



PHILADELPHIA

FEDERATION of TEACHERS

October 21, 2022

Dear Legislators,

On behalf of the 93,000 members represented by the affiliates of the SEIU State Council and the Philadelphia Federations of Teachers (PFT) and in support of the voters of Philadelphia, we call on you to oppose the undemocratic impeachment of the duly elected District Attorney Larry Krasner. Efforts to impeach Philadelphia's district attorney are a direct attempt to subvert our democracy and undermine the freedom of Pennsylvania voters to choose their elected leaders.

This impeachment sets a dangerous precedent that our state legislature cannot walk back. In the future this could be used to remove any municipal official that the majority party disagrees with. In the history of Pennsylvania, no one has been impeached over disagreements in policy— indeed, this process has only been used three times with the first two instances in 1685 and 1811. The most recent impeachment was of Supreme Court Justice Rolf Larsen only after being criminally convicted.

Let's be clear, an impeachment disenfranchises the hundreds of thousands of Philadelphia voters who overwhelmingly re-elected District Attorney Larry Krasner by a 2 to 1 margin in 2021. Like so many recent attacks on the voting rights of black and brown voters in our federal and state governments, an impeachment only serves to further undermine the credibility of our elections. We saw this in 2020, when the results of the election in Philadelphia were called into question despite no proof of fraud. Now again, the legislature is attempting to circumvent the will of voters in the largest city in the Commonwealth.

Impeaching Larry Krasner is an attempt to draw criticisms away from the legislature's failures to address core issues surrounding gun violence in Philadelphia and across our Commonwealth. The majority party has continued to block common sense gun reform legislation, has chronically underfunded our Philadelphia public schools, and failed to invest meaningfully in mental health. Moving an impeachment to remove an elected leader for short-term political gain is a dangerous gamble that will not stem the wave of violence facing our communities.

As a labor movement and as Pennsylvania voters, we want to ensure that we avoid a major crisis for our democracy from which we cannot return. We call on all legislators to oppose this impeachment effort and to stand with the Pennsylvania voters that you represent.

