

RECLAIM PHILADELPHIA

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I, _Jamie Gauthier_____, certify that the information provided on this questionnaire is accurate and the opinions stated here accurately reflect my own positions.

Please complete, sign and return this via email in both Word Doc and PDF format to Amanda@reclaimphiladelphia.org on or before February 1, 2019.

INTRODUCTION

This is a two-part questionnaire. The first seven questions are intended to be richer questions with longer answers. They are intended to help the members of Reclaim Philadelphia understand how you view the world and the political issues that face Philadelphia. As you might expect, these questions are big and broad. Please limit your answers to each question to no more than 250 words. The second set of questions are “yes” or “no” questions, which are NOT meant to be answered at length.

PART I - LONGFORM QUESTIONS - Please respond in 250 words or less.

1. Tell us a personal story about yourself that informs your worldview, your politics, and your decision to run for City Council.

The thing that most informs my worldview, my politics, and my decision to run for Council is the belief that your life should be about more than yourself, and should in fact, be spent helping others. I learned this from my father, who is a lawyer, but who is much more of a community activist than he ever was a lawyer. As far back as I can remember, my Dad was advocating for the rights of black people, with a particular focus on creating an equitable public education system. I would accompany him to community strategy sessions and rallies, and listen to his frequent calls on black talk radio. He started his own community publication for the black community, ran for DA twice as an independent candidate, and is a firm believer in questioning assumptions and the status quo. So it was ingrained in me, by him, to be about more than myself, too.

It took awhile for this to take shape in my life. I graduated from undergrad with a business degree (because it seemed like a logical thing to do) and accepted a job at DuPont as an accountant. But a few years in, I knew that I was interested in finding work that matched my passion of helping people and neighborhoods in Philadelphia. I stumbled upon the field of urban planning, and once I did, it opened a whole world to me. Since then, I've led initiatives and organizations focused on investing in affordable housing and the revitalization of neighborhood commercial corridors, advancing locally-owned sustainable businesses, and bringing resources to public parks. And though I love the nonprofit sector, I believe that our local legislators possess one of the biggest opportunities to positively impact people and communities, and so that is what I'm looking towards. I truly believe in the power of government to bring about positive change.

2. What is your opinion of capitalism as a political-economic system? How do your opinions and analysis influence your campaign and legislative priorities?

I believe that capitalism as practiced in the United States contains a lot of baked in inequities—tied to race and class—that keep people with means at the top of the system and those without at the bottom. This condition shapes our economy—the top 1 percent in our country, for example, accounts for 40% of our country's wealth-- as well as our political system, in that wealthy interests have an outsized ability, through contributions, to shape and influence public policy.

Though these inequities exist, I still don't denounce capitalism, outright, as a political-economic system. I believe, instead, that we should aim for a form of conscious capitalism that acknowledges that inequities exists, and contains measures to combat them. For four years, I led the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia, a membership organization of several hundred locally-owned businesses committed, themselves, to a triple bottom line model of people, profit, planet and to advocating as a group for the creation of a more sustainable economy for our region. So, through our business members, I got to view, firsthand, that a

different model of business, than is commonly practiced, exists. These are businesses that pay living wages, have environmentally-friendly practices and products, are considered good neighborhood actors and contributors, and in some cases, use employee-owned or cooperative models to ensure the empowerment and advancement of workers.

While at SBN, I led advocacy for policies that would favor values-based businesses. This included our support of paid sick leave and a living wage, and an expansion of the city's Sustainable Business Tax credit (which offers tax benefits to triple bottom line businesses). As a legislator, I would continue to prioritize these issues. I was excited, for example to see the advancement of Councilwoman Gym's Fair Workweek legislation, and would both ally with and lead similar efforts to protect workers and to influence and incentivize good business behavior.

3. What do "white supremacy" and "patriarchy" mean to you? How do you see them operating in the City of Philadelphia and its government? What policies, if any, would you enact in order to end them?

To me, white supremacy is both the belief that white people are better than non-white people along with the system that enforces that belief. Patriarchy is a system or society where men hold control and power due to a belief that women are inferior.

Examples of white supremacy in our local city government include the underfunding of Philly public schools, overall, and the especially poor conditions of public schools in black and hispanic communities. I do not believe that funding our schools would be as difficult if schools were filled with middle class white kids. Another example of white supremacy is our criminal justice system, in which people of color are policed, arrested, and punished more often and more harshly than whites in our city. If I were elected, I would fight hard to fund our local public schools and to ensure that our criminal justice system is not one that is oppressive to communities of color.

An example of patriarchy in our local government can be seen right now as it relates to our sheriff, Jewell Williams. That someone like him who has terrorized women in his employ has not only advanced but feels entitled to remain in power speaks to a flaw in our system. As a councilwoman, I'd want to create w/my colleagues, an environment in Philadelphia government where women are safe and respected and where there is accountability for sexual harassment.

4. What do you think of the crisis facing Philadelphia schools? What do you see as its root causes? What steps would you take?

At heart, I believe the root cause of our school crisis is racism. I don't believe that there has been sufficient political will-- particularly at the state level-- to fund schools that mostly serve poor black children. That being said, I do believe that increased funding, engaging community members as advocates and champions, and helping schools to better address the comprehensive needs of communities are things that can make a difference. As a

councilwoman, identifying additional city and state funding for schools would be among my highest priorities. I would also try to support and expand Mayor Kenney's community school model, which aims to turn schools into community resource centers where children and their families can connect to a host of beneficial resources. Lastly, I have seen a lot of benefit come to neighborhood schools when community members-- regardless of whether they have children in the school-- band together to advocate for the school and bring in additional resources. In Garden Court (where I lived for several years), the neighbors carry out a tutoring program, where willing neighbors spend time during the year reading with kindergartners and first graders who need additional support. The program happens at the school and has been a help to the teachers and the kids in helping the children get to grade level.

5. Under what circumstances should a person be detained or incarcerated, if any? Does the current system meet this criterion? What does safety mean to you and what policies or programs would you pursue to achieve your vision?

I think a person should be detained only when there is a reasonable suspicion they broke a law. Though that is the current standard in Philadelphia, I know it is not being achieved. As recently as November 2018, the ACLU found that 6,000 Philadelphians were stopped by police without legal justification in the 1st half of 2018 alone, and that 87% of those people were black and hispanic. I believe that incarceration should be reserved for the most serious offenses involving harm to children or adults, and that we should use other forms of rehabilitation or restitution for less serious crimes. In short, I agree with our current DA's approach to keeping as many people out of jail as possible. As councilwoman, I would aim to coordinate with and support the efforts of DA Krasner.

To me, safety means that everyone feels comfortable, welcome, and free from harm. In order to create a safe environment in the 3rd District, I would encourage frequent communication and relationship building between police and community members, community-driven solutions to crime, and increased transparency and accountability for law enforcement.

6. What is the fundamental factor causing climate change? How should we address this? 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?

Human activity, especially since industrialization, is the fundamental factor of climate change. Therefore, in order to address climate change, we have to change our everyday behaviors-- the way we consume, the waste we produce, and the way we travel-- as well as the extent to which industry produces carbon and destroys our environment. I would 100% support a New Green Deal for Philadelphia, and I think the 3rd District would be a great place to pilot one.

I would want to work with the environmental community on the specific contents of a New Green Deal, but I think it would include growing opportunities (and jobs) related to solar and green construction/retrofits, and expanding job and business opportunities related to the City's

Green City, Clean Waters plan which aims to use green stormwater infrastructure as a way of beautifying our city and keeping our waterways clean.

7. 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?

I believe Philadelphia has a poverty crisis while simultaneously being-- for the first time in a long time-- a city that people want to move to and live in. And so in many "hot" neighborhoods-- this especially a challenge in the 3rd District-- housing prices are going up, and low-income people are being pushed out. In order to combat this, I would look at laws to protect renters (the most vulnerable), would push for increased resources to help long-time homeowners repair their homes, and would push for property tax relief for low-income homeowners.

PART II - YES OR NO QUESTIONS

1. Do you commit to opposing the privatization of all utilities in Philadelphia? **YES [x] NO []**

2. Do you commit to support and vote for the creation of a Philadelphia Public Bank? **YES [x] NO []**

3. Will you support using 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 [x] NO []**

4. Will you support a participatory study funded by the City to formulate a local Green New Deal energy plan to transition Philadelphia to a democratically controlled 100% renewable energy system by 2030, create unionized jobs, and center the decisions and needs of Philadelphia's working class and communities of color? **YES [x] NO []**

5. Do you support a democratically elected school board? **YES [x] NO []**

6. Will you commit to publicly funding and administering fully staffed libraries and recreation centers seven days a week? **YES [x] NO []**

7. Do you support rent control? **YES [x] NO []**

8. Will you commit that at least 50% of all City funds allocated to create or preserve housing, including but not limited to the Housing Trust Fund and subfunds, must go toward helping the poorest Philadelphians (30% or less of area median income)? **YES [x] NO []**

9. Will you commit to introducing or sponsoring legislation that would establish a system of public financing for city campaigns that would create a fund that would provide matching public funds for money individual donors contribute to candidates? **YES [x] NO []**

10. Do you support the creation of an overdose prevention site / supervised consumption site to help efforts to combat the opioid epidemic in our community? **YES [x] NO []**

11. Do you support completely ending the ten year tax abatement? **YES [] NO [x]**

12. Do you commit to opposing all new fossil fuel projects in Philadelphia by using all zoning and regulatory means at your disposal? **YES [x] NO []**

13. Will you support increasing funding of the Police Advisory Commission from \$500K to \$1.5M and giving it the power to subpoena, investigate and censure cases of police brutality and over-policing?
YES [x] NO []

14. Will you publicly support a moratorium on all charter school expansion? **YES [] NO [x]**

15. Do you support the right to strike for public employees including teachers? **YES [x] NO []**

16. Will you enact a statutory right to counsel for any Philadelphian facing the loss of their home, be it foreclosure or eviction? **YES [x] NO []**

17. Will you require a card check agreement be in place for any large employer before you approve zoning changes, tax incentives, or any other element of its development or renovation on which you could have influence? **YES [] NO [x]**

PART III - ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION

If there's anything else our membership should know about you or if you feel the need to provide additional information about any of your above responses, do so here. Please keep your response to a total of 100 words or less.

In full disclosure, I served on the mayor's nominating panel for our local school board because I thought it was a better option than the SRC. That doesn't take away from the fact that I believe that an elected school board is the most democratic way to govern our schools.