



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

2018 Legislative Questionnaire

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CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Liz Hanbidge

Office Sought: Pennsylvania HD 61

I have read the attached questionnaire responses and certify that the information provided is accurate and the opinions stated accurately reflect my own positions.

Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____

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.

NN Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

BACKGROUND

1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held?

I have never run for and have never been appointed to public office.

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 on the Board of the Foxcroft School, where I am the Co-Chair of the diversity committee. Diversity and inclusion have always been important to me. Through all the work I complete, I try to empower people and provide them with a sense of agency. Empowerment and inclusivity are essential to my professional work and my volunteer work; they are the core values of my campaign, and they will be the core values by which I govern.

I devote significant pro-bono time to the Montgomery County Child Advocacy Project, protecting the county's most vulnerable children in the courtroom. I know that there is a need for support and advocacy for children in my county, which is why I am a child advocate.

I've seen the effects of economic disparities in education first hand. I teach civics to sixth graders at two local public schools in my district. I also do a substantial amount of community services at the MLK Rec Center in Philadelphia. My civics students have a completely different educational experience than my MLK kids. Poor academic access means these children are less likely to have good jobs and secure their economic futures. They deserve better.

The local public schools in my district are strong and are adequately funded. However, this is because local property taxes increase annually to fund our schools appropriately, placing the fiscal burden of the education system on the backs of residents in my district - rather than the state as used to be the case. One portion of my district is taxed at a significantly higher rate than the other for roughly similar schools. Of every dollar spent on public education in my district, 70 cents is paid for by local taxpayers. If we improved the way we fund education in Pennsylvania, the residents of my district could be relieved from annual tax increases, and children across Pennsylvania could be promised an education that will serve as the foundation of their futures.

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

ENDORSEMENTS: President Barack Obama, Montgomery County Democratic Committee, EMILY's List, PA AFL-CIO, AFT, UFCW Local 1776, Boilermakers Local 13, CWA Local 1300, DLCC 18 in '18, Represent PAC, Human Rights Campaign, Equality PA, Flippable, Every District, Run for Something, Planned Parenthood PA, SEPA NOW PAC, Montgomery County Women's Leadership Initiative, Montgomery County Democracy for America, Sister District, and Fight For Reform.

My path to victory is included in answer five.

5. What is your plan to win this race.

State-wide Democratic candidates won the 61st House District across the board in the 2016 election cycle. The incumbent has not been challenged by a legitimate campaign for at least two election cycles. My campaign has been a top door-knocking campaign in the State. With strong grassroots momentum propelling us at the local level, a strong field program that has us talking with voters daily, and a comprehensive communications plan, we have the infrastructure and campaign plan necessary to win.

ISSUES

Please note: Although many of the following questions may be answered “yes” or “no” you should feel free to elaborate if doing so would provide a clearer statement of your position. If you believe you do not have enough information to answer a question, or have not formed an opinion, say so.

I. OVERALL

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

1) Improving Pennsylvania’s education system and its funding structure. Pennsylvania currently ranks 47th in state spending on public education funding, putting our children, teachers, and economy at a disadvantage on the national level. We also have one of the greatest disparities in the country between our wealthiest and our poorest districts, a process by which economic inequalities become further entrenched in future generations. If we want Pennsylvania – and our economy – to thrive we need to invest in its future.

2) I want to make sure that job creation and fair wages are central to Pennsylvania’s priorities. Pennsylvania has the lowest minimum wage in the Northeast. I will work to change this. I also will fight for the hardworking men and women across Pennsylvania who not only deserve fair wages but also need access to healthcare, proper workplace protections, and a stable retirement.

3) I want to reform Harrisburg. Too many of our current legislators are preserving their political career instead of serving the needs of their constituents. These same legislators are beholden to the corporate interest and fail to advocate for the people they are supposed to serve. Day in and day out, I will work to serve the residents in my 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?

I think that the public funding of charter schools in Pennsylvania is damaging our Commonwealth's education system and its funding structure. I will not fund private charter schools with taxpayers' money, especially in so much as there is no oversight or assessment of the charter school system.

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

- 3) Do you believe public college, or community college, should be tuition free? Community College should be tuition free and we should advance legislation in Harrisburg that makes public college more affordable.

Pennsylvania has some of the highest in-state tuition in the country. We must work to reduce the cost of public college in Pennsylvania.

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

I think they should play – at most – a minimal role in evaluating curricula, schools, and students.

- 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?

We should absolutely increase the use of technology in schools to make education more accessible and to find innovative ways to prepare students for the 21st century workplace, but computers and other technology should *never* replace or reduce the numbers of teachers. We also need to instruct and train teachers on how to effectively use tech in teaching.

III. Budget and Taxes

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

Yes – we must reduce Pennsylvania's reliance on regressive taxes to fund the state budget

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. I think closing the Delaware loophole and instituting a severance tax is also necessary.

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

We should change the fixed corporate income tax to a progressive tax. I want to close any corporate income tax loopholes.

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

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

Yes

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

Yes – I would support Governor Wolf's proposed severance tax that is part of the 2018-2019 Executive Budget. I would like more information before proposing my own tax level.

7) Would you support abolition of the property tax for all or some payers? If so, which ones, and how would you replace the revenue?

I would not support the abolition of the property tax as long as it remains the primary form of education funding in Pennsylvania. I do plan to advance legislation that reforms the way that education is paid for in Pennsylvania, so that property taxes are not the main revenue source for schools in our Commonwealth.

IV. Public Banking

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

V. Women's Rights

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

No

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

As a women's right to choose becomes threatened at the federal level, it becomes even more important that we increase protections at the state level to ensure that women have the right to choose.

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

Yes

- 4) Do you support legislation to protect individuals against sexual assault?

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

I will support HB 2132

- 2) Do you support a ban on fracking in whole or part?
- 3) Would you support developing the Philadelphia area as an Energy Hub?

No

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

No

VIII. Criminal Justice

1) Should stop and frisk be limited or outlawed?

It should be outlawed.

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

I would support legislation that **bans** for-profit prisons, stop and frisk, and mandatory minimums for low-level drug possession offenses.

I will support legislation that publicly funds programs that help the formerly incarcerated re-enter society and the workplace.

3) Should marijuana be legalized for recreational use?

I would like to see comprehensive reports on the effects of recreational marijuana use where recreational use is legalized.

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

No

5) Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania?

Yes

6) Should PA continue to build new prisons?

Not in order to increase the prison population, only to ensure that the current prison population does not suffer from the damaging effects of prison overpopulation.

7) Should PA begin to close prisons? Explain.

Not if the prison population remains the same size. If we introduce legislation that helps to reduce the rate of incarceration in Pennsylvania then we should begin to close prisons.

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

Yes

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

A juvenile should never be tried as an adult.

IX. Campaign Finance Reform

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

X. Labor

1) Would you support legislation to strengthen protection for workers trying to form or join a union?

Yes

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

Yes it should be increased to \$15 and should be indexed to inflation.

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

No – municipalities should have the autonomy to enact their own laws.

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

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?

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

- 2) Would you support the reduction in size of the current PA House from 203 seats to 151 seats, as stipulated in HB 153?

I would not support the reduction in size of the current PA House from 203 seats to 151 seats. Reducing the size of the legislature undermines people's ability to accessible representation.