

2019 8th District Questionnaire - Challenger

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Prepared by: ___Greg Paulmier_____ Phone/Email: __gregbpaulmier@gmail.com

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Committee Name: ___Greg Paulmier for City Council_____

Campaign Address: ___221 Winona Street Philadelphia Pa
19144_____

CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name _Greg Paulmier_____

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: ___Greg Paulmier_____ Date: ___5/27/19_____

CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name _greg paulmier_____

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: __Greg Paulmier_____ Date:
__5/30/19_____

**Please complete, sign and return this form via email in Word format to:
info@phillynn.org and mail a copy with the signature page to**

**Gloria Gilman
121 S. Broad St., Suite 1720
Philadelphia, PA 19107**

I. INTRODUCTION

Although many of the questions in Section III 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, or don't currently have enough information to provide an informed answer, please so state.

II. BACKGROUND

1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held? 12th Ward Democratic Leader, 23rd division Democratic Committeeperson
2. With respect to your other qualifications for the office of 8th District Council member: Housing specialist employing young men from the community to renovate and restore houses, renting and selling those houses to low and moderate income families. Starting a Habitat for Humanities affiliate with a fellow alumni from Germantown Friends School in the same neighborhood where I've been privately developing

real estate, cleaning and fencing vacant lots, planting street trees, putting down sidewalks, closing three nuisance bars, bring a law suit against the City of Philadelphia to save a neighborhood playground, having the first black chartered boys club recognized by the State of Pennsylvania as an historical site and organizing neighbors to stand in the street at Hansberry and Wayne Avenues to have a traffic light installed so that children and families could cross the street safely, all in the immediate community where I've lived in for 60 years.

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.)

Board member of Metropolitan Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Central Germantown Council, Westside Neighborhood Council, Neighbors Community Program, Hansberry Community Garden, Coalition to Save 20th Street, Parents United for Better Public Schools, Henry Home School Association, Neighbors Against the Gas Plant, Central Germantown Council, Wissahickon Boys and Girls Club board member, Metropolitan Boys and Girls Clubs of Philadelphia board member and founding board member of Habitat for Humanity Germantown.

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

I am a 60 year resident of Germantown, graduated from Germantown Friends School, attended Temple University, Philadelphia Collage of Textiles, and Community Collage of Philadelphia. Sold Real estate for Elfant Wissahickon Realty for 12 years and personally renovated 20 houses while creating jobs and low-income home ownership and or low-income rental housing for neighbors in Germantown.

Through our Germantown Habitat for Humanity organization we renovated another 18 houses for low-income home ownership in Germantown. I created a non-profit corporation called Value Through Labor that created jobs cleaning and fencing vacant lots, planting street trees and putting down side walks to support the occupied Habitat houses on Morris Street, Queen Lane, Penn Street and Pricilla Street.

Organized neighbors in Pulaski Town and worked with District Attorney to close 3 nuisance bars in the neighborhood.

Past member of City wide public Home and School Association, founding member Parents United For Public Schools as well as testified on behalf of public schools before SRC many times.

I was a Democratic Committeeperson in the 12th Ward 23rd division for 40 years. 12th Ward Democratic Leader for 25 years. Married 25 years with 3 children, an organic blueberry farmer in Maine for 40 years, 30-year member of Weavers Way Food Co Op, life long member of Religious Society of Friends. Ran three times as a Democratic for the 8th district City Council office finishing second each time except when present 8th district Councilperson challenged my nomination petition all the way to the State Supreme Court where I was able to win and change the law in Pennsylvania. Bought a lawsuit against the city of Philadelphia under the Public Trust Doctrine to save the first black-chartered public playground (Wissahickon) in the country located in Germantown. Lost the suit because Lawyer filed suit late and not because merits of the case (see Sam Stretton).

c. What other endorsements have you received? Philadelphia Daily News; Democratic Party of Philadelphia

d. How do you plan to win? Find supporters who will match my \$50,000 contribution and by asking voters to support me by knocking on doors, visiting train stations, riding the 23-bus route, direct mail and other

media outlets. Running as an Independent will give me a head to head race with the incumbent thus voters will not be divided by a third party.

e. How much money have you raised? How much do you expect to raise? I've raised \$50,000. I hope to raise another \$50,000. Totaling \$100,000

3. What three things would you most want to accomplish if elected? Public, hearings on City Councils own budget each year, create a district that is an example for the entire city of Philadelphia i.e.: Where good public schools prevail and are connected to the public recreation centers in the community, renovate as many abandon houses as possible while creating jobs and low and moderate housing for neighbors. I will make sure the remaining Germantown Settlement buildings get sold to the tenants living in them and or get turned over to PHA and remain low income housing.

III. ISSUES

A. Economic Development

Would you back legislation to:

- Impose an impact fee on businesses failing to pay workers \$15/hr to reimburse the City for the costs of relieving poverty? Yes
- Take \$200 million of City pension funds now invested in the stock market to invest in neighborhood economic development projects? Yes
- Create a program to provide technical assistance and start-up funding for cooperative, worker-owned businesses? Yes
- Increase taxes to support City and/or School District services, and if so, which ones? Tax Non Profits Liability insurance, Tax Professional sports team Tickets, Demand an elected school board that would than have taxation authority.
- Reduce taxes as an economic development strategy, and, if so, which ones? Lower real estate taxes on the low-income homeowners in the city.
- Create a commission to study the creation of a Bank of Philadelphia to hold all City deposits and invest them locally? Yes
- Create a system of participatory budgeting that would allow 8th District residents to control allocation of all or a portion of funds coming to the District? Yes buy holding quarterly Town Hall meetings throughout the 8th district.

B. Education

Would you back legislation to:

- 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 am opposed to Charter Schools and would require them to be audited as often as possible by our city controller. I would also require Charters to educate the children and families in their surrounding neighborhoods.

- Provide universal pre-k to all 3 and 4 year olds in the City? Yes but not by taxing soda but rather buy taxing professional sports team tickets and or cable TV.
- Make the School Board an elective office, or otherwise deepen community participation in School Board appointments? Yes, make the school board elected rather than appointed so that they have the power of taxation in order to provide the necessary funding to reduce class size, increase teacher salaries and improve school facilities.
- Compute the cost/benefit ratio for the School District of all proposed KOZ zones before they're approved by Council? Yes
- Increase funding for the School District? If so, please explain. See answer above.

C. Criminal Justice

Would you back legislation to:

- Create an independent civilian police review board with subpoena power and the ability to suspend or fire police officers found to engage in misconduct? Yes
- End the stop and frisk program? Yes
- Demolish the House of Corrections? Buy in large I am against demolishing any buildings in our City but for renovating and reuse. This approach is both more efficient and creates jobs.
- Increase post-release counseling for jobs, housing and other support services? Yes
- Bar employers from denying jobs to ex-offenders without a specific job-related basis? Yes

D. Reducing Corporate Power Over Our Politics and Economy

Would you back legislation to:

- 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? I am against the sale of all city owned and public spaces. And very much against the sale of PGW
- Move Pension Fund investment decisions in-house? Yes Pension fund should be required to be invested in the City of Philadelphia only.
- 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
- Require the City to withdraw subsidies from corporations that fail to provide jobs or other benefits to City residents? Yes
- Publicly finance City elections? Yes, and extending the self insurance the City already use for all of its automobiles i.e. Police, Fire, Water company, PGW etc. to the City Tax payers for a small fee.

E. Housing

Would you back legislation to:

- Enact a rent stabilization program? Yes
- End, limit or curtail Councilmanic prerogative over land disposition? Yes,
- Enact inclusionary zoning requirements to compel inclusion of affordable units in all market rate developments? Yes, require that all new development have an equal amount of low income housing to housing purposed.
- Support a dedicated fund to provide technical assistance and start up funding for land trusts and housing co-ops? Yes
- Require the land bank to prioritize the disposition of properties for low-income and cooperatively owned developments? Yes

F. Environmental Justice

- Would you use the City's power of the purse to block SEPTA'S completion of a natural-gas fueled power plant in Nicetown? Absolutely and require that PGW not provide gas but instead develop solar and wind powered energy plan for the near future. Also lobby State Government to institute legislation that encourages moving toward Green power oppositions.
- What is your position on the proposal to build a new Liquefied Natural Gas Plant in Southwest Philadelphia? Against it.
- What will you do, or have you done, to support and promote the use of solar and other renewable energy sources in the District? I've been a member of the Solar Energy C Op of Mt. Airy and a member of Neighbors Against the Gas plant in Nicetown since it began working closely with Lynn Robinson.
- Do you support a plan for City government or the entire City to be fossil-free by a particular date? If so, how would you accomplish those goals? I would institute a carbon tax and create incentives for business and residents to move toward Green power creating grants and low interest loans for such.

G. 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.