



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

2019 City Commissioner Candidate

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CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Office Sought: **City Commissioner**

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 2/26/19 _____

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 South Broad Street Suite 1720
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-568-4990**

BACKGROUND

1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held? [Committeeperson, Pennsylvania State Democratic Committee](#)
2. If you are an incumbent in an office for which you are seeking re-election, or if you have previously held this office, what do you consider your three greatest achievements while serving in this position? [NA](#)
3. If you are a challenger, what about your background qualifies you to hold this office? [I've been involved in the political process for 30 years. I have two degrees in government and political science related to policy and working and navigating through the legislative process. I am highly equipped with dealing with the three branches of government. I've registered over 2,700 people throughout the city, held voter registration parties in my home. I have worked on numerous campaigns as a field coordinator. I am committed to voter outreach, registration and turnout.](#)
4. Both incumbents and challengers: What three things would you most want to accomplish if elected?

Increase voter turnout, registration, voter awareness of elections and the responsibilities of the specific offices on the ballot.

ISSUES

Although many of the questions 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, please state which way you are leaning and what additional information you would need before deciding, if any.

I. Public Education

Describe what would you do to:

1. Educate the public about voting issues. **Community outreach. Educate the voters about the responsibilities of the offices on the ballot.**
2. Educate those under 18 about voting issues.
Young people view voting as not relevant to themselves. We have to change the culture. They don't see themselves represented in the elected officials or their issues.
3. Increase voter registration, particularly among high school and college students, and other traditionally under-registered groups?
Expanding the culture of voting to make it relevant.
4. Increase voter turnout, particularly among high school and college students and other traditionally low-voting groups?
Making Election Day a holiday. Early voting over several days. Explore weekend voting as an option.
5. Increase the number of people willing to serve as election staff (e.g., judge of elections) on election day?
More community outreach.
6. Assure that election staff are well educated for carrying out their duties on election day? What, if any, changes would you make to the current training program?
Have more of them.
7. Familiarize the public with the process for running for office? **We would provide a service that would educate the person about the responsibilities of the particular office.**

II. Public Communication

1. Do you think there should be a regularly maintained published schedule of meetings among the commissioners open to the public? **Yes, but with more publicity.**
2. Do you think the pros and cons of advocating for the purchase of new voting machines has been discussed and debated adequately with the public? If not, what more do you believe should have been done? **No. There should have been focus groups for the public to sample the different machines. There wasn't any public awareness and input.**
3. Would you advocate publishing the names and contact information for all committee persons online? **Yes. It's online at Committee of 70 and Philadelphia Votes.**
4. Do you think that the public should be entitled to obtain free copies of voter registration lists? **Yes, but with restricted access to avoid using it for fraudulent purposes.**

III. Voting Policies

Would you:

1. Support early voting? If so, what would you do to get this policy implemented? If not, why not? **Yes, along with the voters advocating along with us.**
2. Support voting by home computer? If so, what would you do to get this policy implemented? If not, why not? **No, because risks of voter fraud, hacking, lack of audit. Results could be manipulated. It's not user friendly for the elderly and those with disabilities. There is still a digital divide. Many people do not have computers and Internet access. The city is not wired for WiFi. Using a computer on a public network is not safe. We're warned every time we try.**
3. As you are no doubt aware, the City of Philadelphia is under a mandate to purchase and implement a voter-verifiable paper record voting system no later than December 31, 2019. What type of voting machine system do you support for the City to purchase? Please be specific and give reasons why you support this system over the other ones that are available.

I lean toward a hand marked paper ballot with the optical scanner. Most people can fill in a bubble. If the elderly or people with arthritis have trouble filling in the bubble, there should be an option to make an x. This is probably an easy accommodation to implement. The Verified Voter Foundation has deemed this option as the most secure.

4. Support voting over the course of several days? If so, what would you do to implement this policy? If not, why not? **I am in favor of extending voting periods over a few days and exploring weekends as an option as well.**
5. Do you think the office of City Commissioner should continue to be an elected one? If so, why? If not, would you have City Commissioners appointed, and by whom?
When we take away the right of the voters to choose, we are taking away democracy. There are also problems with appointments as it gives too much power to the one(s), doing the selecting. I think the people are the best to make the decision—as with other offices—when we educate them about the responsibilities of the office.
6. What system do you think should be implemented to improve the registered voter check-in system on election day? What would your plan be to implement this and when? If your plan involves the purchase of an electronic system, how do you believe that the security of the voter registration list can be maintained? **We need to bring the voting system into the 21st century. I would favor an electronic lookup providing it is not connected to the Internet because there are polling stations where the WiFi is weak or non-existent. We need to update the street lists which still include people who have long moved or passed away. This also results in composing inadequate data about voter turnout.**

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