

2019 8th District Questionnaire - Incumbent

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Committee Name: **Friends of Cindy Bass**

Campaign Address: **P.O. Box 18906, Philadelphia, PA 19119**

CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name Cindy Bass

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: Cindy Bass Date: 1/7/2019

Fax: N/A Email: **cindy.bass@gmail.com**

Website: **cindybass.org**

Please complete, sign and return this form via email in Word format to: info@phillynn.org and mail a copy with the signature page to

Gloria Gilman
121 S. Broad St., Suite 1720
Philadelphia, PA 19107

I. INTRODUCTION

Although many of the questions in Section III below call for a simple yes or no answer, please feel free to provide an explanation for any of your choices. If you have not yet come to a final decision, or don't currently have enough information to provide an informed answer, please so state.

II. COUNCIL RECORD AND ASPIRATIONS

1. Were you lead sponsor on one or more bills of importance either to the 8th District or the City that passed Council? If so, please describe up to three that you consider the most important.

I was the lead sponsor on the Restaurant Licensing Bill, #170963. This bill addressed a significant loophole in the city and state's regulations regarding 'restaurants' that serve alcohol. This quality of life bill took aim at businesses that were essentially operating as illegal liquor stores, while pretending to be restaurants which is the license under which they operate. These predatory businesses sell products that promote addiction.

I was the lead sponsor on the RCO Protections Bill, #180295. This bill closed several loopholes in the RCO process, and now guarantees an improved zoning change notification process, protecting the community, RCO's and developers.

I was the lead sponsor on a bill passed in 2017 which provided additional financial resources to the Streets Department for traffic calming measures, including the addition of bike lanes and speed cushions.

2. We are aware that you are lead sponsor of legislation to abolish automatic real estate tax abatements for new construction, while you have supported all proposed tax abatements contained in Keystone Opportunity Zones. Both of these kinds of abatements take tax revenues away from the City and School District. Please explain your decision to support the Opportunity Zone abatements, while calling for abolition of the abatement program.

The existing tax abatements offered by the City of Philadelphia do not target the neighborhoods that are in desperate need of investment.

Opportunity Zone abatements (when properly applied) can and should be in areas with high levels of blight and which otherwise would not be considered by developers.

3. We posed the following question to you in our 2011 Questionnaire: "What do you consider to be the most important proposal(s) that you will be making in this campaign?"

a. This was your answer:

i. "The three issues that my campaign will focus on are ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION and CRIME. These are interrelated issues that must be addressed creatively and holistically. If the 8th District is to move forward, we must connect all the dots between these three issues by bringing innovation, transparency, technology and capital to the table."

b. Please explain if and how you implemented this intention.

My focus on quality of life issues has connected these three issues as well as others that have a direct impact on making the lives of Philadelphians in underserved communities whole.

4. What three things would you most want to accomplish if elected for another term?

- Continue my work in addressing quality of life issues such as blight and crime in underserved neighborhoods.

- Continue to work with the City's most vulnerable populations through various departments such as the Health Department, DHS, DBHIS, etc. This work would include working with these agencies to address the staggering poverty and resulting consequences which affect all Philadelphians.
- Continuing to fight for equity on job sites owned by the City, for participation by minorities and women.

III. YOUR CAMPAIGN

1. What endorsements have you received? N/A
2. How do you plan to win? Confidential.
3. How much money have you raised? Over \$100,000 in 2018. How much do you expect to raise? Over \$200,000 in 2019.

IV. ISSUES

A. Economic Development

Would you back legislation to:

1. Impose an impact fee on businesses failing to pay workers \$15/hr to reimburse the City for the costs of relieving poverty? Likely.
2. Take \$200 million of City pension funds now invested in the stock market to invest in neighborhood economic development projects? Likely. I'm open to discuss and consider. Would need more information.
3. Create a program to provide technical assistance and start-up funding for cooperative, worker-owned businesses? Yes.
4. Increase taxes to support City and/or School District services, and if so, which ones? Likely. FYI, during my tenure in Council I have supported all tax increases that support the Philadelphia School District.
5. Reduce taxes as an economic development strategy, and, if so, which ones? Yes. City Wage.
6. Create a commission to study the creation of a Bank of Philadelphia to hold all City deposits and invest them locally? Yes.
7. Create a system of participatory budgeting that would allow 8th District residents to control allocation of all or a portion of funds coming to the District? Possibly. I'd like to see a model of

this system and how it would work, but as an example our district was the only Council district that has had similar participatory activity, such as on the city's Rebuild program.

B. Education

Would you back legislation to:

1. Enact a plan that would help regulate charter schools by making their budgetary practices transparent, ridding them of conflicts of interest, and stopping them from cherry-picking their student bodies? If so, what would that plan look like? Yes. I would like to work with the district and other stakeholders such as the PFT to develop a plan.

2. Provide universal pre-k to all 3 and 4 year olds in the City? Yes.

3. Make the School Board an elective office, or otherwise deepen community participation in School Board appointments? I'm open to the conversation on elective vs. appointed, and have and will be open to deepening community participation, such as when I held meetings throughout the 8th district to discuss the expected changes (new school board vs. ending the SRC). I was the only member of council to have these public meetings/conversations. .

4. Compute the cost/benefit ratio for the School District of all proposed KOZ zones before they're approved by Council? Yes.

5. Increase funding for the School District? If so, please explain. Yes. I would like to increase funding for the School District. During the most recent budget discussions, I proposed a plan (Bass' Better Budget Plan) that would give additional money to the PSD by small internal cuts to city departments' spending on contracts and supplies.

C. Criminal Justice

Would you back legislation to:

1. Create an independent civilian police review board with subpoena power and the ability to suspend or fire police officers found to engage in misconduct? Possibly.

2. End the stop and frisk program? Yes.

3. Demolish the House of Corrections? Yes. FYI, I called for the demolition of this facility during budget hearings.

4. Increase post-release counseling for jobs, housing and other support services? Definitely.

5. Bar employers from denying jobs to ex-offenders without a specific job-related basis? Yes.

D. Reducing Corporate Power Over Our Politics and Economy? Yes.

Would you back legislation to:

1. Bar or limit privatization of City property and work done by City employees? More specifically are there any circumstances under which you would sell PGW? Unlikely that I would support the sale of PGW at this time.
2. Move Pension Fund investment decisions in-house? Likely, but I would need to have an understanding of investment strategy.
3. Reform PIDC, the City's main economic development funding agency, so that its Board has a majority of public and community members, rather than Chamber of Commerce appointed members? Yes.
4. Require the City to withdraw subsidies from corporations that fail to provide jobs or other benefits to City residents? Yes.
5. Publicly finance City elections? Possibly.

E. Housing

Would you back legislation to:

1. Enact a rent stabilization program? Yes.
2. End, limit or curtail Councilmanic prerogative over land disposition? Possibly. FYI, I am the only member of Council that has publicly pushed back against another district member over land disposition.
3. Enact inclusionary zoning requirements to compel inclusion of affordable units in all market rate developments? Yes.
4. Support a dedicated fund to provide technical assistance and start up funding for land trusts and housing co-ops? Yes.
5. Require the land bank to prioritize the disposition of properties for low-income and cooperatively owned developments? Yes.

F. Environmental Justice

1. Would you use the City's power of the purse to block SEPTA'S completion of a natural-gas fueled power plant in Nicetown? Yes.

2. What is your position on the proposal to build a new Liquefied Natural Gas Plant in Southwest Philadelphia? I have great concerns regarding the environmental impact on this community.

3. What will you do, or have you done, to support and promote the use of solar and other renewable energy sources in the District? I have supported and encouraged green development and will continue to do so.

4. Do you support a plan for City government or the entire City to be fossil-free by a particular date? If so, how would you accomplish those goals? I support all plans to make our city fossil free as soon as possible. I would accomplish this by working closely with environmental industry experts to determine realistic timelines and planning.

G. General Statement

Use this space to provide any further information that you would like us to consider about your candidacy, not covered by the questions above.