



## 2020 Legislative Questionnaire

Prepared by: Malcolm Kenyatta

Phone/Email: 267-574-2264;malcolmforpa@gmail.com

Campaign Manager: Matthew Daggett

Phone/Email: 215-696-0291;matt@mddconsulting.org

Committee Name: Malcolm for PA

Website: www.malcolmforpa.com

Campaign Address: P.O. Box 3254 Philadelphia, PA 19103

### CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Malcolm Kenyatta

Office Sought: **State Legislator**

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:

Please complete, sign and return this form via email in Word format to [info@phillynn.org](mailto:info@phillynn.org) and mail or fax a copy of the signature page to:

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

215-568-4990  
(fax) 215-925-3748

**BACKGROUND– PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR CURRICULUM VITAE AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:**

1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held, including the one you're seeking? State Representative, Government LGBTQ Commission and Governor's suicide prevention task force.

2. If you have previously held a government office:

a. What are the primary issue areas in which you were involved?

b. What committees, caucuses or working groups have you served on?

Sec of State Gov Committee, Chair of Subcommittee of Automation and Technology, Commerce Committee, Liquor Control Committee, Tourism & Recreational Development Committee, Chair of Subcommittee on Travel Promotion, History and Heritage.

I was the first man to be elected to serve on the NOW board's Philadelphia chapter.

I also served as a coordinator at the Graduate Medical Education Department at Hahnemann University Hospital and as the diversity and inclusion engagement coordinator for The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia. He is also a certified anti-bias trainer with the Anti-Defamation League.

3. What community or policy issues have you worked on, and in what capacity, outside of government? (Please provide the names of two or three individuals who can provide information about your previous work.)

Tanya Bah, Wade Albert (Liberty City)

4. Please provide copies of all your significant campaign materials, including position papers, and information on your campaign strategy, expected funding sources, and endorsements.

5. What is your plan to win this race. Today we received unanimous support from our ward leaders. We will have a very large and organized canvassing operation.

**ISSUES**

**Please note: Although many of the following questions may be answered “yes” or “no” you should feel free to elaborate if doing so would provide a clearer statement of your position. If you believe you do not have enough information to answer a question, or have not formed an opinion, please say so.**

## **I. OVERALL**

What would be your three highest priorities as a legislator? Explain.

Mental health care, gun violence reduction and poverty reduction.

## **II. Education**

- 1) Do you believe public college, or community college, should be tuition free?  
Yes.
  
- 2) What role do you believe standardized tests should play in evaluating teachers, schools and students, if any? There is a role for testing in general, but we have been over weighted where teachers are teaching a test. I believe parents should be allowed to opt out and we need more holistic ways to judge student progress.
  
- 3) What factors do you believe should be considered in determining *overall levels* of school funding in the Commonwealth, and funding *per school district*?  
Im supportive of a fair funding formula that is fair. We need to remove the “hold harmless” provision from the formula and make sure every dollar goes through that formula.
  
- 4) Approximately 33% of Philadelphia students are enrolled in charter schools. What is your position on the expansion of charter schools? Should they be given public money via vouchers or similar programs (like ESAs)? What role do you think public schools play in our city?  
There should be a moratorium on charter schools, and we should focus on funding public schools.

## **III. Budget and Taxes**

- 1) Do you support a Constitutional Amendment to permit progressive taxation in PA, in whole or part?  
Yes, in whole.

- 2) Would you support raising the tax on unearned income as a way to increase state revenue without increasing burdens on working people? Yes. And we should have done this a long time ago.
- 3) What changes if any would you support in corporate net income tax levels? Chris Rabb has a tax reform bill that I am one of the first cosponsors on and it would get rid of the uniformity clause and we need to change as a whole the way we do taxation in Pennsylvania.
- 4) What changes, if any, would you support in the personal income tax? I think there is room for a modest increase for PIT, but I want to see comprehensive reform. I don't want just middle class to pay a little more while folks who are wealthy enough to have a good tax attorney to avoid paying more.
- 5) Do you support full elimination of the Delaware loophole? Yes
- 6) Do you support a tax on fracking, and at what level? Yes. The devil is in the details, I would want to see a particular proposal.
- 7) Do you support the Keystone Opportunity Zone program? Would you introduce legislation to eliminate it, or to limit the number of times a parcel's KOZ designation can be renewed or extended? More generally, do you support tax breaks to lure or retain businesses? Yes, but with some hesitation, I think the KOZs have been used in a way that often props up bad business, it should help low income and minority communities. My issue is with implementation that we should have more targeted investments in communities that need it the most.

#### **IV. Public Banking**

Would you support the creation of a Pennsylvania Public Bank, modeled after [the Bank of North Dakota](#)? Yes

#### **V. Women's Rights**

- 1) Do you believe there should be any restrictions on a woman's right to choose? If so, what? No

- 2) What additional protections should be enacted into law to protect women's health care? It should be enshrined in the constitution.
- 3) Would you support proposals to ensure that women and men working in the Commonwealth receive equal pay for equal work? Yes
- 4) Do you support legislation to protect individuals against sexual assault? Yes

## **VI. Children and Families**

- 1) Should the state require businesses to provide paid family leave? Yes
- 2) Should the state provide universal availability of affordable childcare? If yes, how would you achieve this? Yes, by having comprehensive tax reform to allow us to have the revenue to give us the funds we need. The governor has also rolled out a proposal of universal pre-k which I support.

## **VII. Environment**

- 1) What measures, if any, would you support to move PA off its reliance on fossil fuels and expand use of renewable energy sources? The governor's commitment to join RGGI is an important step. I'm also supportive of Chris Rabb's bill to get us off fossil fuels by 2050. Also, I have been consistent on my commitment to put a moratorium on natural gas wells.
- 2) Do you support a ban on fracking in whole or part? I support a moratorium.
- 3) Do you think Philadelphia should be compelled or induced to sell PGW? No
- 4) The Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce advocates converting Philadelphia into an "energy hub" for oil and natural gas, or the "Houston of the East Coast." Do you agree or disagree with this vision? Disagree
- 5) What, if any, other measures would you support to preserve or improve our environment? (water issues, park preservation, detoxification of school buildings, etc.) I have been focused on environmental justice. I've been researching a bill that would make the office of environmental justice permanent and give them authority in the permit process and to stand up industries that pollute black, brown, and poor communities. These communities are currently and will be most impacted.

## VIII. Criminal Justice

- 1) Should stop and frisk be limited or outlawed? Outlawed
- 2) How would you deal with the problem of mass incarceration of minorities, particularly minority youth? Continuing to lead the fight for that whether its making sure they are treated with respect and whether they can have a job as returning citizens. We also need to get rid of the prison industrial complex.
- 3) Should marijuana be legalized for recreational use? Hell yes.
- 4) Should privately-owned prisons be permitted in Pennsylvania? No
- 5) Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania? Yes
- 6) Should PA continue to build new prisons? No
- 7) Should PA begin to close prisons? Explain. We already have and we should keep moving in that direction.
- 8) Do you support an end to the death penalty? Yes
- 9) When if ever, should a juvenile be tried as an adult? Never. Their brains are not fully formed at those ages.
- 10) As a general matter, what do you think the state can do to reduce the murder rate in Philadelphia, while maintaining respect for civil liberties and the overall need for decarceration of our city? There are a number of things, I helped lead the fight for a special session on gun violence. I spent a week in Harrisburg and the Speaker and Gov refused to act unfortunately. There are 23 bills I am supporting to eliminate gun violence in a number of ways including banning assault weapons, lost and stolen reporting etc. The root causes for a lot of these acts is deep poverty and I believe that is the moral and economic issue of our time.

## **IX. Campaign Finance Reform**

Would you support legislation to provide public financing for state and local election campaigns? Yes

## **X. Labor**

- 1) Would you support legislation to strengthen protection for workers trying to form or join a union? Yes
  
- 2) Should the minimum wage be increased? If so, to what level and should the increase be indexed to inflation? Yes. I have been supportive to \$15 and I am starting to believe it is too low. We need to remove the prohibition of local municipalities from going higher because \$15 in Philly is different than \$15 in Scranton.
  
- 3) Do you believe that Philadelphia and other municipalities should continue to be pre-empted from increasing the minimum wage on their own? See above.
  
- 4) Do you support privatization of retail liquor sales in Pennsylvania? Are there any other services that you believe should be considered for privatization? No
  
- 5) Philadelphia remains the most impoverished major city and about 75% of our residents lack bachelor's degrees. What policies would you implement to ensure that decent, high-paying jobs created here are accessible to the majority of our population, not just the relatively well-educated and already well off? As vice chair of the Philly delegation I'm proud we put together a comprehensive plan on reducing a poverty and deep poverty. College should be more affordable, but we realize it isn't the only way, we should see diversification in our unions and to broaden unionization. Evidence supports unions increase and so does pay and benefits for all. If the opposite happens, wages drop, and benefits disappear. Everyone should have an opportunity to take care of themselves and their families.

## **XI. Reforming Legislative Districts**

- 1) Do you support legislation that would (1) form an independent commission, and (2) apply sound methodologies, to draw all congressional, State House, and Senate districts fairly in Pennsylvania? Yes, and I have been a champion for that in the State Government Committee where a bill for this is right now.

## **XII. Public Health**

Would you support state legislation to create a single-payer system in PA?  
I'm really happy that we did the state exchange, and I believe it will reduce costs. But I believe a truly effective way to reform HC is from the federal government. It is easy to say yes but I don't think our state is in a place to make the reformation a lot of us want to see.