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# HEALING

# HEROES

Healing Heroes is a partnership with Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, Inc. to provide qualifying disabled Veterans in our communities with highly trained service dogs. Armstrong is committed to helping our local Veterans. Service dogs help to mitigate the challenges of several conditions, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI); seizures; glucose imbalance, mobility issues and more.

We are actively seeking Veterans who would benefit from the assistance of a Guardian Angels Medical Service Dog.

Application forms are available at <http://www.medicalservicedogs.org/service-dog-application/>  
Once the online form is completed, a full application packet will be sent to the applicants to fulfill the process for consideration.

Thanks to your generous donations, we have raised enough money to train 10 dogs!



## WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING DONATIONS!

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Mail to: Armstrong c/o Healing Heroes  
One Armstrong Place • Butler, PA 16001

### Online Donation

[www.medicalservicedogs.org](http://www.medicalservicedogs.org)  
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July 3, 2019

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Battle lines are being drawn in what is emerging as a two-candidate race to lead the Pennsylvania GOP, and several prominent Republicans with close ties to President Donald Trump are coalescing around one contender. Donald Trump Jr., the president's eldest son, and campaign manager Brad Parscale are among those who have endorsed [Bernadette "Bernie" Comfort](#), the state party's acting chair. Another faction is lining up behind [Lawrence Tabas](#), former longtime general counsel to the state party.

They are jockeying to succeed Val DiGiorgio, who [resigned last week](#) after the *Inquirer* [reported](#) that he had exchanged sexually explicit text messages with a candidate for Philadelphia City Council. The state party is set to meet July 13 in Hershey to elect a new leader. The winner will be tasked with reinvigorating a party that in the last two years has suffered big electoral losses, including races for governor and U.S. Senate by wide margins. It has struggled to raise money and build a formidable ground operation.

Trump was the first Republican presidential nominee to win Pennsylvania in a general election since 1988, and the Keystone State is again expected to be a critical battleground in 2020. "It's a position that really demands a low-key,

**Pittsburgh Tribune-Review**

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**Philadelphia Inquirer**  
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***BCAP offices will be closed Thursday & Friday, July 4 & 5***

workmanlike, studious approach to bringing complex factions together," said Jeff Coleman, a Harrisburg-based GOP strategist, adding that both Comfort and Tabas could fit that profile.

The race is shaping up as something of a repeat of the contentious 2017 campaign for party chair, when DiGiorgio defeated Tabas by two votes out of more than 300 cast by state committee members. Then as now, Tabas is backed by former Chairman Rob Gleason and running against a candidate supported by Montgomery County power broker Robert Asher, who is one of Pennsylvania's two national committee members.

There's at least one new wrinkle, though: endorsements from national Republicans close to the Trump campaign. On Sunday, Parscale tweeted his support for Comfort, following endorsements from Ted Christian — a senior adviser to the Trump campaign's Pennsylvania operation — and David Urban, an informal adviser. Trump allies Corey Lewandowski and Sean Spicer also expressed support, and Trump Jr. jumped in on Tuesday. "I'm proud to be supporting Bernie Comfort for @PAGOP Chair!" he wrote on Twitter.

Some Republicans say the endorsements could backfire among rank-and-file party officials if the Trump campaign is seen as picking favorites. The party chair has responsibilities that go well beyond helping the Trump campaign, such as collecting voter data, and candidate recruitment up and down the ballot.

Charlie Gerow, a Harrisburg-based strategist and GOP state committee member, said he had heard some "grumbling and grousing" among local party officials about endorsements from people affiliated with the Trump campaign. "Generally I would counsel against that kind of insertion into a local party election. They never work out well," said Gerow, who is supporting Tabas. "I don't think it's changing a lot of minds."

Gleason, of Cambria County, noted that most of those endorsers "don't even live in Pennsylvania." "Why they are weighing in, I really have no idea," he said, though he added they had a right to do so. The Trump campaign didn't respond to requests for comment Tuesday. They are also hopeful that she could help the party make inroads among women voters, especially in the suburbs, where many women have revolted against the GOP under Trump.

Former U.S. Reps. Lou Barletta and Tom Marino threw their support behind Comfort in an email to fellow Republicans Tuesday, describing her as a "lifelong Republican who is faithful to President Trump and dedicated to seeing him reelected in 2020." "As a single mom who lives in the suburbs and spent my adult life helping to elect Republican women, no one knows better than me how the president's economic policies are helping to improve the lives of Pennsylvanians," Comfort said last week upon becoming acting chair.

Tabas, 63, a Philadelphia lawyer at the firm Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel, is also well-regarded in the party and could benefit from a push by some to clean house of DiGiorgio's leadership team. But some harbor lingering concerns about his association with Gleason, who is unpopular among many Southeast Pennsylvania Republicans.

Uniting the party will be no easy task. That was made clear on Friday, when [Scott Wagner](#), the GOP nominee for governor last year, sent a letter to state committee members saying it was "time for everyone to look in the mirror and come to the realization that our party is fractured, divided, and many people are fed up and disillusioned."

Wagner lashed out at Asher, accusing him of undermining his [unsuccessful campaign](#) against Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf, who [cruised to reelection](#). "Because of [Asher's] politics, we have a political machine that lines the pockets of Harrisburg political consultants, but delivers loss after loss to the Republican Party," Wagner wrote. If the party allows "backroom deal-making to continue," he added, it "will stand little chance of delivering a victory in 2020 for Donald Trump."

In an interview, Wagner said he was only aware of two candidates for party chair and by default would be supporting Tabas. He is not a state committee member and thus will not have a vote. Many Republicans say Wagner ran an underwhelming campaign and has no one to blame but himself for his loss. But some said his concerns about a fractured party — and Asher's influence — were not unique.

Asher declined to comment on Wagner's letter. He said Comfort would "represent the Republican Party spectacularly." He described Tabas as "an extremely honorable man," but said Comfort "at this point in time would be the best representative for our party." — *Philadelphia Inquirer*

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The #MeToo movement has been instrumental in raising awareness of the pervasiveness of sexual harassment and sexual assault. It has highlighted the unfortunate reality that no industry or community is immune to this epidemic and brought to the light the lack of formal processes for victims to report claims of workplace harassment and assault and employers to effectively address them. This has not just been true in Hollywood or private industry — it has also been true in Pennsylvania's State Capitol.

A year ago, in the face of multiple allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and even rape against sitting legislators, the only action that the Republicans leaders who control the Pennsylvania House and Senate were willing to take at the time was to pass a resolution to use taxpayer funds to study the problem. A year later, [the report from the](#)

**Joint State Government Commission is back** and guess what? There's a problem.

Over the past five years, a total of 554 claims of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct were reported by staff of state agencies. Over \$1.9M in taxpayer funds were used to settle these complaints. Twenty-seven complaints were made by staffers in the House and affiliated legislative service agencies for hostile work environment, general harassment, or sexual harassment. Seven of those complaints were specific to sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. Nine complaints were made by staffers in the Senate (which for some reason was not included in the original report).

Our concern all along has been that the current process for a victim to file a complaint is unclear. The report gives us proof by noting that sexual harassment policies vary from agency to agency. Each legislative caucus has its own policy, meaning there is a different policy for House Republicans, House Democrats, Senate Republicans, and Senate Democrats. We are also concerned that elected political leaders have undue influence over how complaints against elected legislators are handled. The report notes that in matters of complaints against a legislator from the Republican caucus, the Republican leader determines the applicable investigative procedure — not a human resource professional.

We need to take the politics out of the process. It's time to move **H.B. 1000** and **S.B. 480**, #MeToo bills that create an independent office to investigate sexual harassment complaints and require legislators to pay back taxpayers for settlements when an investigation finds that they have sexually harassed staff members. H.B. 1000 was referred to the House State Government Committee on April 2. S.B. 480 was referred to the Senate Labor and Industry Committee on April 8. We call on Republican leaders to take up these bills as soon as possible. The report from the Joint State Government Commission is clear: There's a problem in the State Capitol and it is time to act. – **Op-ed by Sen. Maria Collett (D-Montgomery) and Rep. Leanne Krueger (D-Delaware)** in **Philadelphia Inquirer**

