



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

2019 City Commissioner Candidate

Prepared by: Lisa Deeley with aid from Danie Bendesky

Phone/Email: LMD@Deeleyforphilly.com (610) 639-3984

Committee Name: Deeley 15

Campaign Address: PO Box 22535, Philadelphia, PA 19110

CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Lisa Deeley

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:

**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?

I am currently the Chairwoman of the City Commissioners of Philadelphia, a position I have held since 2017. I have been a City commissioner in January 2016. Prior to that I was a committeeperson for 31 years in 56 Ward _1st Division. I also served as the city’s first Community Outreach Director in the City Controller’s office for 6 years and Outreach Director in City Council for 3 years

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?

Partnering with the Philadelphia School District on a new effort to educate students on civics and the electoral process as well as Registering college freshmen by working with local universities. I also launched a voter registration drive and absentee ballot program with the ACLU and

Philadelphia Department of Prisons to ensure that eligible inmates can exercise their right to vote. Finally, I was able to Oversee procurement of new voting machine will make it even easier for voters to cast their ballots while increasing security and voter confidence in our elections by providing paper ballots for recounts. While the process was not perfect, I was able to do so Under the time constraints set by the governor and while following the city's preset procurement. These new vote marking machines will allow for a voter verifiable secure paper while also allowing all Philadelphians to vote that same way and not forcing voters with a disability to be segregated.

3. If you are a challenger, what about your background qualifies you to hold this office?
4. Both incumbents and challengers: What three things would you most want to accomplish if elected?

I want to be able to use my knowledge of the office to ensure a smooth election in 2020 which will undoubtedly be the most important of our lifetime. I also will work to expand our efforts to register young voters both in high school and college. I look forward to launching our student poll worker initiative and on line campaign finance platform. Finally, I want work with our elected leaders in Harrisburg, from Governor Wolf to legislative leaders to members of the Philadelphia delegation, to modernize our outdated election laws. Most importantly early voting and same day registration,

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.
I will continue to attend community meeting to educate in person as well as expanding upon the online presence we have started during my tenure as Commissioner. I also started a program to educate inmates on their voting rights, creating PSA's and visiting in person to both register voters who are in prison and to help them apply for absentee ballots.
2. Educate those under 18 about voting issues.
Going to high school to teach students how to register is vital, as well as implementing new marketing tools like twitter to reach students where they live online. I also work with elementary schools bringing machines out – creating ballots that kids can vote on like Disney characters and fast food places. We have also held student council elections using the names of the students on the machines.
3. Increase voter registration, particularly among high school and college students, and other traditionally under-registered groups?

Having the office set up booths at all local colleges during their orientation to register new voters, as well as working with school's student governments to get students involved with the process on both sides. For traditionally under registered groups, I think it is vital to meet them where they are, I will continue to go into their communities and meet with the leaders that they trust to ensure they are comfortable with the process that has traditionally left them behind. I have worked with the NAACP and other elected officials filming PSA's encouraging voter engagement.
4. Increase voter turnout, particularly among high school and college students and other traditionally low-voting groups?

I think information campaigns are vital but people are the key, getting students involved with the office so they can go advocate in their communities. Partnering with Student groups on voter registration events is a wonderful way to get students to feel ownership of the process. Our office has done this in the past, resulting in record turn out among all voters especially young people but there is more work to be done and I am excited to do so.

5. Increase the number of people willing to serve as election staff (e.g., judge of elections) on election day?
I worked to give poll workers their first pay increase in decades and the new electronic poll books will allow workers to be paid much more quickly. I feel these changes will help to make the long hours that the work entails more appealing, especially in lower income communities.
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?

State law does not allow for us to make training mandatory for poll workers. We have been able to incentivize the training sessions by increasing the stipend for training to \$30. With the new technology our poll workers will have the opportunity to train two times before the November election.

7. Familiarize the public with the process for running for office?
In order to be a candidate for office you first need to obtain nomination petition signatures to have your name placed on the ballot. The process city wide can be daunting as the city is vast and each neighborhood has their own issues and complexities. Any serious candidate needs to be committed to spending time in every nook and cranny of Philadelphia getting their message out to voters. This requires a major commitment and finances.

II. Public Communication

1. Do you think there should be a regularly maintained published schedule of meetings among the commissioners open to the public?
The city commissioners hold public meetings in advance of every election. These meetings are advertised as required by law and also published on our website

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?

While I know the process was not perfect, I believe we did the best we with the hand we were dealt, between the tight time line from the Governor and having to follow the city's procurement process. We reached out to local leaders from every part of the city offering to come to their neighborhoods to explain the process and hear concerns, we also held public comment sessions on a night and a weekend to make them more accessible for the public. Ideally we would have more time to hear from every Philadelphian but it takes months to secure contracts and we wanted as much time as possible to train poll workers and the public on the new voting process. When we last got new machines in 2001, the training component lasted over a year. This current time line has us at roughly 5 months; any less than that and we are putting out elections at risk.

3. Would you advocate publishing the names and contact information for all committee persons online?
Committee person positions are elected party positions. They are unpaid positions, as a matter of personal safety I would be hesitant to publish this personal information. However, this issue would need to be addressed at the party level.
4. Do you think that the public should be entitled to obtain free copies of voter registration lists?
The public can obtain copies of voter registration lists for free

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, voting is a right and the current system makes in next to impossible for a lot of people. Hourly workers often cannot afford to take the time off and disfranchising citizens is utterly un-American. I think there are many states with wonderful early voting systems, we should do an analyses of these systems to find which is most effective then partner with legislators in Harrisburg to fight for this right. I have already started working with State Representative Jared Solomon on changes to PA Election Code.

2. Support voting by home computer? If so, what would you do to get this policy implemented? If not, why not?

My concern is that home computers are not secure, Colorado has vote by mail which has the benefits of voting on home computers (voters do not have to leave their house to exercise their right) but in a much more secure and verifiable way.

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.

The system that we decided on is a voter verifiable paper ballot and leaving a reviewable paper trail while also allowing persons with disabilities to vote with their peers. The single page system ensures that no races is overlooked; for example, if the Mayor's race and the council races are page one but Court of Common Pleas races are on pages 3, many voters will not continue past page one leaving these races to be decided by fewer people. The digital system allows for us to randomized candidate order, if a law if passed to allow this. Other system would force us to buy new machines in order to implement this must needed policy change.

4. Support voting over the course of several days? If so, what would you do to implement this policy? If not, why not?

Yes, early voting allows time for all eligible voters to participate regardless of their schedules, we need to make is as simple as possible for everyone to vote.

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?

Yes, I believe it is vital for the voting process to be independent of all other elected officials. An appointed commission would have to be appointed by elected officials and I believe voters should have a direct say.

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?

The new electronic poll book system will revolutionize voting in Philadelphia. It will also allow for same day registration, we will be able to have same day voter registration as soon as it passes in Harrisburg.