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## 2019 Council Questionnaire – Incumbent

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### CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Allan Domb

Office Sought: City Council At-Large

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: March 6, 2019

**Please complete, sign and return this form via email in Word format to:**

**[gmgilman@igc.org](mailto:gmgilman@igc.org) and mail a copy with the signature page to**

**Gloria Gilman**

**121 S Broad St, Suite 1720**

**Philadelphia, PA 19107**

### BACKGROUND

1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held, in addition to Council member?

*None.*

2. What do you consider your three greatest achievements while serving in Council?

*Bringing financial literacy and computer coding courses to schools across Philadelphia, enforcing accountability with the city's unreconciled accounts and real estate purchases and sales, and working to expand access to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). I am proud to have passed nine bills during my first term.*

3. Background and viability questions:

a. What other endorsements have you received?

*In my 2015 race, I was endorsed by the Philadelphia AFL-CIO, the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, Governor Ed Rendell, Philadelphia Gay News, Philly Set Go, and my mother, among others. I am happy to update you about endorsements I receive in this race as we work through the process.*

b. How do you plan to win?

*I plan to win by talking to Philadelphians in every corner of our city about what I was able to accomplish in my first term on City Council and how I can continue to help them in a second term. My decision making takes our city's children and grandchildren into account—I want to be able to positively impact the lives of future generations of Philadelphians.*

c. How much money have you raised? How much do you expect to raise?

*In 2018, I raised \$180,945.00, bringing the cash-on-hand total at the end of 2018 to \$272,754.06. I expect to raise at least \$500,000.*

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

*If elected to another term, I will work to make financial literacy, technology (including computer coding), and entrepreneurship courses mandatory in every Philadelphia public school. Entrepreneurship courses should be taught to students in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, and 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students should have the ability to work one day a week in a job, similarly to the Drexel co-op program.*

## 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. Economic Development

Would you:

1. Raise the City minimum wage to \$15 an hour, either directly or by imposing an impact fee on businesses paying less than \$15?

*I would consider raising the City minimum wage. However, this is not the catch-all solution to solving the issues of poverty and inequality in our city. We must make other sincere efforts to make every aspect of our city government work for its citizens. According to a Pew report from a few years ago, 78.6% of business owners in Philadelphia are white, and 10% are Asian. Only 2.4% are African American. We should be doing everything we can to empower local business ownership—and, in particular, African American business ownership.*

2. Take \$200 million of City pension funds now invested in the stock market to invest in neighborhood economic development projects?

*I would be in favor of taking \$200 million of these funds and investing them in local business and project and making sure that returns are similar or greater.*

3. Require City-funded or tax-abated projects to employ a high percentage of City resident workers, especially low and moderate income city residents?

*I would be in favor of requiring City-funded projects, at least, to employ a high percentage of City resident workers.*

4. Create a program to provide technical assistance and start-up funding for cooperative, worker-owned businesses?

*I would. I would also be in favor of creating and expanding more entrepreneurship programs as well as programs to assist local entrepreneurs.*

5. 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?

*I would need to take a closer look at this to give an intelligent and thoughtful answer.*

6. Require the City to withdraw subsidies from corporations that fail to provide jobs or other benefits to City residents?

*I would be in favor of looking at each case individually, but any corporation that fails to provide jobs or other benefits to City residents who are qualified will face scrutiny under my leadership.*

7. 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?

*Due to our fiscal pension liability of 6.1 billion, my first goal is to fund the pension and live up to the promises we made to the workers in our pension system.*

8. Sponsor and sign legislation to create a Philadelphia Public Bank?

*I would need to do more research so that I can give a precise answer and plan.*

## **II. Taxation**

Would you:

1. Increase taxes to support City and/or School District services, and if so, which ones?

*I would prefer to change the current tax system before levying new taxes on citizens. In particular, I have pushed to collect delinquent property taxes from out-of-town landlords, which would bring a lot of much-needed tax dollar power back to our city. Additionally, there are areas of waste in our city that we can reduce.*

2. Reduce taxes as an economic development strategy, and, if so, which ones?

*I would be in favor of considering this, though I would have to look at individual taxes and see what the unique impacts of reducing them would be.*

3. Support the Soda Tax? Please explain your answer.

*When the Soda Tax was introduced, it was proposed that revenue would go towards pre-K for our city's children. I personally believe that broad-based initiatives, such as the pre-K program, call for more broad-based taxes. However, if the Soda Tax is to continue, it will need to be reformed.*

4. Support the 10-year Tax Abatement Program for new development as it currently exists? If not, what specific changes would you make?

*I support reforms to the 10-year Tax Abatement Program. My vision is an abatement that stays the same for the first 7 years, and then in year 8, it declines 25%, then by 50% in year 9 and 75% in year 10, effectively making it an 8.5-year tax abatement.*

5. Bring suit to challenge the nonprofit status of the University of PA and other huge non-profits if they don't agree to make payments in lieu of taxes to the City?

*I would first prefer to work with the University of PA and other huge non-profits to try to solve this problem amicably and out of court, but I am open to working with my colleagues and constituents to find the best solution to this issue.*

### **III. Education**

Would you:

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?

*I would. Firstly, I will say that I believe that the priority of the City budget, in terms of education funding, should be the funding of our public schools. Additionally, I think that increased oversight of charter schools is necessary to improving the health of the public school system and making sure that we are treating the problems at the heart of education disparities in Philadelphia rather than their symptoms.*

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

*I would. All children in Philadelphia should have pre-K. The benefits of pre-K are undoubtable.*

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

*I need to do more research so that I can give an intelligent answer.*

4. Develop a plan to deal with the bankruptcy facing the School District due to the growth in the number of charter schools in the City, all of whose expenses must by law be paid by the District? Please explain.

*I would. This goes hand in hand with the need to implement stronger oversight of our charter schools and the funding that goes to them, but bankruptcy for the School District should be avoided at all costs, and I am committed to making sure that bankruptcy does not happen.*

## IV. Criminal Justice

Would you:

1. Grant the civilian police review board subpoena power with the ability to suspend or fire police officers found to engage in misconduct?

*I think that subpoena powers should be reserved for other entities, but I believe that we should empower the civilian police review board to do their work independently and thoroughly for the benefit of our city.*

2. Use savings from closing the House of Corrections to invest in job training programs and opportunities for formerly incarcerated people, in an effort to combat mass incarceration?

*We should cut wasteful spending our prison system. As the populations of our prisons decrease, so should the budget in this area. We should make these population declines more properly match our budget and use those saved funds to invest in job training programs and opportunities not just for formerly incarcerated people, but also people in prison and seeking re-entry.*

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

*I believe that the city should give greater incentives to businesses that hire returning citizens.*

4. End the stop and frisk program?

*I would need to do more research on this issue, though I am eager to consider ways to make sure that our citizens' constitutional rights are protected.*

## V. Housing

1. Do you think Philadelphia is facing a housing crisis? If so, why? If not, why not? What changes would you make to bring housing policy more in line with your vision?

*As development projects across the city increase, and as Philadelphia becomes more populated, we have a duty to make sure that there are affordable housing options for every citizen. Part of this solution will come with cracking down on those who owe delinquent property taxes to the city and invigorating city's economy by empowering business ownership and entrepreneurship. However, I am eager to work with my colleagues to find new ways to tackle this problem and protect the interests of Philadelphians.*

2. Would you:

- a. Enact a rent stabilization program?

*I would be interested in learning more about rent stabilization program proposals.*

- b. Enact inclusionary zoning requirements to compel inclusion of affordable units in all market rate developments?

*I need to do more research so that I can give a thoughtful answer.*

- c. Support a dedicated fund to provide technical assistance and start up funding for land trusts and housing co-ops?

*I would need to learn more about this before committing to the designation of a specific fund.*

- d. End, limit or curtail Councilmanic prerogative over land disposition?

*I recently introduced a bill to limit members of City Council to three terms. I believe this measure has the ability to curb any possible abuses of Councilmanic prerogative.*

- e. Require the land bank to prioritize the disposition of properties for low-income and cooperatively owned developments?

*I would encourage the land bank, the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, and the Vacant Property Review Committee to work together on solutions to this issue.*

## **VI. Climate Justice**

- 1. What, if anything, can the city do to address the fundamental factors driving climate change?

*One way that the city can address climate change is by significantly encouraging the use of public transit instead of personal vehicle transportation, especially in Center City. Making fares free for a wider range of young citizens has the potential to expand lifelong ridership, and subsidizing transit passes for all Philadelphia students has the potential to do the same.*

- 2. Do you support a Green New Deal for Philadelphia and, if so, what does that mean to you and what will you do if elected to City Council to implement it?

*I would be interested to see what a Green New Deal in Philadelphia would consist of. Certainly, we need to make reforms that ensure that our city allows all of its citizens to thrive while curbing Philadelphia's contributions to pollution and climate change in general.*

- 3. What is your position on the proposal to build a new Liquefied Natural Gas Plant in Southwest Philadelphia?

*I will need more time to research the potential positive and negative impacts of this proposal before firmly committing to a position.*

## **VII. Money In Politics**

In light of the recent indictments involving elected officials, what is your position on:

- a. Accepting gifts or services

*I believe that we should not encourage gifts and services to be accepted by any city officials.*

- b. Accepting donations from corporate PACs that do work for the city

*I believe that candidates and PACs should use their best judgement when it comes to potential conflicts of interest on this topic.*

- c. Public financing of city elections

*I would be interested to learn more about proposals to publicly finance city elections.*

## **VIII. 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.

*In 1976, I made Philadelphia my home and started my fight for the people of our city. Through my business, Allan Domb Real Estate, and my work on City Council, I have created thousands of jobs for Philadelphians and been at the forefront of the push to make our city the best that it can be.*

*As president of the Greater Philadelphia Association of Realtors (GPAR) in 1990 and from 2013 to 2015, I built on the individual success of my real estate business by collaborating with key stakeholders and citizens to protect the rights of property owners and invigorate the Philadelphia economy.*

*In 2015, I was elected as an At-Large member of City Council. I immediately got to work for Philadelphians by drawing on my unique experience as an accomplished real estate broker and businessman. As a councilman, I have focused on holding the city government accountable, collecting delinquent property taxes, and investing in our children and public school system. Because I believe in leading by example, I have donated my entire salary to the School District of Philadelphia every year since entering office. I have also made it a priority to develop Philadelphia into a place where local entrepreneurs can thrive and where there are growth opportunities for all.*

*As I seek a second term, I look forward to building on the progress and accountability I have fought for on City Council and to working with constituents to build a Philadelphia in which everyone can succeed.*