

RECLAIM PHILADELPHIA

Prepared By: Asa Khalif _____
Phone/Email: ___asa4council@gmail.com_____

Campaign Manager: _____
Phone/Email: _____

Candidate Name: __AsaKhalif_____
Campaign Address: _____

Campaign Email: _____asa4council@gmail.com_____
Campaign Website: _____asa4council.com_____

I, _____Asa Khalif_____, 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.

- A. On the morning of December 14th, 2014, my cousin - Brandon Tate Brown - was shot in the back of the head by Philadelphia Police during a routine traffic stop. Not only was this a stunning personal loss, but the means of his death - at the hands of public servants - was shocking. It was this horrifying event that caused me to raise my voice and declare that Black Lives Matter.

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

- A. Capitalism does not provide for or consider the common or social good. The only objective in capitalism is for the capitalist to make more and more money. Unchecked, as it currently is, this is a recipe for social disaster. Elected officials must continually choose the poor and working poor over the rich. We must fund the ability of the average citizen to push back against the rich by fully funding Community Legal Services.

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?

- A. The Building Trades in Philadelphia embody both white supremacy and patriarchy in that they are more than 90% white and 95% male. This means the prosperity fostered by those \$40, \$50 & \$60 per hour jobs is concentrated amongst white males. This continues because the City of Philadelphia signs a formal agreement with the Building Trades granting them a monopoly as broker for labor on its projects. Other, non-segregated groups, must be allowed to compete for that monopoly.

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

- A. Charter schools are not completely to blame for the current school crisis, but they drain precious finances from district operated schools which are more than 85% People of Color. Political rhetoric favors public education, but actions do not.

In the midst of under-funded curriculum and unsafe school buildings, Council voted \$100 Mil for the new Gallery and the Cobbs Creek Pkwy Golf Course. Education is not a priority.

I have no confidence that the new board is willing to prioritize children over lobbyists, charter operators and politicians.

I would advocate for a new superintendent.

Big city parochial schools routinely do a better and cheaper job of educating. We need to look there for our next leader.

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

A. The loss of liberty in a free nation is a very serious matter.

In matters of very clear violence and, or public safety, incarceration will likely be necessary. But, we must rethink how we deal with crimes that are a function of a person's poverty.

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?

A. The burning of fossil fuels has caused the warming of our planet.

My Green New Deal would make every city building energy independent via solar panels, triple the number of trees and amount of green space within the city limits and create a recycling program that is 100% effective.

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?

A. The City of Philadelphia does not create nearly enough affordable housing because new construction can cost as much as \$300,000 per unit.

I favor the acquisition and rehabilitation of properties in working class neighborhoods, where city investment will be far less and will have the added benefit of stabilizing an area.

PART II - YES OR NO QUESTIONS

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

2. Do you commit to support and vote for the creation of a Philadelphia Public Bank? **YES** [] **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 [] NO [] My preference is to multiply rehabilitation centers and prevail upon the Building Trades to accept those who graduate from treatment.**

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** [] **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** [] **NO** []

17. Will you use all means at your disposal to support workers' right to unionize?
YES [] **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.