



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

2019 Council Questionnaire – Challenger

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CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Sandra Dungee Glenn 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: 3/6/2019

Please complete, sign and return this form via email in Word format to: 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?
 - Member, Board of Education, School District of Philadelphia (2000-2001)
 - Member, School Reform Commission (2002-2009)
 - Chair, School Reform Commission (2007-2009)
 - Member, Pa. State Board of Education (2009-present)

2. Background and viability questions:

- a. 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.)
1. Occupational Health and Safety/ Environmental Justice – Staff Member, Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health; Regional Director, New Jersey Citizen Action
 2. Voter Education/Voter Registration – Regional Director, Pa Public Interest Coalition; Pa. Director, NAACP National Voter Fund
 3. Public Education Funding and Academic Reform – Member, Phila. Board of Education; Pa State Board of Education; Senior Policy Advisor to Senator Vincent Hughes; CEO, Harambee Charter School; Member, School Reform Commission
 4. Community Economic Development and Neighborhood Revitalization – Policy Advisor to Senator Vincent Hughes; CEO, American Cities Foundation
 5. Workforce Development – CEO, American Cities Foundation
 6. Affordable Housing and Modern Day Redlining – Senior Policy Advisor, Senator Vincent Hughes

Senator Vincent Hughes; Dr. Cassandra Jones, Mr. Joseph Foster

- b. What about your background or experience do you think most qualifies you to be elected? Please attach a brief bio. **Bio is attached**
- I have been an advocate and activist for social change throughout my professional life. I have over 30 years of experience in public policy, organizing and electoral politics, holding leadership positions in each.
 - I've had experience working with a diverse cross-section of Philadelphia including labor, business, families, community activists, faith community, educators, government agencies, elected officials and community-based organizations
 - I have experience with the legislative and regulatory process at the city and state level
 - I am committed to social justice and empowering disenfranchised communities
 - I am constantly listening and learning
 - I have the ability to synthesize data, direct experience, local needs and conditions, best practices and divergent opinions to formulate a course of action that is consistent with the intended goal
 - I have a collaborative style, but I am firm in my convictions
 - I am mission driven and my mission is to move families out of poverty.

c. What other endorsements have you received? **State Senator Vincent Hughes, Councilwoman Cindy Bass, Councilman Curtis Jones, Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell, Laborers Local 332 and Laborers District Council. I am also seeking the endorsement of the PFT, Transport Workers Union, AFSCME DC 33 and 47, and 1199C, She Can Win PAC, Nexters PAC.**

d. How do you plan to win? **My campaign has an aggressive voter contact plan including digital messages, direct mail and social media to my target voters. In addition, we are gaining the support of several district council members and a network of ward leaders.**

e. How much money have you raised? **To date I have secured contributions and commitments for \$125,000.**

How much do you expect to raise? **\$200,000-250,000**

3. What three things would you most want to accomplish if elected?

Moving families out of poverty is the central priority for me. There are three core areas:

1. Growing Jobs and Businesses

- **Incentivize and accelerate the growth of businesses that are owned, operated by and employ people from the community. This will unleash new entrepreneurial talent and stimulate workforce development.**
- **Advocate for African-American businesses and other under resourced businesses, to receive their fair share of capital and contracts in government and the private sector**
- **Target Opportunity Zone investments to projects that give capital to African-American and other under resourced businesses**
- **Expand expungement programs and adult literacy so residents qualify for available jobs.**
- **Leverage our huge non-profit sector for a Service in Lieu of Taxes (SILOT) initiative to target investment in our tech and innovation start-ups in a way that gives fair access to people of color.**
- **Advocate for a living wage of \$15 per hour**

2. Investing in Children and Youth – Creating Pathways to Prosperity

- **Invest in Universal Pre-K programs and providers**
- **Advocate for adequate and equitable funding of all public schools,**
- **Connect every child and young adult with an after-school program, arts and/or recreation program, summer job, and internship opportunity**
- **Expand apprenticeship and dual enrollment collaborations between the School District, industry, community college, and our universities to directly connect students to growth industries and professions**

3. Stabilize Neighborhoods and Provide Affordable Housing

- **Stop the displacement of long-time residents from their neighborhoods by redirecting tax abatements to homeowners for home improvements**
- **Work with national organizations to stop modern day redlining of neighborhoods by banks and other lending institutions**
- **Create more public/private partnerships to build/renovate ownership and rental units for low- and moderate-income families**
- **Target the tax abatement and other incentives to the creation of workforce housing for teachers, city workers, and service workers.**

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? **yes**
2. Take \$200 million of City pension funds now invested in the stock market to invest in neighborhood economic development projects? **Yes, but I want to know what the City's Board of Pensions can do to improve returns on investment to cover the current unfunded liability**
3. Require City-funded or tax-abated projects to employ a high percentage of City resident workers, especially low and moderate income City residents? **Yes**
4. Create a program to provide technical assistance and start-up funding for cooperative, worker-owned businesses? **Yes. Incentivize and accelerate the growth of businesses that are owned, operated by and employ people from the community. This will unleash new entrepreneurial talent and stimulate workforce development.**
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? **Yes. The Board members should possess knowledge and expertise in urban planning, community development, economic development, finance, socially responsible development, and workforce development**
6. Require the City to withdraw subsidies from corporations that fail to provide jobs or other benefits to City residents? **Yes. The city usually extends subsidies as an incentive for businesses to deliver on commitments to contract with, employ or do business with people or companies that have faced past discrimination or exclusion from employment or business opportunities. If the business does not deliver as promised there should be consequences up to and including exclusion from future subsidies or contracts with the city.**
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? **Based on what I know to date, I don't think the City should sell PGW. I think the City should investigate the benefits (and costs) of leasing infrastructure as a source of revenue. I would support dedicating the revenue to improving school facilities.**
8. Sponsor and sign legislation to create a Philadelphia Public Bank? **I like the concept, but I need to know more.**

II. Taxation

Would you:

1. Increase taxes to support City and/or School District services, and if so, which ones?
2. Reduce taxes as an economic development strategy, and, if so, which ones?

Answer to #1 and #2. I support a plan put forth by Paul Levy, the African-American Chamber of Commerce and others to reduce the wage tax and business income and receipt tax (BIRT) and raise the tax on commercial real estate.

- **I support the Pa. Budget and Policy Center Fair Share Tax Plan which decreases the tax on wages and interest while increasing the tax on wealth (dividends, capital gains, royalties, etc). The Fair Share Tax Plan is estimated to produce \$2 billion in new revenue.**

3. Support the Soda Tax? Please explain your answer.
We need Universal PreK in Philadelphia if we are serious about closing the opportunity gap confronting children from poor families. The soda tax is a dedicated source of funding for PreK, so I support the Soda Tax. However, I think we need to find other revenue sources because we need more quality PreK programs.

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 reforming the tax abatement program to target home improvements for long-term residents and the creation of workforce housing for teachers, city workers, and service workers and anchor affordable, sustainable neighborhoods for seniors, low-income and working Philadelphians.**

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 don't know how strong the City's standing is for a lawsuit, but I support a PILOT program or a Services in Lieu of Taxes (SILOT) program. Under a SILOT program large non-profit entities would be required to commit to specific investments in workforce development, contracting services, and/or educational programs that benefit residents and businesses in specific zip codes.**

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? **My experience on the Board of Education, SRC and as CEO at Harambee Charter School have given me a different perspective. With over 80 charter schools in Philadelphia the quality runs the gamut from exemplary to poor. It is unfair to paint them with one broad brush, just as it is to call all traditional public schools failures. I am for cleaning up the practices in charter schools. But, I am also an unwavering advocate for equity in access and opportunity in our traditional public schools, especially our special admission schools.**

2. Provide universal pre-k to all 3 and 4 year olds in the City? **Yes, I support the goal of universal PreK for 3 and 4 year olds, but I would celebrate if we achieved universal PreK for 4 year olds.**

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

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. **The SDP will never be fiscally sound until we address the inadequate funding base caused by the Commonwealth's failure to enact a weighted fair funding formula for basic education. Yes, SDP should have a plan for charter school growth, but, City leaders need to stop treating this as two separate systems—charter and traditional schools—and instead develop a strategic plan, inclusive of alternative schools, charter schools, special admission schools, and neighborhood schools that spreads quality school options across the city. Finally, the fastest growing burden on school district budgets is pension costs.**

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? **yes**
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? **yes**
3. Bar employers from denying jobs to ex-offenders without a specific job-related basis? **yes**
4. End the stop and frisk program? **yes**

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?
Yes. Housing prices (purchase and rental) are going up faster than wages, so working class and low-income families cannot afford decent housing without sacrificing other necessities. Many families continue to be victims of racial discrimination in mortgage lending and access to home equity loans. Uncontrolled gentrification is displacing long-time residents in neighborhoods around the city.

Policy initiatives:

- **Stop the displacement of long-time residents from their neighborhoods by redirecting tax abatements to homeowners for home improvements**
- **Work with national organizations to stop modern day redlining of neighborhoods by banks and other lending institutions**
- **Create more public/private partnerships to build/renovate ownership and rental units for low- and moderate-income families**
- **Target the tax abatement and other incentives to the creation of workforce housing for teachers, city workers, and service workers.**

2. Would you:

- a. Enact a rent stabilization program? **yes**
- b. Enact inclusionary zoning requirements to compel inclusion of affordable units in all market rate developments? **yes**
- c. Support a dedicated fund to provide technical assistance and start up funding for land trusts and housing co-ops? **yes**
- d. End, limit or curtail Councilmanic prerogative over land disposition? **I do not support ending Councilmanic prerogative. Councilmanic prerogative played a very important role in the ability to secure commitments for the community and African-American businesses as part of the**

Schuylkill Yards development project. It advanced the interest of people who are often marginalized.

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

VI. Climate Justice

1. What, if anything, can the city do to address the fundamental factors driving climate change?
Climate change is a very real phenomenon. We must reduce our carbon footprint. I support the city's "Powering Our Future: A Clean Energy Vision for Philadelphia." Achieving the goal of an 80% reduction in carbon pollution by 2050 is ambitious, but important.

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? **The New Green Deal is intended to deliver on the "triple bottom line" of social impact, economic impact, and sustainability. Upgrading our infrastructure is essential, as is the use of ESCO's (Energy Service Companies) by the city and School District to identify additional ways to promote energy efficiency. Finally, Philadelphia should look at how other cities are conducting large scale home improvements that promote energy efficiency, neighborhood stabilization, and employing neighborhood contractors.**

2. What is your position on the proposal to build a new Liquefied Natural Gas Plant in Southwest Philadelphia? **I don't know enough about the project, but how does it align with reducing the carbon footprint?**

VII. Money In Politics

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

- a. Accepting gifts or services **Opposed**
- b. Accepting donations from corporate PACs that do work for the city **Neutral**
- c. Public financing of city elections **Support**

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.

I am running for City Council at-Large because Philadelphia has become comfortable with being a city of "haves" and "have nots" Our center city has benefited from a residential real estate boom and it has spread to adjacent neighborhoods. Arts, culture, tourism and entertainment sectors are growing and our "eds and meds" institutions are some of our leading employers. That's all good news. But, 26% of Philadelphians live in poverty, our high school graduation rate is less than 70%, only 25% of our residents have a college degree, and there is a 20-year gap in life expectancy between residents in poor and upper income neighborhoods. Too many Philadelphians are being left behind, and they are disproportionately people of color.

- **Yes, we need to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour**
- **Yes, we must do better at connecting people who need jobs with the right skills and then to available jobs**
- **Yes, we need quality schools and affordable housing**

But, we need more than individual programs. We need a vision.

