners, District Attorney, Police and the Board of Ethics. All City officers and employees would continue to be prohibited from using City resources, City work time or

City titles for political activities. The Charter change would also allow for greater monetary penalties for violations of these and other related restrictions and greater flexibility with respect to the imposition of penalties such as employee discipline. If you vote “Yes” on this ballot question, it means you want to change the Charter to revise the political activities restrictions and penalty provisions in these respects.

Ballot Information Courtesy of Phillyvotes.com

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7157 GERMANTOWN AVE

NONNA'S PIZZA TAVERN  
7200 GERMANTOWN AVE

PAGANOS  
7617 OGONTZ AVE

PARADISE JAMAICAN  
1530 WADSWORTH AVE

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# MONEY MATTERS: BEST TIME IN YEARS TO START MAKING MONEY IN REAL ESTATE, STOCK MARKET

By R.S.B

The opportunity seems to come unexpectantly and at least over a decade. The last time we seen this drop was in 2008. And now, with millions out of work, you know what that means. If you still you are your job, then first thank God. If you been laid off or out of work, we are praying for you.

The economy has come to a standstill. Not just in the United States, but world-wide. So that means you have plenty of time to investing the stock market, real estate, hard assets (Gold, Silver, etc.). or does it? Remember, it is impossible to time the market. No one knows what is going to happen 6 months down the line. Think about it, who would have thought in 2019 that there would be a virus that was going to come out of China and halt everything globally from restaurants service to shutting down schools to even India's 1.3 Billion citizens being on lockdown in 2020? Absolutely no one. Since no one can time the market, doesn't it make sense to start doing some type of investing now?

Of course, it is, that is why you are reading this now, In the USA mortgage rates are at all-time lows. The stock market DOJ even dropped from 29K highs in February to 18K in March and it is still off lows from in April-May. Also, look at the gas prices, notice how low it is at the Wawa, Lukoil – or any other gas station. Deals will be everywhere, but you got to get in. You must start, so if you have not, the TIME IS NOW.

In the age of technology, you can easily get information on how to start investing. Google or calling a financial institution to open a brokerage account like Schwab, TD Ameritrade, E\*TRADE etc. They would always be a great move to

get answers and guidance to get your portfolio right. You could even watch YouTube videos to see the difference if account types (for example Traditional IRA vs Roth IRA vs Individual trading accounts). Even getting some Crypto currency could be an option for you.

Hopefully as things start opening back up, you have come up with a plan to set you up financially. Read some books or articles on your interest. Watch videos of the things you want to invest in. Read and watch videos on the items on IRA's 401K's, brokerage accounts, digital currency exchanges to become fa-

miliar in the options the world have to offer increasing your wealth. It will not be easy, but you never know until to try. Oh, and do not forget to follow me on IG at TheGetMoneyShow. Believe in yourself, believe in your dreams, and always remember money is not just green. We are in for a long

road on this matter. Some believe this could take up to the year 2022 for the pandemic to end. Others believe it will be done by July. One thing for sure, the world will change because of this.



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# CHANGE MAKERS: 22 YEAR OLD ENTREPRENEURS MAKE \$100,000 TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY



The road to turn a dream into reality can be difficult. It requires hard work, dedication, and the will power to do whatever it takes to be successful. Qadir Cobbs and Patricia Milan know all too well about the sacrifices it takes to start a business from the

ground up and turn it into one of the most successful businesses of its kind in the city of Philadelphia, fitting they named their business Dreams into Reality.

The 22 year old entrepreneurs have had a wide variety of business endeavors since opening their business consulting company in 2019. Those ranging from selling used cars, to running multiple 'Air Bnb' apartments. Above all else though, it seems they've found their calling in helping people fix their credit and improve their financial situations. In their first year, they've already racked in over \$100,000 profit. "We just want to guide our customers in the right direction business wise and financially. The name of our company speak truth, we want to turn our customers dreams into reality." Qadir stated. On their website, they offer LLC formation, credit repair, and even a free credit assessment.

"Credit gives you leverage which you can use to get other people's money and invest for multiple streams of income." Patricia said. "If you know how to leverage your credit the right way, you will never be broke." Qadir said.

It hasn't all come easy for Qadir, after graduating from George Washington High School in Northeast Philadelphia, he fell down the wrong path and ended up spending time in prison. While he admits the birth of his and Patricia's son Yusef (1) played a part in changing his life around, he says "It was God. I really can't explain it. I just woke up one day wanting to put that life behind me." For any of the young men struggling with getting their own lives together, Qadir says "learn about credit, open a business, I know times may be hard but it's not worth risking your freedom or putting yourself or your family in danger." He went on to say,

"There's so many legal ways to make money now and days you just have to apply yourself and go one hundred percent."

Patricia talked about the difficulties of being a woman entrepreneur in a completely male dominated field. While she said she's learned to cope with people taking her feminism for a weakness, she remembers her confidence is what lead her to where she is now. "Woman have to be confident in the business world, people are going to hate, work as hard as you can and do what makes you happy." She graduated last May from Bloomsburg University and was offered jobs in her field of study upon graduation but passed them up in pursuit of putting her all into making the business successful. Finally, the couple spoke about the drive they've had to be successful for themselves and their future families.

"Creating generational wealth is the main thing for me. My family has moved pay check to pay check my entire life, I knew I didn't ever want to be in that position. I want to show others how to create a better life for their families just as I'm doing for myself." Patricia said. Qadir added, "Playing sports when I was younger gave me that competitive mindset, I want to be the greatest ever at everything I do, that's what drives me." You can learn more by visiting their Instagram accounts @Psmillan\_ (Patricia) and @Dir\_ceo (Qadir)

By Brandon Brown, Editor  
Photo Courtesy of Qadir Cobbs and Patricia Milan

## LOCAL SPORTS: ST. JOE'S PREP COMES UP BIG IN THE 1ST VIRTUAL DRAFT IN NFL HISTORY

On Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the NFL held its annual draft. This year though, things we're a bit different due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The draft was held virtually to comply with CDC rules of social distancing and the banning of large groups or gatherings. That didn't stop three former St Joe's Prep football players from being drafted.

D'Andre Swift, the 5'8 212lb junior running back from the University of Georgia, and a 2015 graduate of Prep, lead the way as he was drafted with the 35<sup>th</sup> overall pick. D'Andre began his career playing with the Enon Eagles pop Warner youth football team before attending Prep. He now takes his talents to the Detroit Lions and is expected to contribute early next season.

John Reid, a 5'10 187lb senior cornerback from Penn State also attended St. Joe's Prep and graduated in 2015. The Houston Texans selected him in the 4<sup>th</sup> round with the 141<sup>st</sup> pick in the draft. He will join another Philly product Will Fuller V on a Texans team that reached the conference championship last season.

Finally 2015 Prep graduate and Michigan offensive lineman Jon Runyan Jr. was drafted in the 6<sup>th</sup> round by the Green Bay Packers. If that name sounds familiar it's because it is, he is the son of Philadelphia Eagle legend and former U.S. Representative Jon Runyan Sr. The two-time All Big Ten honoree was a graduate student and 4 year letterman at Michigan where

he appeared in 34 games with 26 career starts, mostly at left tackle.

Some of the city's former stars saw their dreams come true after the draft ended when they were signed as undrafted free agents.

Yasir Durant, former Imhotep Panther and Missouri offensive lineman found his home

with the defending champion Kansas City Chiefs.

Former West Philly high and Florida International defensive lineman Tear start signed with the Tennessee Titans.

Finally, Prince Smith Jr. was signed by the hometown Philadelphia Eagles. Prince attended Imhotep charter and played cornerback in college at New

Hampshire.

Congratulations to all the hometown athletes who saw their childhood dreams come true and the Uptown Standard is excited and eager to cover them as they begin their NFL careers.

By Brandon Brown, Editor

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