

2010 State Candidate Questionnaire



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CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: _____ Office _____
Sought _____

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 mail to:

Neighborhood Networks
c/o John Hogan and Kathy Quinn, Co-Chairs, Elections Committee
7511 Germantown Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19119

If returning via email, please send to kathymquinn@verizon.net and sign and return this first page with the candidate signature by mail or fax to 215-751-0658.

BACKGROUND

1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held?
none
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?

3. If you have not previously held a government office, what community or policy issues have you worked on, and in what capacity? (Please provide the names of two or three individuals who can provide information about your previous work.)

Senior Services and Housing is an area I have worked on my entire career, either as the CEO of two retirement communities for lower income older adults or by serving on the board of PANPHA and chairing their Public Policy Committee. Ron Barth, CEO of PANPHA can be reached at 717-763-5724.

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

It is the campaign's policy to not disclose strategy or budget, attached is campaign literature and additional information is at www.votepam2010.com for endorsements and issues under the Meet Pam tab.

ISSUES

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

Yes No

Public financing will contribute to much needed government reform and help to eradicate the "pay to play" climate that currently exists.

2. What limitations, if any, do you think should be placed on the rights of Pennsylvania citizens (including former prisoners) to vote?

The current limitations on ex-offenders right to vote is excessive. A right to vote should be rescinded if they are in violation of parole.

2a. Would you support legislation allowing for a verified paper ballot receipt?

Yes No

I would need more information.

2b. Would you support legislation providing for same day registration and unrestricted voting by absentee ballot?

Yes No

3. Would you support any limitations, including waiting periods, on a woman's access to abortion?

Yes No

Although I don't believe 3rd trimester abortions occur because a woman decides to terminate a pregnancy because it is unwanted, I believe that 3rd trimester abortions should be reserved for cases where the life of the woman or fetus is in danger.

3a. Would you support repeal of existing restrictions on a woman's right to choose?

Yes No

A young woman under the age of 18 should be able to seek the counsel of any adult she trusts and should not have to gain the permission of a parent only.

3b. Would you support any limitations on a woman's access to contraception, including emergency contraception?

Yes No

3c. If yes to either, what limitations do you support?

4. Do you believe that same-sex couples in committed relationships should have the right to marry?

Yes No

4a. If no, do you support the right to domestic partnership rights?

Yes No

5. Would you support legislation to limit the purchases of handguns to one a month?

Yes No

5a. What other legislation, if any, would you sponsor or support to reduce the number of handguns in circulation in Philadelphia?

We need to be tough on straw purchasers but must also address the root of the problem by providing good education and support systems to youth at risk as well as former convicts re-entering society.

6. Would you support legislation to strengthen protection for workers trying to form or join a union?

Yes No

If the legislation is reasonable and fair.

7. Do you favor an automatic cost-of-living adjustment to the minimum wage?

Yes No

Minimum wage should be linked to at a minimum, a COLA index. We need to provide workers with a living, sustainable wage and not just a minimum wage.

8. What measures, if any would you support to strengthen anti-discrimination laws?

I would support legislation that extends anti-discrimination laws to members of the LGBT community.

9. Would you support proposals to ensure that women and men working for contractors of the Commonwealth receive equal pay for equal work?

Yes No

10. Would you support an increase in the state's share of funding for public schools?

Yes No

The state must fulfill its responsibility to fund public school's at 50%.

11. What measures would you support to guarantee access for all Pennsylvanians to quality affordable healthcare?

I am open to exploring all options to provide every Pennsylvanian with basic healthcare, including catastrophic, preventative, as well as dental, vision and prescription coverage.

12. Do you believe that taxation should generally be progressive, so that people and businesses with higher incomes pay taxes at higher rates?

Yes No

12a. If yes, would you support an amendment to the state constitution allowing such taxation?

Yes No

12b. What other measures do you support, if any, to make PA personal and business taxes more progressive?

I would look into the taxation of additional consumer items that are not currently taxed by the PA Sales Tax.

13. What categories of state spending do you think should be significantly increased or decreased?

I believe we must first address the inefficiency in the state government itself and also looks towards closing the the tax loop that allows companies to incorporate in DE and avoid business taxes. Entitlement programs as they are currently structured often exclude those in need just beyond who qualifies financially. A tiered system would be more appropriate and useful to a larger group of people.

The areas of spending to be increased are education (life long - in addition to preK through 12) in order to fulfill our responsibility to fund schools at 50%. We must also work hard to make sure all Pennsylvanians have access to basic healthcare as outlined above.

14. What economic development strategies for Pennsylvania and Philadelphia would you seek to encourage?

I believe that education should be lifelong, currently there are 12,000 jobs in the Philadelphia region that cannot be filled because our residents are not skilled to work these jobs. Workers should have the opportunity to reinvent themselves at any point in their career because they either want or need to. Education must be both financial and geographically accessible. We can achieve this through tax credits for both students and employers and by supporting our community colleges as a place that many can receive the training needed for today's jobs.

15. Currently the state constitution mandates that revenue from the state gasoline tax be spent only on roads and bridges. Would you support an amendment allowing gas tax revenue to be spent on public transportation?

Public transportation is extremely important to the Commonwealth, I would consider all means for a dedicated funding source.

16. What measures would you support to ensure that Pennsylvanians have clean air and water?

By supporting tough regulations on polluters.

17. What measures would you support to preserve and provide parks and green spaces?

We have wonderful parks in the city and surrounding communities, government can support community, grassroots organizations to revitalize and maintain public green spaces. We can also take steps to ensure that public green spaces be preserved for recreation and not sold for private development.