

# DEB CIAMACCA

PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | DISTRICT 168



Deb Ciamacca is running for the State Legislature in the 168th District to continue her life and career in public service. A Marine Corps Veteran and public school teacher, Deb believes our public officials should work together to solve the problems that face every community: creating a public education system for the 21st century, expanding access to affordable health care, and protecting the environment for future generations.

After attending Penn State on an ROTC Scholarship, Deb served as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. After leaving the Marines, Deb worked in the private sector as a manufacturing manager at several businesses, before returning to Pennsylvania to work at Neutronics, a family owned environmental and instrumentation company in Exton. In her role, Deb managed teams of hundreds of employees and learned first-hand how local business and workers are affected by health care affordability issues and other safety net issues.

After her time in the private sector, Deb was called to serve her community again. She became a Social Studies teacher at Conestoga High School and taught government, economics, and world cultures to thousands of students. As an educator, she understands what our children need to succeed as adults and citizens in the 21st Century and is eager to bring that fight to Harrisburg.

Deb believes in common sense solutions to the problems facing Pennsylvania. In her classroom she asked students to look for the solutions that unite us rather than the problems that divide us. She learned in both the Marines and in the classroom that we can't ignore the tough problems – we have to face them head on. Deb will work tirelessly to fix education funding so that every public school has the funding it needs. Deb will take on the entrenched interests who believe that politicians should draw our district boundaries, and will fight for fair districts. She will fight to give every Pennsylvanian access to affordable, high quality health care, and will work to create a Pennsylvania that attracts good jobs at good wages to the state.

## WEBSITE

[debciamacca.com](http://debciamacca.com)

## INSTAGRAM

[@debciamaccaforpa168](https://www.instagram.com/debciamaccaforpa168)

## FACEBOOK

[@debra.ciamacca](https://www.facebook.com/debra.ciamacca)

## TWITTER

[@DebCiamacca](https://twitter.com/DebCiamacca)

## ACTBLUE DONATE LINK

[secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-pa-ciamacca](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-pa-ciamacca)

## ON THE ISSUES

### PUBLIC EDUCATION

Pennsylvania is 47th in the country when it comes to funding public schools. Deb taught at Conestoga High School for 19 years and has seen the difference that a great education can make in the lives of our children. She is committed to working to increase funding for all public schools in Pennsylvania so that they can provide a 21st-century education for all kids.

Deb is also committed to reducing standardized testing and restrictive educational policies.

She believes that not every student wants or needs to go to a traditional four year college. Deb will fight to provide outstanding vocational opportunities, working hand in hand with local businesses to provide students the flexibility to choose their own careers.

### GUN VIOLENCE

As a teacher, Deb discovered after the Parkland shooting that she did not have the ability to keep her students safe. That's why she strongly supports common sense gun safety reform.

In an article she produced for Time Magazine, Deb wrote: "Let's not talk about school shootings in terms of gun control and mental health. Let's talk about school safety. Let's talk about whether we as a society have the will to keep our precious students safe in the place that most demands safety. It's about getting all the stakeholders in a room: parents, teachers, police, politicians and students, rather than asking teachers to carry the entire load."



SISTER DISTRICT  
PROJECT

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## HEALTH CARE

Hard working Pennsylvanians deserve access to good quality health care. In her career as a teacher, Deb has seen the increased anxiety and depression in today's young people. This is why she commits to work tirelessly to control health care costs and improve access to mental health services. Additionally, Deb will fight for increased funding for substance abuse treatment and will work to hold drug companies financially responsible for the devastating opioid crisis.

## WORKER'S RIGHTS

As a former President of the Tredyffrin Easttown Teacher's union, Deb believes that every working person deserves to have a voice. She will protect worker's rights not only by strengthening traditional labor laws, but also by instituting new laws to protect workers in the new economy. Deb also supports Governor Wolf's plan to gradually increase Pennsylvania's minimum wage from \$7.25 to be \$15 by 2024. The working men and women of Pennsylvania should not struggle to put food on their tables or pay their rent while working 40-hour weeks.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Deb expresses deep support for a woman's right to control her own personal health and her own body. She supports the decision made in Roe v. Wade and will fight for women's rights to make decisions about their own bodies in private consultation with their physicians.

## ENVIRONMENT

Deb has been fighting for the environment since she marched for the passage of the Endangered Species Act on the first Earth Day. In office, she will advocate for sensible environmental policies that will not only benefit Pennsylvania's citizens, but also protect the state's resources and produce green jobs. Deb will also fight for a moratorium on fracking in the county until oil and gas companies have provided safety plans and protocols for these processes.

## ABOUT

### THE DISTRICT

**Nested Congressional Districts**  
5: R+13

The 168th Pennsylvania House of Representatives District is located in South Eastern Pennsylvania, in Delaware County. It is part of the greater Philadelphia area.

### PAST RESULTS IN THE DISTRICT

2018 STATE HOUSE  
Democrat: 15,811; 48.83%  
Republican: 16,569; 51.17%

2018 GUBERNATORIAL  
Democrat: 58.83%  
Republican: 41.17%

2018 FEDERAL SENATE  
Democrat: 56.97%  
Republican: 43.03%

2016 PRESIDENT  
Clinton: 19,654; 51.51%  
Trump: 17,090 44.79%

2012 PRESIDENT  
Obama: 17,368; 47.78%  
Romney: 18,567; 51.08%

## DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

Popula- tion	House- holds	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Asian	Other	Median Income	% Poverty	% Un- employ- ment	% College	%HS Grad	%No HS
62,376	23,967	20.7%	86.8%	3.9%	2.5%	4.9%	.1%	\$97,215	4.6%	3.1%	62.1%	34.8%	3.1%

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## ABOUT THE OPPONENT

Republican Christopher Quinn was elected to represent this district in 2016. Most recently, Quinn has voted repeatedly to hasten Pennsylvania's reopening, endangering the state's workers and broader population even as the incidence of COVID19 continues rising nationwide. Over the years, Quinn has taken anti-choice votes that have earned him a 0% rating from [Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania](#). He has also voted in favor of expanding gun access, including having voted for a bill to [arm security guards](#) in schools.

## WHY THIS RACE IS IMPORTANT

To flip PA's lower state legislative chamber, Democrats need to win 9 House seats. Momentum is on our side: in 2018, Democrats broke a Republican supermajority in the Senate and flipped a dozen State House seats. We can build on this energy to flip the chamber in 2020. Flipping a chamber in the PA legislature would give Democrats a critical seat at the redistricting table, particularly for Congressional redistricting. Republican state legislators have brutally gerrymandered PA's Congressional districts. And the political commission in PA that draws state legislative maps has also permitted terribly gerrymandered maps. We can prevent this from happening again by flipping a chamber and ensuring that Democrats have a voice in the next round of redistricting. Flipping a chamber blue is especially important because the PA Governor does not have veto power over state legislative maps. So while Democratic Governor Wolf will be in office during the next round of redistricting, we'll still need Democratic control of a chamber to have a say in the outcome.

**These are 'last chance' races: whoever is elected to the PA state legislature in 2020 will draw the next round of district lines.**

## REDISTRICTING & GERRYMANDERING

In Pennsylvania, Congressional district lines are drawn by the Pennsylvania General Assembly. State legislative lines are drawn by a five-member commission, the first four members of which are appointed by the majority and minority leaders of the State House and Senate, with the chair being appointed by either these four members or the State Supreme Court.

After the last round of redistricting, the Republican State House Majority Leader presided over a [piece of legislation](#) that remapped the state, resulting in extremely gerrymandered Congressional maps. For instance, Pennsylvania's 7th Congressional District was one of the most gerrymandered districts in the country, before the [Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional](#) in 2018. The district gained national notoriety as one of the most obvious efforts to gerrymander. The 7th District was so egregious that it earned a nickname, based on the cartoon characters it resembled: "[Goofy Kicking Donald](#)". The net result of the GOP's manipulations was a state that voted majority Democrat, but which sent thirteen Republicans to Congress and only five Democrats. Fortunately, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled in 2018, after three elections conducted under this travesty, that the 2011 district maps were illegally partisan, and when the state's legislature could not agree on new district boundaries, the Court provided districts of its own. Unfortunately, the state legislative maps remain gerrymandered in favor of Republicans - as [an example](#), in 2018, Pennsylvania's Democratic State House candidates received 54% of the vote, but only won 45% of the seats.

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## WHY PENNSYLVANIA IS IMPORTANT

### PENNSYLVANIA FAST FACTS

- **Current Control:** Divided.  
Governor – D; Senate – R; House – R
- **Gubernatorial Election:** Not up in 2020
- **Length of State House Terms:** 2 years
- **Candidate Filing Deadline:** February 18, 2020
- **State Legislative Primary Date:** June 2, 2020  
(subject to further delay)
- **Redistricting:** State legislature controls Congressional redistricting, Political Commission controls state legislative redistricting; Governor has veto over Congressional maps but not state legislative maps
- **Electoral College Votes:** 20

### BROADER 2020 OPPORTUNITIES

- Pennsylvania is a critical, perennial battleground presidential state. Before Trump won the state by 44,000 votes, or less than 1%, Pennsylvanians had voted for the Democratic Presidential nominee in every election since 1992. Pennsylvania is one of the “Big Four” states that are likely to control the outcome of the 2020 presidential election. Democrats have a tremendous opportunity to claim PA’s 20 Electoral College votes this year, with smart organizing, expanding the electorate through voter registration, and turnout efforts.
- There are also several important, very competitive Congressional races in PA this year (including PA-10, PA-08, and PA-01, PA-07, PA-17, and PA-16).
- Working to support PA state legislative candidates will be instrumental in helping drive turnout up and down the ticket in this historic election year.

