



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

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2019 Council C

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

CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

BACKGROUND

Candidate Name: Adrian Rivera-Reyes Office Sought: City Council At-Large

1. What, if any, elected o

I have read the attached questionnaire responses and certify that the information provided is acc
stated accurately reflect my own positions.

Answer: I have not been

Candidate Signature:

Date:

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.)

- I have been at the forefront of efforts to recruit students from diverse backgrounds to Penn Medicine.

- I was one of the co-chairs for the Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the 2017 Philadelphia March for Science. As co-chair, I helped ensure representation of people from all backgrounds, including speakers at the march.
 - I served as a labor organizer and engaged with workers to learn about their concerns and also work as a collective to gain power and ensure our rights as workers.
 - I am a cancer biologist at the University of Pennsylvania
 - Advocated before members of Congress in Washington, DC for student rights, fought against the tax overhaul, and pushed for sensible on campus sexual harassment policies for educational institutions all over the country.
 - Policy analyst for US Congressional Candidate, Dr. Molly Sheehan, for whom I did policy research on immigration in Philadelphia and H-1B visa programs and healthcare reform.
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- T.S. Karin Eisinger: Ann B. Young Assistant Professor in Cancer Research (karineis@pennmedicine.upenn.edu)
 - Molly Sheehan: Policy Analyst for her 2018 Congressional campaign (sheehan.molly@gmail.com)
 - Arnaldo Diaz: Dean for Diversity and Research Training Programs (diaza@pennmedicine.upenn.edu)

b. What about your background or experience do you think most qualifies you to be elected? Please attach a brief bio.

I was born in Puerto Rico and raised by a working-class family. From an early age I knew I wanted to make a difference in my larger community. Throughout high school and undergraduate studies, I volunteered to visit children with cancer. This experience served as my inspiration to dedicate my life to developing treatments and therapies for cancer and allowed me to obtain his Ph.D. in Cancer Biology from the University of Pennsylvania.

Not only has my work in cancer research been rewarding, but throughout my studies I became increasingly involved in the Philadelphia community. My passion for justice and equity led me to be at the center of student activism. As passionate and committed leader, I sought out to help solve the issues I and other workers face by serving as a labor organizer for Graduate Employees Together – University of Pennsylvania (GET-UP) in an effort to unionize student-workers. As a labor organizer, I engaged with workers to learn about their concerns and also work as a collective to gain power and ensure our rights as workers.

Throughout life, I have been committed to challenging the status quo through diversity and inclusion initiatives and outreach. Knowing that the best type of leadership is one where all voices are welcomed, cherished, and heard, I have been at the forefront of efforts to recruit students from diverse backgrounds to Penn Medicine. This work and my commitment to ensuring inclusion and diversity led me to become one of the co-chairs for the Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the 2017 Philadelphia March for Science. As co-chair, I helped ensure representation of people from all backgrounds, including speakers at the march.

While leading the Penn Science Policy and Diplomacy Group, a group dedicated to creating and expanding opportunities in Policy and Diplomacy for scientists at Penn, I become involved in federal and local politics. In this capacity, I have advocated before members of Congress in Washington, DC for student rights, fought against the tax overhaul, and pushed for sensible on campus sexual harassment policies for educational institutions all over the country. I also served as a policy analyst for US

Congressional Candidate, Dr. Molly Sheehan, for whom I did policy research on immigration in Philadelphia and H-1B visa programs and healthcare reform.

I'm a working-class "PhillyRican" committed to fighting for and with Philadelphians, including those, who like myself, have remained voiceless.

c. What other endorsements have you received?

Answer: 5th Square

d. How do you plan to win?

Answer: We are running a grassroots campaign that does not accept money from Corporate PACs, real estate developers and/or lobbyists. We are running an extensive yet effective field program in order to reach our goal of ~50,000 votes to win the primary. We are focusing on the following populations via direct face-to-face contact, phone banking, and advertisements. We have a list and created relationships with various communities all over the city, we have established relationships with different ward leaders and have a list of wards of interest, and we have stable and consistent social media presence and will target populations of interests via ads on social media. Additionally, we have an extensive fundraising plan that includes fundraisers and Meet and Greets in different neighborhoods around Philadelphia.

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

Answer: We have raised \$15,000 and expect to raise \$60,000

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

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!

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; if we want Philadelphians to climb out of poverty, we must not only invest in education but also in job training programs and have jobs available for folks.

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

Yes!

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!

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

Yes!

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?

Yes; I am against the privatization of City property, utilities, and work done by City employees. I would not sell PGW, but rather transform the infrastructure to use renewable energy sources and keep our energy infrastructure as a public utility.

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

Yes

II. Taxation

Would you:

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

Answer: I would eliminate the 10-year tax abatement (see below), create a vacancy tax for luxury properties and implement a high-end real estate transfer tax for properties worth more than \$5 million.

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

Answer: Tax reductions or "trickle-down" economics are not an engine for economic development. Ensuring that everyone has a good paying job with a livable wage, access to quality healthcare and education, and home in which to live, are the true drivers of an economy that works for everyone and not just a wealthy few. I do support an increase of the Homestead Tax Exemption to alleviate the tax burden on homeowners and prevent the gentrification and displacement of residents in our neighborhoods.

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

Answer: No; I support the elimination of the Soda Tax as it is a regressive tax that is further increasing the tax burden for low-income families in Philadelphia. As Dr. Song Yao from the University of Minnesota said in an independent academic study:

“First, the tax was ineffective at reducing consumption of unhealthy products. Second, in terms of revenue generation, the tax was only partly effective due to consumers substituting to stores outside of Philadelphia. Third, low income households are less likely to engage in cross shopping, and instead are more likely to continue to purchase taxed products at a higher price at stores in Philadelphia. The lower propensity for low income households to avoid the tax through cross-shopping leads to a relatively larger tax burden for those households. In summary, the tax does not lead to a shift in consumption towards healthier products, it affects low income households more severely, and it is limited in its ability to raise revenue.”

-Excerpt from the Philadelphia Citizen (<https://thephiladelphiacitizen.org/soda-tax-facts/>)

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

Answer: I oppose the 10-year tax abatement on the grounds that it has led to increased gentrification and community displacement. As a city Councilmember, I will seek to repeal it and allocate the money to our public schools and education system.

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?

Answer: Yes; I support the implementation of PILOTS for the University of Pennsylvania and other giant non-profits that own huge amounts of properties and keep gentrifying neighborhoods and displacing residents out of their homes. These institutions need to be held accountable and pay their fair share to our city, so that the tax burden does not fall on the backs of the working-poor, working-class, and middle-class Philadelphians.

III. Education

Would you:

1. Enact a plan that would help regulate charter schools by making their budgetary practices transparent, riding them of conflicts of interest, and stopping them from cherry-picking their student bodies? If so, what would that plan look like?

Answer: First, I support a moratorium on all charter school expansion. Second, I support an increase in oversight for all charter schools to ensure that resources are being invested in children from the most underserved communities, make their budgetary practices public and transparent, and eliminate conflicts of interests. Third, I support the creation of a democratically elected school board that has the power to levy taxes. To prevent conflicts of interests, no member of the democratically elected school board can be financially tied to any charter school.

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

Answer: Yes; we need to not only provide universal pre-k to all 3- and 4-year-olds in the city but also create publicly run affordable childcare centers so working families can have affordable childcare.

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.

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?

2. Would you:

- a. Enact a rent stabilization program?

Answer: I fully support the implementation of universal rent control.

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

Answer: Yes

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

Answer: Yes

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

Answer: I fully support ending Councilmanic prerogative over all land disposition.

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

Answer: Yes, use the city land bank to prioritize the construction of affordable housing and cooperative developments and also to provide zero-interest and low interest loans for Philadelphians.

VI. Climate Justice

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

Answer: Philadelphia has the capabilities to reduce significantly the amount of carbon emissions our city emits. We could start by increasing the number of protected bike lanes, banning single use plastics, and transitioning to renewable energy sources.

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?

Answer: A plank in my platform calls for the implementation of a Municipal Green New Deal. What a Green New Deal means to my campaign is that we must transition Philadelphia to democratically controlled 100% renewable energy system to meet the goal of zero-carbon emissions by 2030. To implement this Green New Deal, I will support transitioning our public transit system to use renewable energy including electric buses, nationalizing PECO into a public entity and transitioning PECO and PGW to renewable energies, recreate the city street sweeping program, end the current practice of burning 50% of the cities recyclables, and overhaul our building codes to mandate that any new buildings must be zero-carbon emitting.

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

Answer: I completely oppose to increasing fossil fuel infrastructure in our city, including the new LNG plant in Southwest Philadelphia. We should be investing in renewable energy infrastructure and transition Philadelphia to green city.

VII. Money In Politics

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

- a. Accepting gifts or services

Answer: Our elected officials should never receive free gifts or services while in office.

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

Answer: My campaign has signed a pledge to never accept any money from corporate PACS or real estate interests. We as a city should ban donations from private businesses and PAC's.

- c. Public financing of city elections

Answer: If in the future we want more working class candidates to run for office we need to implement a public financing system similar to Seattle's "Democracy Voucher" program.

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.