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## 2020 Legislative Questionnaire

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### CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name:

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: \_\_\_\_\_

2/13/20  
~~2/18/20~~

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  
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1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held, including the one you're seeking?

*I am a first-time candidate seeking elected office in PA's 188th house district.*

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?

*N/A*

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.)

*I have organized around the issues of criminal justice, public education, housing and more since 2016. In 2016 I joined Reclaim Philadelphia and have served as a full-time organizer since 2017. I was a founding member of the participatory defense hub, a community resource in West Philadelphia that assists families with loved ones going through the criminal justice system. I was the West Philadelphia field organizer for Larry Krasner in 2017, and I also convened the DA accountability table after the election to hold him accountable to his campaign promises. In 2019 I organized the first election process around Judges and held the first Judges forum with over 300 people in attendance. I convene the Judge Accountability Table (JAT) which works to co-govern and hold judges accountable. Through this work I have worked extensively with Amanda McMill Murray, Sean Damon, and Saleem Holbrook.*

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

*Attached to this questionnaire is a 3-page summary of the campaign.*

5. What is your plan to win this race.

*We plan to win this race by out-raising and out-organizing all of our opponents, and by building a grassroots movement of supporters to win the 188th district. Already we have received more contributions than any candidate to ever run in the 188th district, and we have a volunteer program that had over 60 volunteers out collecting petition signatures. We plan to doorknock at least 35,000 doors in the district to win a minimum of 6,000 votes on election day. We are currently the only campaign in the race with a volunteer voter contact program, and we are building out a infrastructure to knock every division in the district and cover every polling place on election day. We have currently raised over \$70,000 from over 900 contributions, we believe we have raised the most money, however we are not definite because all our opponents have failed to file campaign finance reports.*

## 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.

*My top three priorities are Criminal Justice, Public Education, and Housing. In West Philadelphia these three issues intersect at every level. In the past 10 years, several schools including West Philadelphia High School have been closed down and converted into luxury condos. Rent goes up and up while our wages stay stagnant. Additionally our public schools are in crisis and terribly underfunded. Schools in the 188th district are struggling to stay afloat and are at risk of shutting down or being forced to convert to a charter school. Robust high quality education is a right which must be afforded to every child in Pennsylvania no matter their zip code or their income. These issues lead to the criminalization of poverty in Philadelphia, our young people don't have afterschool programs, and are profiled and targeted by police for existing in public spaces. Our neighbors who have been kicked out of their homes and are now living on the street are criminalized and treated with disdain by our justice system. I believe we must transform our criminal justice system and divert people away from the system as much as possible. I support ending life without parole, ending cash bail, and ending the death penalty.*

### II. Education

- 1) Do you believe public college, or community college, should be tuition free?

*Yes, I believe every person should be able to go to college without going deeply into debt.*

- 2) What role do you believe standardized tests should play in evaluating teachers, schools and students, if any?

*I do not believe standardized tests are an accurate method to evaluate teachers, schools, and students. The tests are often biased and do not take into account different populations and different experiences throughout Pennsylvania.*

- 3) What factors do you believe should be considered in determining overall levels of school funding in the Commonwealth, and funding per school district?

*I believe that school funding should be determined by need and prioritize equity across the commonwealth. It is unjust and immoral that we fund schools based on property taxes that resegregate our students based on their families income and where they live. A child in a Philadelphia public school receives half the investment as their counterparts in Lower Merion or other neighboring school districts. We must ensure that our budget fully funds our schools and provides the resources for every school based on population and the work needed to ensure our schools are safe and healthy spaces for our children, teachers, and school workers.*

- 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?

*I believe in a full moratorium on charter schools in Philadelphia, furthermore Charter schools should not be given public funding as they are not accountable to public scrutiny or state-wide requirements. Charter schools are a band-aid to a systemic problem of underfunding. We must expand funding for our public schools and ensure Charters are accountable to the state. I support heavily investing in rebuilding our public schools and expanding the breadth of resources our public schools have to offer to students, families, and their communities.*

### **III. Budget and Taxes**

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

*Yes, I support an amendment to allow Pennsylvania to implement a progressive tax system that forces the wealthy and corporations to pay their fair share.*

- 2) Would you support raising the tax on unearned income as a way to increase state revenue without increasing burdens on working people?

*Yes, I support a Pennsylvania wealth tax.*

- 3) What changes if any would you support in corporate net income tax levels?

*I support raising corporate income tax levels in Pennsylvania.*

- 4) What changes, if any, would you support in the personal income tax?

*I support a progressive income tax that allows residents to pay proportional taxes based on income.*

- 5) Do you support full elimination of the Delaware loophole?

*Yes.*

- 6) Do you support a tax on fracking, and at what level?

*Yes, I support a heavy tax on fracking and all fossil fuel industries in Pennsylvania.*

- 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?

*I believe the role of government is to create programs to support our citizens and our communities. I do not think granting tax breaks, or tax abatements to businesses and corporations is the best way to support the welfare of our people. I would support bringing some of these properties under public ownership for building public housing, community gardens, and other public spaces that would benefit local communities.*

#### **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, reproductive rights are human rights.*

- 2) What additional protections should be enacted into law to protect women's health care?

*We must pass the equality act in Pennsylvania and ensure equal pay and equal access for all people in Pennsylvania regardless of gender.*

- 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, I believe paid family leave is a necessity and it is a disgrace we are the only major country in the world not to guarantee paid family leave.*

- 2) Should the state provide universal availability of affordable child care? If yes, how would you achieve this?

*Yes. The state should provide high quality childcare at all ages across the state. The child-care workers also must be paid at least \$15/hr and have the right to form a union. We would achieve this through a wealth tax, forcing corporations to pay their fair share, and a tax on the fossil fuel industry.*

## **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?

*I am proud to have a bold platform of a Green New Deal in Pennsylvania. We must completely transition away from fossil fuels in Pennsylvania, and we do not have any time to waste. My Green New Deal proposal would ensure all government buildings and vehicles are completely run on renewable energy by 2030 with a state-wide requirement to completely transition away from fossil fuels by 2035.*

- 2) Do you support a ban on fracking in whole or part?

*I support a full ban on fracking.*

- 3) Do you think Philadelphia should be compelled or induced to sell PGW?

*No, I believe privatizing our water and gas systems would be a huge mistake. We cannot trust profit driven businesses to provide quality service, this service must be the responsibility of the local government.*

- 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?

*I completely disagree with this vision. I believe Philadelphia can become an energy hub for renewable energy, but I am completely against further investments in fossil fuels in Pennsylvania.*

- 5) What, if any, other measures would you support to preserve or improve our environment? (water issues, park preservation, detoxification of school buildings, etc.)

*Additional aspects of our vision for a Green New Deal are the following:*

- *Expand access to public transit by increasing frequency of service, lowering the price to \$1 per ride, and investing in a transition to electric vehicles for all public transit by 2030.*
- *Demand we clean up every toxic site in Philadelphia left by fossil fuels and increase funding for community green space to return toxic industrial spaces to community controlled public lands.*
- *Support a just transition for workers by investing funds in training for renewable energy industries and ensuring those jobs are good union jobs. We also support the creation of a pension fund for workers who are transitioning out of the fossil fuel industry and will not pursue training.*
- *Support urban agriculture and expanding community gardens and farms which can be centers of community resilience where Philadelphians care for each other and the natural world.*

## **VIII. Criminal Justice**

1) Should stop and frisk be limited or outlawed?

*Stop and Frisk is unconstitutional and should be outlawed.*

2) How would you deal with the problem of mass incarceration of minorities, particularly minority youth?

*I would invest in diversion programs and alternate paths for youth that come in contact with the criminal justice system. I would invest in afterschool programs and community centers that provide spaces for our youth to exist and thrive without fear of police profiling. I also support exonerating every person incarcerated for a crime related to marijuana.*

3) Should marijuana be legalized for recreational use?

*Yes, marijuana is already de facto legal for white people, it is time we legalized marijuana for everyone else.*

4) Should privately-owned prisons be permitted in Pennsylvania?

*No, prisons should not be driven by profit.*

5) Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania?

*Yes. It is cruel punishment that does not have any role in rehabilitation.*

6) Should PA continue to build new prisons?

*No.*

7) Should PA begin to close prisons? Explain.

*Yes, we should immediately close all private prisons and work towards lowering prison populations and closing prisons as we continue to free people from our unjust system of mass incarceration.*

8) Do you support an end to the death penalty?

*Yes, we must end the death penalty.*

9) When if ever, should a juvenile be tried as an adult?

*A juvenile should never be tried as an adult. In no world does a prison sentence help a child on a path to rehabilitation and personal growth.*

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?

*I believe the state can invest in the well-being of its citizens through robust social programs including medicare for all, a green new deal, and a minimum wage of at least \$15/hr. We know that crime and violence are a result of poverty and marginalization, and to address violence in our city we must address the racial and class disparities in our neighborhoods.*

## **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, all workers ought to have the right to join a union.*

2) Should the minimum wage be increased? If so, to what level and should the increase be indexed to inflation?

*The minimum wage must be increased to at least \$15/hr. I believe the minimum should be tied to cost of living expenses or productivity. It is unjust that our rent should go up while our wages do not.*

3) Do you believe that Philadelphia and other municipalities should continue to be pre-empted from increasing the minimum wage on their own?

*No, I believe that Philadelphia should be able to set its own minimum wage. I support a state-wide minimum wage of at least \$15/hr, and also know that Philadelphia is in dire need of a raise*

*and if we cannot get it passed state-wide we should be able to raise the wage locally to account for cost of living in Philadelphia.*

- 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, I do not believe in privatizing liquor sales or privatizing any other major sector that is under state jurisdiction. Without a doubt, privatizing liquor sales would lead to more stores with poorly paid workers and less oversight of the distribution of liquor across our state.*

- 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?

*Philadelphia is home to some of the greatest institutions in the country, yet they are not accessible to the majority of our people. It begins with ensuring our children's public schools are fully funded, and our public colleges and universities must be affordable for the people that live here, which is why I support making all public colleges and universities in Pennsylvania tuition free. I also support expanding access to trades schools and technical training.*

*We also see the cost of living rising exponentially in many of our neighborhoods while the minimum wage is still at \$7.25/hr. If the cost of living is going to rise, we must require wages that reflect those costs. I support raising the minimum wage immediately to at least \$15/hr, and linking the minimum wage with cost of living or productivity so it goes up regularly every year. I will also advocate to repeal the pre-emption law that does not allow Philadelphia to set its own minimum wage along with other crucial issues we do not currently control.*

## **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, democracy and representation should not be a partisan process, but an independent and fair process.*

## **XII. Public Health**

Would you support state legislation to create a single-payer system in PA?

*Yes, I support single-payer healthcare in PA. Healthcare is a basic human right, and noone should worry about the bill when going to the doctor.*