

RECLAIM PHILADELPHIA

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I, _____, 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 three-part questionnaire. The first section is designed to give Reclaim Philadelphia's membership a deeper understanding of the viability of your campaign and your potential path to victory. The second section includes seven questions that 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 third section of questions are "yes" or "no" questions, which are NOT meant to be answered at length. Please only answer "yes" or "no" to these questions.

PART I - CAMPAIGN INFORMATION - Please answer fully and briefly.

1. How many votes do you need to win?
40-50k. The top Republican candidates for Council At-Large in the 2015 general election received less than 35,000 votes.
2. What strategies do you plan to use to win?
Field program; direct mail; non-stop personal campaigning. I believe my campaign's effort, that of the groups and unions who endorse me, and the consistent support I have received in my prior (albeit, Democratic) campaigns of over 44,000 votes in 2011 and over 45,000 votes in 2015 will bring me to victory in 2019. My plan to win is to be an unapologetically bold progressive and movement candidate committed to a human rights agenda, including climate justice, housing justice, a union for all workers, an end to mass incarceration, educational justice, immigration justice, an end to white supremacy, women's liberation and queer liberation.
3. What endorsements have you currently received?
None yet, but hopeful :)
4. How much money have you raised? How much do you intend to raise?
I've raised over 20k and intend to raise over 100k.

PART II - 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.

*In the fall of 2008, I was an activist with the Coalition to Save the Libraries and joined hundreds of library lovers, neighborhood advocates and social justice activists to save **11 neighborhood libraries** from permanent closure. The nation was in the grips of the The Great Recession of 2008 and Mayor Nutter announced these libraries had to be permanently closed due to this budget crisis.*

I opposed the Mayor's agenda of cutbacks and viewed his neoliberal "austerity plan" for public services as part of a broader attack on poor and working people in our city. He refused to consider any alternatives and presented his plan as a way to "rightsize" city services, claiming that Philadelphia had more libraries, pools and recreation centers than the other largest cities in the nation and therefore we had too many. What he failed to consider was that other cities compared to Philadelphia had libraries in their schools, whereas most of our schools did not. He failed to acknowledge that Philadelphia had a higher poverty rate, unemployment rate and incarceration rate than these other cities and as a result, our need for neighborhood libraries was greater.

My experience of participating in this Coalition and helping to build the power of our communities--to demand control over our community institutions and city government itself--

helped convince me to run for City Council. On Council, I will fight for community control citywide to ensure that democracy is expanded and that ALL Philadelphians, especially those most marginalized, can self-determine the futures of neighborhoods and their lives.

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

Capitalism, as a political-economic system, has failed at everything but robbing working class people of their resources and humanity in order to enrich the 1%. Racial capitalism has been built through the exploitation of people through enslavement, imperialism and genocide.

As a democratic socialist, I agree with my favorite Congressperson, New York's Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, that democratic socialism means that "in a modern, moral and wealthy society, no person in America should be too poor to live." I believe that both the economy and society should be run democratically--to meet human needs and not to make profits for a few.

Today, Philadelphia ranks 3rd in income inequality among American cities. We are the poorest large city in America and have had the highest rate of incarceration in the world. This reflects the mis-leadership of our elected officials who are more concerned with corporate interests than providing resources to the most marginalized people.

My legislative priorities are to end wage slavery by fighting for at least a \$15/hour living wage and a union for all workers; end the state preemption of the minimum wage; end the two-tiered wage system for tipped workers; end racial and gender wage inequity; expand worker coops; support the creation of a public bank; demand PILOTs from anchor institutions; support a domestic workers' bill of rights and reenact the wage tax credit for the working poor. I am fighting, with others, to end mass incarceration and the affordable housing and eviction crises that drive poverty in Philadelphia.

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?

White supremacy is a system that was created for the purpose of economic, political, cultural and social exploitation and has historically and institutionally been upheld by state approval and sanction in the form of laws, policing and resource allocation. This purposeful and brutal system is further maintained through propagating the myth of white superiority and amplifying racist stereotypes about Black and Brown communities such as the "Welfare Queen" and "Criminal Immigrant" narratives that dominate the social consciousness of the dominant culture.

This can be seen today in the patterns of housing segregation caused by redlining, school segregation and school defunding. I will fight to end redlining and displacement caused by

gentrification, fight for full funding for our schools and restorative justice processes instead of punitive and racialized policing.

Patriarchy is an economic, political, cultural and social system of domination of women and transgender and gender nonconforming people that is maintained through rigid gender roles, the myth of "male" superiority, the dehumanization of womyn and the violence of seeing non-men as property to possess.

This can be seen in the high rates of murder of Black trans women, in the sexual violence and harassment against women and the unequal pay women receive. Philadelphia has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the nation, at 8 infant deaths for every 1,000 births and Black women are three times as likely as white women to die as a result of pregnancy and childbirth.

I will fight for equal pay for equal work, reproductive justice, increased prenatal care, paid leave for new parents and pay parity.

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

The crisis facing our public schools today is caused by systemic racism. Our school population is 86% students of color, and struggles with chronic underfunding, neoliberal education reforms of profiteers such as school privatization and union busting.

I will fight for full funding of our schools and educational equity. We must end the school to prison pipeline, school suspensions of elementary school students, high stakes testing and zero tolerance policies. I will fight for funding to clean out the toxic lead, asbestos and mold in our schools and to bring air conditioning to all of our schools, and I will push to end the 10-year property tax abatement.

I will fight for democratic school governance including a democratically elected school board, school and community-based solutions to school transformation, restorative practices, a curriculum that will educate to liberate, a vast increase in Black teachers, counselors not police and military recruiters, small classes, music and art and libraries in our schools, social and emotional supports and College for All.

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 believe that removing people from society should be a last resort and the current system does not follow this principle. I believe our current system of incarceration is a form of barbarism.

I believe in restorative justice and in healing justice, where we holistically respond to and bring collective practices to intervene on generational trauma and violence.

I believe in transformative justice, which is a liberatory approach to violence that seeks safety and accountability without relying on state punishment. I will work to decarcerate our city and end the prison industrial complex.

Safety means to me that we should address the harm in our communities through healing and accountability, instead of being “tough on crime,” and use the least restrictive possible alternatives. I recognize the inaccuracy of the victim/offender dichotomy and that so many defendants are also survivors.

I believe the root causes of violence and crime are poverty, trauma, addiction and unmet mental health needs. This needs to be addressed through expanded social services and restorative justice processes, like community-led mediation for reconciliation.

I will fight for a federal jobs guarantee and at least a \$15/hour minimum wage and a union for all workers. I support reinvestment of the savings due to decreased incarceration into the communities most harmed by incarceration. I support the policies of the Philadelphia Coalition for a Just District Attorney.

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?

Greenhouse gas emissions are the fundamental factor causing climate change. This must be addressed by moving Philadelphia to 100% renewable energy by 2030, with no further fossil fuel infrastructure, and a commitment to energy democracy -- community control of our energy infrastructure, rooted in racial equity, energy affordability, and the centering of labor and impacted communities. My vision for a Green New Deal for Philadelphia is to require community-driven planning processes that shift how energy, land use, housing, food, and transportation policy and regulations are shaped and planned. When federal investment becomes available, we need a participatory budgeting process to determine budgeting priorities and expenses.

I will fight for a labor and community-led just transition plan to transition PGW away from fossil fuels; a study that examines municipalization of PECO or for community choice aggregation; and a plan to transition the Philadelphia Energy Solutions oil refinery to restored public land and community-owned renewable energy projects. The refinery's corporate owners must pay to clean up the land and water they polluted, invest in community health, and fund full wages and benefits for the now-unemployed workers for at least four years, retraining, and pensions with healthcare for those ready to retire.

I will fight to revoke the permit for SEPTA's gas-fired polluting power plant in Nicetown, stop PGW's proposed liquefied natural gas plant (LNG), and demand the \$3.8 billion in back taxes that PES owes the state.

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?

Philadelphia is facing a housing crisis. We have a huge shortage of affordable housing for the lowest-income Philadelphians. We have an eviction crisis where 1 of 14 tenants gets evicted.

I believe that housing is a human right and not a commodity for profit. We must end displacement caused by gentrification, redlining, the property tax abatement, and plans to build Temple's stadium in North Philly.

*We must fight for \$100 million for our Housing Trust Fund like Washington, D.C.; a vast increase in affordable, accessible and decent housing; lead-free homes; expanded just cause eviction legislation; **rent control**; an end to discrimination against voucher holders; housing coops; community-based land trusts; expungement of eviction records; a moratorium on evictions and on sheriff sales when the rate is high in a specific community; a moratorium on sheriff sales on active gardens and a pathway to community ownership of community gardens; accountability for slumlords and accountability for banks that engage in the discrimination of redlining.*

Also, though Philadelphia has some affordable housing for low-income people, it is substandard. Philadelphians suffer some of the most substandard housing in the country because of the aged housing stock. We need to invest in repairs for people, so our children and families are not being poisoned by lead and mold, have heat in the winter, and are cool in the summer.

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 [X] NO []**

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 [X] NO []**

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 use all means at your disposal to support workers' right to unionize?
YES [X] NO []

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.

Born into an activist family, I have been an activist in movements for social justice since I was a child. A tenant rights attorney, I am a Jewish lesbian feminist and a democratic socialist.

I believe that everybody's got a right to live. Everyone has the right to a quality education, a living wage, decent affordable and accessible housing and health care, the right to walk down a street without getting racially profiled, sexually harassed, or shot. These are our human needs and our human rights. I am a fighter for human rights, for justice, for the healing of our communities and for social and economic liberation.