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2010 State Candidate Questionnaire

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CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Keith Newman Office Sought: State Representative 194th District

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: Keith Newman Date: April 23, 2010

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?

This is my first effort in seeking elected office.

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.)

As a founding member of the Schuylkill Wissahickon Group, I was involved in the re-creation of the home and school council at Cook-Wissahickon School. Good schools require active parents and our efforts breathed new life into Cooke Wissahickon so that it now has an excellent reputation. Families from the neighborhood are sending their children there in large numbers.

Schuylkill Wissahickon group then went on to Roxborough High School and arranged meetings with then superintendent Paul Vallas and the public at large. Our efforts resulted in a new principal and new programs at the school. The principal was actually hired by members of the community. Unfortunately Mr. Vallas left Philadelphia as did the regional superintendent, Dr. Gilbert, with whom we had also been engaged. Many promises made to us remain unfilled and progress at the school has been stymied. Turning Roxborough High School into a school the Roxborough community can be proud of, where they can feel safe sending their children to, will be my number one priority. It is estimated businesses on Ridge Ave lose \$20 million per year because they have to close when Roxborough High lets out students at the end of the day. To have a vibrant business community we must fix Roxborough High. To have a sustainable community, we must fix Roxborough High. I will do that by creating an enforced catchment area so that gangs from different part of the city cannot attend Roxborough High. I will also insure Roxborough High becomes a magnet school for Business Communication and Computer services, and that it has a complete music program including a marching band.

Bernard Guet from the Roxborough Development Corporation is aware of my volunteer activities and the work I have done in creating the intercivic quality of committee.

Jeff Friedman of the city's managing directors office was another founding member of the Schuylkill Wissahickon Group.

Kelly Erb was the first person we reached out to in order to get the Cook-Wissahickon home and School functioning .

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

ISSUES

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

Yes No

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

It is not a free country if all citizens cannot vote. Determining which citizens can or cannot vote is discrimination. On principle, discrimination is wrong and not to be tolerated.

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

We must be certain our votes are not fraudulent and that votes are not cast under any kind of pressure. Also voters should spend time, research, evaluate the candidates and make a solid choice. Making your mind up at the last minute is one thing, Deciding you want to participate in our democratic process at the last minute is another.

In this day and age anyone with a printer and laminator could produce fraudulent IDs and stuff the ballot box. In 2004 the maker of election equipment guaranteed George Bush would win Ohio, and he did. Many thought fraud was involved. In 2010 one candidate in this race says he controls who works the poles. I have been told pole workers check to see who hasn't voted, signs them in, and then votes for that person. Jimmy Carter once lost an election this way. This does not create confidence in elections outcomes.

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

I would also support education on contraception. Many people want schools to hand out condoms. Sex education and contraception are taught to both sexes and the responsibility for safe sex belongs with both sexes. If we hand out contraception methods it must be made available to both genders.

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?

I am 100% pro-choice.

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

Absolutely. Not allowing adults to choose whom they consent to marry is discrimination.

Yes No

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

I support the right of any human being choosing whom they wish to marry. 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?

1. PA municipalities should be allowed to set laws to reduce gun violence based on local needs.
2. Lost or stolen guns must be reported to the police
3. The sale of ammunition to individuals who are prohibited from possessing firearms should also be prohibited
4. Purchasers of guns should complete a firearms safety training course before being permitted to leave the store with a firearm. If cars have to be licensed and inspected annually why not guns? This would result in higher grosses for businesses dealing with guns, and also make for a safer Pennsylvania.
5. Background checks for gun dealers and their employees.
6. The sale and possession of assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines should be banned. Assault weapons are semi-automatic firearms designed with military features to allow rapid and accurate spray firing. They are not designed for sport; they are designed to kill humans quickly and efficiently.
7. Out of state permits and the mail order sale of guns should be banned.

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

And to COLAS as well

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

Discrimination exists in medical research as gays are currently excluded from clinical trial research. I would end this discrimination and also insure that gays receive the same medical coverage in emergency situations that the rest of the public receives. It is apparent from research I have done that members of the gay community do not receive the same medical care as others when needed. Education is one way to end this, enforcement is another.

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

My uncle, Winn Newman, represented AFSCME in the comparable worth case establishing the right of equal pay for equal work. Of course I would definitely support this. The opposite of this is discrimination.

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

Yes No

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

In February of 2010, the 301-member Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee unanimously endorsed a resolution calling for passage of single payer healthcare, Senate Bill 400 and House Bill 1660, also known as the "Family and Business Healthcare Security Act. I support this bill. I believe Health care is right, an entitlement to all Americans.

The description and chart below demonstrates why our health care system needs to be changed.

Cross-country comparisons

Direct comparisons of health statistics across nations are complex. The [Commonwealth Fund](#), in its annual survey, "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall", compares the performance of the health care systems in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada and the U.S. Its 2007 study found that, although the U.S. system is the most expensive, it consistently underperforms compared to the other countries.^[11] A major difference between the U.S. and the other countries in the study is that the U.S. is the only country without [universal health care](#). The [OECD](#) also collects comparative statistics, and has published brief country profiles.^{[12][13][14]}

Country	Life expectancy	Infant mortality rate	Physicians per 1000 people	Nurses per 1000 people	Per capita expenditure on health (USD)	Healthcare costs as a percent of GDP	% of government revenue spent on health	% of health costs paid by government
Australia	81.4	4.2	2.8	9.7	3,137	8.7	17.7	67.7
Canada	80.7	5.0	2.2	9.0	3,895	10.1	16.7	69.8
France	81.0	4.0	3.4	7.7	3,601	11.0	14.2	79.0
Germany	79.8	3.8	3.5	9.9	3,588	10.4	17.6	76.9
Japan	82.6	2.6	2.1	9.4	2,581	8.1	16.8	81.3
Norway	80.0	3.0	3.8	16.2	5,910	9.0	17.9	83.6
Sweden	81.0	2.5	3.6	10.8	3,323	9.1	13.6	81.7
UK	79.1	4.8	2.5	10.0	2,992	8.4	15.8	81.7

[USA](#) 78.1 6.7 2.4 10.6 7,290 16.0 18.5 45.4

Life Expectancy vs Health Care Spending in 2007 for OECD Countries. The data source is <http://www.oecd.org> and the image was built at <http://flagscatter.com>

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

I do not believe taxation, a policy which should be adjusted based on changing circumstance should be set by an amendment to the Constitution.

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

The cost of starting a business or expanding a business must be lowered. Obstacles to growing a business do restrict economic growth, thus the creation of jobs. Once profitable and sustainable, businesses should be required to pay their fair share of taxes on time. In other words, new businesses should not have to pay taxes up front, but should pay them as their business develops. The tax break currently given for paying taxes on time should be eliminated. I also support a tax on smokeless tobacco products.

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

We need a dedicated source of funding for mass transit. We also need to address problems specific to inner city neighborhoods which if ignored, as they are now, cost taxpayers more money in the long run. For instance we should invest in high quality child care which has a payback to society of \$17 for every \$1 invested. My specific proposal to end the academic achievement gap is called Individual College Accounts. What we know about education is that the parent's level of involvement in their child's education is the single most effective predictor of a child's academic success (Catsambis, Epstein). Thus like poverty and crime cycles, we have an education cycle. Children whose parents were not involved in their education, become parents, and then they are not involved on their child's education. The legislation I will propose is called Individual College Accounts (ICAS) and will address the education cycle.

During the presidential campaign in 2008, Candidate Barack Obama stated that parents have to step up. Parents have to turn off the television and make sure the home work is done.

Individual College Account Plans (ICAs) combine what Barack Obama realizes and what persistent research has determined: The home environment is the most important criteria in academic achievement (Coleman Report). ICAs reward each child and parent based on their own merit, effort, and results: It's the American way.

Here is how they work. When a child is born, \$5000 is placed one time into an Individual College Account (ICA) in the child's name. The ICA matures as a 401K or 403 B would. When the child enters first grade, assuming the child is reading ready, the parents receive \$2000. If the child is not reading ready, the \$2000 goes right to the district the child is enrolled in to help pay for the extra costs associated with enabling this child to be at grade level reading by grade 3.

The remaining money in the account continues to mature until the child enters college or technical training school. At that time, a percentage of the matured funds based on grades, behavior, and parental involvement, are sent to the college or trade school the child will be attending.

ICAs reward taxpayers. According to national statistics, a high school graduate earns \$392,000 more than a non high school graduate. Children who read at grade level are more likely than those who do not read at grade level to finish high school. Assuming a 40 year working career at a conservative 20% income tax rate, the high school graduate will pay more than \$75,000 in taxes to the federal government than a non high school graduate.

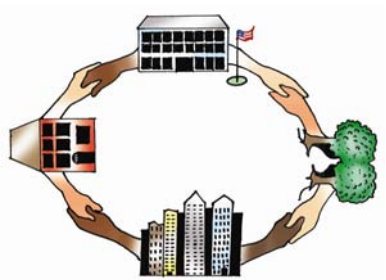
The difference in earnings between a college graduate and a non college graduate nationwide is approximately \$1.1 million. Assuming the same conservative tax rate a college grad pays more than \$135,000 in taxes over the course of a career than a non college grad.

Clearly ICAs pay for themselves!

In Philadelphia the high school drop rate hovers around 45 -50%. When magnet schools such as Masterman and Central are excluded, the drop-out rate increases to 60%. Research by Hamre and Pianta demonstrates we can predict who will succeed academically by first grade and other researchers say it is kindergarten. Individual College Accounts will improve the skill levels and confidence children at risk have in the early grades. Frustration levels experienced by young children will reduce and the child's academic resiliency will increase. By combining ICAs with other programs such as the Visiting Nursing Program, parents will become engaged positive advocates for their children. The Academic Achievement Gap will no longer arrive at school, and our schools will become places where children flourish, instead of consistently receiving remedial work.

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

Education is the economic development strategy that boosts all businesses and attracts new employers. I stated earlier how the problems of Roxborough High negatively affect the business environment in Roxborough. I also pointed out above how Individual College Accounts will increase revenue to our government and lower costs to it by reducing expenses related to crime. It all revolves around education and that is why schools are at the top of my logo.



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?

Yes!

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

In 1988, researchers Randall Cerveny and Robert Balling of Arizona State University released a report detailing that pollution accumulating during the week most likely spoils weekend weather on the Atlantic Coast. They have demonstrated the two most likely days for it to rain are Saturday and Sunday, and the reason for this is human activity.

Even if one is of a conservative viewpoint and doesn't believe in global warming, ignoring it is hardly a position one can take and bet the planet on. We must protect and preserve our Earth.

Preserving the Earth is one reason why I support a moratorium on leases at the Marcellus Shale Fields. I am not convinced that fracturing, the method used to obtain access to these deep gas pockets, will enable us to keep our drinking water clean. In Pennsylvania, we have seen one town, Centralia, become unfit for human habitation because we did not properly extract resources that we as a society need. Destroying an entire town is not a mistake we should make again. Now gas pockets have been found in the Delaware River Basin. We must insure our profit from these deposits is long term.

We've seen the effects of this type of pollution on a local basis. The shad run in the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers, instrumental to saving our starving troops at Valley Forge and a staple of our economy in the early 19th and century, has just begun to return to the area. Even so, the fish in our local waters are not safe to eat because of pollution.

As state representative I will insure that we protect our planet for you, your children, and grandchildren. I support the expansion of windmills, which are now technologically feasible for individual homeowners. There are many new ideas like this that government, through use of tax credits can help promulgate.

Clean air, clean water, clean, renewable energy, are policies Keith Newman will promote.

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

If you look at my logo, you'll also see trees representing parks. I am the only candidate in this race who serves as a volunteer and a board member of their local park organization. Communities with good Parks have less crime. For example look at the effect the rehabilitation of Clarke Park had on West Philadelphia. Crime dropped and economic activity in the area increased. This was the result of community volunteer effort, though the city can help out through the parks and recreation department by cutting lawns and providing basic tools. The community and the parks and recreation department should meet to design a master plan for local parks. An example of this is the exciting plans the Wissahickon Neighborhood Civic has for their park located at Hermit and Terrace. This beautiful new development will improve the neighborhood, making it more family friendly and serving as a place for the community to meet. Good Schools, Good parks make for a sustainable community.

