



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

- 1. What, if any, elected o
N/A
2. Background and viabil

Candidate Name: _____ Office Sought _____

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

Candidate Signature:

Date:

- 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 spent the past 20 year working as a mentor, teacher, dean, and coach allowing me to work directly with one of the most vulnerable demographics in our city, poor young men of color. I am currently a high school basketball coach and president of the Coaches' association. I also have taught high school and undergrad at Lincoln University. Additionally, in partnership with my childhood best friend and Vice President of District 1199c, Chris Woods, I have started a non-profit organization that serves young people and families throughout the year. Most notably we host a free basketball summer camp, the week before school begins, for kids ages 6-16. We provide lunch as well as give each camper a bookbag and supplies at the end of the week.

Additionally, I spent 2 years as the Director of Community Affairs in the City Controller's Office. With this position, I was able to travel to every neighborhood in the city and share the resources that city offers with residents. I also created a financial literacy program for high school seniors, where we partnered with bankers and non-profit organizations to host informative workshops and provide resources.

References

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

Isaiah Thomas is a dedicated public servant from northwest Philadelphia. He has committed his life to building a brighter future for all of Philadelphia.

Isaiah has worked in the non-profit, public and private sectors. He has served as an educator and Associate Dean of Students at Sankofa Freedom Academy; mentors high school students as the school's Athletic Director and Head Basketball Coach; and volunteers for organizations that advocate for communities of color, including the Mayor's Commission on African American Men and the Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia.

He is the co-founder of the Thomas & Woods Foundation, which provides free summer programs for children across the city.

Isaiah believes our city government should work for all 1.5 million residents. As the Director of Community Affairs for the City Controller, he visited every neighborhood in the city to connect people with the resources to resolve longstanding municipal service issues and the tools to strengthen their financial education.

Isaiah is a graduate of Penn State University and holds a graduate degree from Lincoln University. He lives on East Oak Lane with his wife, Klissa, and their son, Isaiah Jr.

c. What other endorsements have you received?

Union Support (so far):

Transportation Workers Union, Local 234
Laborers' District Council 21
District 1199c
Steamfitters Local Union No. 420
IATSE Local 8 PAC
Asbestos Workers PAC
International Association of Heat & Frost Insulators & Allied Workers
Plumbers Local 690

Elected Official Support for 2019 (so far):

Congressman Brendon Boyle
Senator Sharif Street
Rep. Chris Rabb
Rep. Kevin Boyle
Rep. Jason Dawkins
Rep. Isabella Fitzgerald
Rep. Jordan Harris
Rep. Morgan Cephas

Organizations

215 People's Alliance

d. How do you plan to win?

I have built a coalition of traditional support and grassroots support, that expand across every part of the city. I also have a base of votes and have shown great name i.d.. I am the only challenger who has shown they can win with bad ballot position, so my main focus is to raise money for a great media and digital plan as well as extensive GOTV operation.

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

So far we've raised about \$100,000; We are expected to raise \$250,000-\$300,000

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

- Implement the Youth Agenda (attached) which outlines the many initiatives I believe will change the lives of youth and young people. Especially, the creation of a Charter Oversight Committee that will work with retired teachers and state legislators to makes recommendation on how we better govern our charter schools
- Revamp the taxation model of the city. Our current system does not work for anyone and we must begin to implement smarter and more well-thought out taxes that make the rich pay their fair share, and stop charging the poorest in our city.
- Lastly, we need to address the great gun violence that has plagued our city. If elected I would push for the Mayor's fund and other profit - generating projects like Made in America to give \$1 million each to grassroots organization that work to stop gun violence.

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. Philadelphia is one of the only cities where you can work 2-3 jobs and still live in poverty. We need to increase wages to match the great economic boom our city is currently undergoing.

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

No. While I do believe we need to find funding for our economic development, but we need to find additional sources to achieve this goal. Our current city pension is already at thin hairs and close to collapse, which will affect the future of our city greatly. If we were to even just clean up the waste that exists in our city budget and make our systems more efficient we can save great resources and directed them to communities that need it.

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. As stated before Philadelphia is certainly going through an economic boom, that is attracting a great deal of outside interest. However, we cannot allow this growth to exile long term residents. If we mandated this initiatives companies would contribute to the city in various levels that show they are truly invested.

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

Yes, we need to do more to support small-owned businesses, as they too are employers and provide essential services to our communities.

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, it is completely unfair for those member of the chamber to also make the rules for members of the chamber. This system needs to made less biased and stop favoring large corporations.

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

Yes, as stated before we cannot allow big industries to move out lifelong residents of our 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?

Yes and No.

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

I would sign the legislation, however, I feel there is more pressing legislation that I would like to focus on if elected.

II. Taxation

Would you:

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

No, I would end the abatement to get the percentage back to the schools.

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

Yes, as stated before our city needs to completely revamp our tax code.

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

I believe the soda tax needs to be ended or drastically changed, as it currently hurts the populations it was designed to help.

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

No, as stated, I would give the percentage back to the schools and work with professionals and economist to phase out the rest of the tax making sure to not put the city in further financial straits .

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?

No.

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?

Yes, the very first initiative I would introduce is a charter oversight committee made up retired teachers and state legislature to create guidelines for how we govern charter schools.

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

Yes.

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.

Yes, one aspect that will certainly be addressed by previously mentioned committee will be reorganizing the funding as to not the pit charters and public schools against one another.

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 our city is facing a housing crisis, a lot of which stems from the extreme taxes we place on homeowners, especially long time homeowners.

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?

No, I would support legislation to make the buying process a bit more transparent, however I would seek to end it completely.

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

Ye

VI. Climate Justice

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

We can direct more resources in research and initiatives that can make our city greener.

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?

Yes, I will support any legislation that looks to protect the future of our city.

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

4.

I feel it is unsafe and will only benefit the wealthy owners who do not pay any taxes but remain to poison our residents.

VII. Money In Politics

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

- a. Accepting gifts or services
These actions are against the code of ethics so I would not accept.
- b. Accepting donations from corporate PACs that do work for the city
Corporations are not allowed by law to give in city elections.
- c. Public financing of city elections
No, the City has way too many pressing issues to put resources into a system that clearly needs to be fixed.

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.