



Connect with your Neighbors.....Change the World

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Please complete, sign and return this form via mail to:

**Neighborhood Networks
c/o Stan Shapiro
7213 Cresheim Rd.
Philadelphia, PA 19119**

If returning via email, please send to shapsj@comcast.net and sign and return this first page with the candidate signature by mail.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MSA" followed by a flourish.

NN Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

BACKGROUND

1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held? N/A
2. If you have previously held a government office:
 - a. What are the primary issue areas in which you were involved?
 - b. What committees, caucuses or working groups have you served on?
3. If you have not previously held a government office, what community or policy issues have you worked on, and in what capacity? (Please provide the names of two or three individuals who can provide information about your previous work.)

I am currently on the board of a local homeless advocacy group called: Advocates for Homeless and Those in Need
Penny Martin: 215-547-6415 (H) 215-906-8479 (C) - Christine Jandovitz: 215-630-9625 (C)

I also volunteered in the Bucks County prison system chairing AA meetings for inmates: Art Axberg: 609-712-6270

4. Please provide copies of all your significant campaign materials, including position papers, and information on your campaign strategy, expected funding sources, and endorsements.

I am currently researching material and sources for a position paper on the opioid epidemic and the destigmatization of addicts and alcoholics associated with the disease of substance abuse disorder and its relationship with Universal Healthcare.

I am meeting with Bill McGee, the Finance Director of the HDCC to review our strategy and expected funding sources. We currently have contributions from over 100 donors and have raised close to \$10,000 as of 3/24/2018. I have been endorsed by Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense (Affiliated with Everytown for Gun Safety).

5. What is your plan to win this race.

I will concentrate on building alliances with various grassroots/progressive groups and democrats within the district to concentrate on a door to door ground game. I will also concentrate on maintaining an issues based race and highlight my opponents willingness to engage in hateful and negative campaign tactics. I will run with a strategy to unite the Northeast through compassionate policy and not through divisive politics. We will work with consultants to do direct mailings to highlight this approach.

ISSUES

Please note: Although most of the following questions may be answered “yes” or “no” feel free to elaborate if doing so would provide a clearer statement of your position.

I. OVERALL

What would be your three highest priorities as a legislator? Explain.

1.) ADDRESSING the opioid & heroin crisis compassionately and effectively head on, by utilizing my personal experience with the disease and my personal experience helping others who suffer from substance abuse disorder. 2.) Fighting for working class families and unions in the district. I would be a strong advocate against any right to work legislation and a strong ally for all unions in Pennsylvania. And 3.) I will fight for fair and equitable taxation for those on fixed incomes and ensure infrastructure projects are consistently being addressed in our district to help maintain our roads, bridges and transportation access which bring jobs to the district.

II. Education

- 1) How do you feel about the role of charter schools in Pennsylvania's educational mix? If dissatisfied, what changes in state law would you sponsor to fix the problem?

Charter schools should be held to the same standards as schools in our public education system. I would work with the NEA, PSEA, PFT, and other unions to determine what would be the most effective changes which would benefit our children would be and work from there. I also do not think that charter schools should be able to circumvent the public school system and union representation that goes along with it.

2) What factors do you believe should be considered in determining *overall levels of school funding in the Commonwealth, and funding per school district?*

The limited research I have done on this has led me to a report done back in 2013 by the Education Law Center called: Funding, Formulas and Fairness. The main points I think are fair: 1 How does the education budget proposal meet the "thorough and efficient" funding requirements of the state constitution? 2 Does the budget proposal use accurate student data to distribute education dollars? 3 Does the proposal fairly distribute dollars to address real costs for educating students with different needs in each school district throughout the state? 4 Does the proposal distribute education dollars through a transparent formula that uses publicly available and accessible data? Funding per local school district should take these factors into account as well as the needs of the community.

3) Do you believe public college, or community college, should be tuition free?

Yes I do believe that we should offer public college and community college to those students that want to continue their education. For students that choose to go in a different direction I believe we need to fund those programs, vocational or otherwise that would best prepare them for a solid career path.

4) What role do you believe standardized tests should play in evaluating teachers, schools and students, if any?

Tests are tools. Tools can become dull and need to be sharpened and improved upon. Teachers shouldn't be tied to a tool that may or not be effective in determining a student's ability or potential. I also believe that every student is different and one standard test will not serve the needs of all students. We most certainly can do better by offering a multi-faceted approach to determine a student's graduation requirements instead of standardized tests such as the Keystone Exam.

5) What is your view of plans to increase the use of computers in public schools, particularly as a way to reduce the number of teachers?

Computers are a useful and necessary tool for learning and engaging in today's world. However, I firmly believe we need to maintain a civil discourse between student and teacher which would better engage and prepare students for interactions with other people. We need more teachers, not less!

III. Budget and Taxes

1) Do you support a Constitutional Amendment to permit progressive taxation in PA, in whole or part? Explain.

Yes I support this in whole. Our current economic system benefits the wealthy only. There is no fairness in the loopholes the wealthy take advantage of. We need a more fair and equitable distribution of taxation in our Commonwealth and our Country.

2) If legal, would you support raising the tax on unearned income as a way to increase state revenue without increasing burdens on working people?

Yes, in certain circumstances. I would not support raising the tax on unearned income such as SSI, but would support it in the case of investment income, interest, dividends and capital gains.

3) What changes if any would you support in corporate net income tax levels?

I would support significant increases in corporate net income rates. The new tax law gives an unequal and unfair distribution of wealth back to to corporations through stock buy backs.

4) What changes, if any, would you support in the personal income tax?

I would support a significant increase for families with a combined income over \$450,000.

5) Do you support full elimination of the Delaware loophole?

Yes. It is an unfair advantage that regular people will never be able to take advantage of. It helps to perpetuate the uneven and unfair distribution of wealth back to the wealthiest 2%.

6) Do you support a tax on fracking, and at what level?

I do not support fracking for moral and ethical reasons. I support an excise tax that would be significant enough to stop fracking in the long run.

IV. Public Banking

Would you support the creation of a Pennsylvania Public Bank, modeled after [the Bank of North Dakota](#)? Explain.

Yes. I would most certainly support the creation of a public bank. I appreciate the Iceland model.

V. Women's Rights

1) Do you believe there should be any restrictions on a woman's right to choose? If so, what?

No. I do not believe men or people that identify as male should be making legislative decisions for females.

2) What additional protections should be enacted into law to protect women's health care?

There is so much the republican party is doing at the state level to erode and chip away at women's healthcare. We need to create laws that stop the discrimination against women and their healthcare choices, expand current health coverage and reform insurance practices.

3) Would you support proposals to ensure that women and men working in the Commonwealth receive equal pay for equal work?

Unequivocally YES!

VI. Children and Families

1) Should the state require businesses to provide paid family leave?

YES!

2) Should the state provide universal availability of affordable child care?

YES.

VII. Environment

- 1) Do you support a ban on fracking in whole or part? Explain.

Yes. I believe that we are destroying our planet at a frightening pace. I firmly believe that the oil and gas that exists in our planet is there for a reason. It isn't for our consumption.

- 2) Would you support developing the Philadelphia area as an Energy Hub? Explain.

Yes. I personally have been engaging with entrepreneurs to retrofit existing multifamily housing into solar and wind producing properties, passing the savings along to the tenant. I believe we can solarize the city by making an impact on industrial and commercial properties, eventually passing along the lessons learned from the commercial and industrial solar projects that have been in place for some time.

- 3) Do you think Philadelphia should be compelled or induced to sell PGW?

I am not sure I have enough knowledge about this topic. I would initially be against privatization but if it helped the city and the consumer I may have to agree.

- 4) What measures would you support to move PA off its reliance on fossil fuels and expand use of renewable energy sources?

I often work with EQAT and their 5 year long action to bring local green jobs to Philadelphia. They have been persistent with their message to PECO about going solar. I fully support them and will be with them this week at PECO's headquarters asking them to get with the program already!

VIII. Criminal Justice

- 1) Should marijuana be legalized in all circumstances, or for medical use? Explain.

I like to say, "#FollowColorado". As an alcoholic and addict in recovery I know that alcohol is more dangerous than marijuana. So if the Commonwealth partakes in selling it's citizens alcohol it most certainly should allow the sale of recreational marijuana. I also believe that medicinal marijuana is a natural alternative to opiate pain medications.

- 2) Should privately-owned prisons be permitted in Pennsylvania?

No. Privatization should be outlawed.

- 3) Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania?

Yes. I hope the political action committee reviewing this questionnaire can see past my arrest record.

- 4) Should PA continue to build new prisons?

No. We need more therapeutic environs not prisons.

5) Should PA begin to close prisons? Explain.

Yes. We need to begin to empower people who have made choices that were not necessarily the right choices. As someone who has lived through making the wrong choices I know what it means to have had the opportunity to finally get it right. We owe that to our fellows.

6) Do you support an end to the death penalty?

Yes. It is inhumane.

7) When if ever, should a juvenile be tried as an adult?

When the juvenile turns 18? I don't think a juvenile should be tried as an adult.

8) How would you deal with the problem of mass incarceration of minorities, particularly minority youth?

Mass incarceration is a product of white supremacy. Our culture must change and change in a dramatic way to address the ongoing racist culture we live in. Until minorities, especially youth, see that white men in power become changed, we will likely see this as an ongoing issue. It is not the fault of the minority, it is the fault of the racists and racist institutions that are maintained.

9) Should stop and frisk be limited or outlawed?

Outlawed.

IX. Campaign Finance Reform

Would you support legislation to provide public financing for state and local election campaigns?

YES! Buying elections is wrong. The public is not engaged in political discourse anymore because they know the system is rigged. They know the highest bidder will win. We must end Citizens United and end money in politics.

X. Labor

1) Should the minimum wage be increased? If so, to what level and should the increase be indexed to inflation?

Yes. \$15/hour and indexed to inflation.

- 2) Do you believe that Philadelphia and other municipalities should continue to be pre-empted from increasing the minimum wage on their own?

No.

- 3) Do you support privatization of retail liquor sales in Pennsylvania? Are there any other services that you believe should be considered for privatization?

I really do not have an opinion on liquor. If it helps the regular working class person and help increase funding for much needed services then sure. If in the long run it doesn't, then no.

- 4) Would you support legislation to strengthen protection for workers trying to form or join a union? Explain.

Yes. We must ensure that our workers have the ability to collectively bargain and strike. The corporate plutocracy has too much power as it is. We need legislators that will stand up and speak truth to power.

XI. Transportation

Currently the state constitution mandates that revenue from the state gasoline tax be spent only on roads and bridges. Would you support an amendment to the Constitution allowing gas tax revenue to be spent on public transportation?

Yes. Our public transportation situation must be modernized.

XII. Reforming Legislative Districts

- 1) Do you support SB 22 (2017), which would (1) form an independent commission, and (2) apply sound methodologies, to draw all congressional, State House, and Senate districts fairly in Pennsylvania?

YES!!! Independent commission for fair legislative districts!!!