



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

2019 Council Questionnaire – Challenger

Prepared by: Fernando Treviño Phone/Email: 267-226-3309 Fernando@FernandoForPhilly.com

Campaign Manager: Dan Siegel Phone/Email: 267-625-1529 Dan@ThemisStrategies.com

Committee Name: Friends of Fernando Trevino

Campaign Address: P.O. Box 22381, Philadelphia, PA 19110

Fax: N/A Email: Info@FernandoForPhilly.com Website: www.FernandoForPhilly.com

CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Fernando Trevino

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.

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?

- Elected:

-None. First Time Candidate.

- Appointed:

-Member of the National Advisory Board. Institute of Mexicans Abroad.

-Deputy Executive Director, Mayor’s Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs.
Philadelphia. PA.

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.)

-Comprehensive immigration reform, ACA, and empowerment of Latino voters.

State Director of Democracia USA (501c3) / Democracia Ahora (501c4)

Reference: Miguel Concepcion. miguel@concepcionllc.com

-Language access, sanctuary city, and immigrant Integration policies.

Deputy Executive Director, Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs

Reference: Jennifer Rodriguez. rodriguji@yahoo.com

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 a middle-class family in Mexico and I'm a proud product of public education. I have been an activist and organizer since I was 17 years-old. Thru my career I have seen first-hand the human cost of failed policies and have defended the rights of immigrants and worked with underrepresented communities. I have experience in government, political campaigns, and non-profits.

Bio attached.

c. What other endorsements have you received?

-Hispanic Caucus of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party

-Occupy Democrats

-Second Generation PAC

-Judge Nelson Diaz, former candidate for Philadelphia Mayor.

-Rich Negrin, former Philadelphia Managing Director and former candidate for Philadelphia DA.

-Individual leaders of "Democratic Jewish Outreach Pennsylvania". (Federal PAC that doesn't endorse local candidates as organization).

-Leaders representing Latin-American, African, Western European, and Asian communities.

d. How do you plan to win?

Mobilizing the coalition that I have worked with for 18 years. Latinos and immigrant communities, complemented by highly educated voters (who data shows are more likely to move when hearing my immigrant story) and a number of local African-American communities.

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

\$45,000 raised. Expect to raise \$145,000 total.

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

-Improved public education with short term, tangible solutions.

-Invest more in municipal services to fix our crumbling streets and have safer, cleaner neighborhoods.

-Support neighborhood economies, workers' rights, and a living wage of \$15 an hour.

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?**
I'm leaning yes, but I would need to review an updated cost-benefit analysis of transferring the \$200 million, before before deciding.
- 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
- 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'm leaning yes, but the reform would have to require the public or community members that are selected to have experience with economic development.
- 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
- 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?**

YES, but before discussing changes to our current tax system, it is imperative that we acknowledge the poor job that the City is doing collecting taxes and running an efficient government. Every conversation about changing our tax system and implementing new or changing current taxes, must be joint by a conversation on how to be more effective enforcing out tax code and administering our budget. Currently the city is leaving over \$500 million on the table as a result of poor tax collection, mainly from out of town landlords. A potential solution is to contract the debt to secure at least a portion of the tax not being collected.

With that said, in addition to advocating for changes in the 10-year tax abatement and, as councilmember, I will support the increase of the Use and Occupancy tax to 1.5%, enact PILOTS for large non-profits, and restore the Business Income and Revenue Tax (BIRT) to pre-2018 cut levels.

The revenues generated should be directed to build more affordable housing and the trust, fix our crumbling schools, and invest in much needed municipal services like street pavement and trash collection.

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

I'm leaning yes on reducing the wage tax, but would need to review budgetary implications before deciding.

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

No, not as it is currently implemented.

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

I would implement a modernized, tiered tax-abatement system. Need additional information before deciding a final structure, but I'm leaning for a program that supports first time buyers looking for properties valued less than \$300,000 and ends the 10-year abatement for properties valued over \$700,000.

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 not bring a suit, but would advocate to enact PILOTS for large non-profits.

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. I would include these elements as part of the required conditions that an applicant must meet during the application process.

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.**

I would develop a plan to deal with the bankruptcy facing the School District that includes stricter accountability processes and oversight from council over all elements causing the crisis, not only the growth in the number of charter schools.

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?**

Philadelphia is facing a housing crisis because every day it becomes more difficult for a low-income family to become homeowners. While high-end apartments buildings, houses, and condos are gentrifying neighborhoods at a record pace, affordable housing has been forgotten and neglected by the city.

When elected to City Council I will advocate to increase City funds for affordable housing and support the poorest Philadelphians. I will also propose a tiered, tax-abatement system that supports first time buyers looking for properties valued less than \$300,000 and ends the 10-year abatement for properties valued over \$700,000.

- 2. Would you:**

- a. Enact a rent stabilization program?**

I'm leaning yes, but I would need to review an updated cost-benefit analysis before deciding.

- 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?

YES

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

YES

VI. Climate Justice

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

In the short term the City should create a public-private partnership to modernize PGW's infrastructure, which is decades overdue for replacement. This would allow the necessary investment for PGW to reduce emissions and accidents.

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'm leaning yes but need additional information before deciding. In the meantime, I would support a participatory study to formulate a local Green New Deal energy plan, that includes a transition to greater residential and commercial energy efficiency and implements stricter regulation for lead control, create unionized jobs, and mandates the school district to invest the necessary funds to guarantee lead-free schools.

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

I'm against it.

VII. Money In Politics

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

a. Accepting gifts or services

I'm against it. I would ban all gifts and services.

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

I'm against it, if everyone plays by the same rules.

c. Public financing of city elections

I'm in favor, this would help working class and middle class folks who run for office.

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.

Our elected officials lack a sense of urgency because there is a general sense that things are going well enough for everyone. They're not, at least not in every part of the city. I will work with my colleagues in city council, with advocates, and Philadelphians across the city to make sure that access to education, jobs, and affordable healthcare are available to every Philadelphian, not just the lucky few.

In a city as strong and as proud as Philadelphia, we shouldn't have to choose who succeeds and who gets left behind. I believe we can build a city that lifts everyone up We can do that by identifying broad, big-picture

priorities and, at the same time, working on short-term, tangible solutions that have an immediate impact improving the lives of all Philadelphians.

As a council member, I will bring the passion and sense of urgency that our city deserves. I have the experience and expertise to build coalitions and partnerships, to seek solutions beyond our city boundaries, and stand up to those who want to slow us down.