



Connect with your Neighbors.....Change the World

2024 PA Legislative Questionnaire

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CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name:

Office Sought: **PA House Representative**

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: /s/ NaDerah Griffin _____

Date: 21 FEB 2024

Please complete, sign and return this form via email in PDF format to info@phillynn.org

and mail or fax a copy of the signature page to

Gloria Gilman
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I. BACKGROUND – PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR CURRICULUM VITAE AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held? None
2. If you have previously held a government office(s), state: N/A
 - a. the name(s) of the office(s) and dates served
 - b. the primary issue areas with which you were involved?
 - c. your main accomplishments
3. What about your background qualifies you to hold this office, including any civic activity that you may have been involved with over your adult life?

I have dedicated all my life to public service (s). As a former teacher for the School District of Philadelphia, I have taught students from k-8. As a Solar Program Manager and Math Construction Instructor, I taught high school students (Sch. Dist. of Phila.) and Returning Citizens trade math/construction math. In addition, I served as a Case Manager to assist with whole life issues so that the students (adults and children) can have a quality of life and have a successful completion of the program.

Currently, I am a Board Member of Philly Truce.

FORMER CIVIC SERVICES:

- Board Member & Solar Project Manager for Bright Solar Futures
- Board Member for the PHL Solar Energy Occupational Advisory Committee
- Board Member & Cooperative Owner of Serenity Soular
- Community Crops Cultivator & Distributor with Serenity House

4. What three things would you most want to accomplish if elected?

I'm going to speak this into existence and say when elected, I will advocate to enact laws that will provide a Quality of Life and a Quality of Education for All. As a result of the severe issues adversely affecting our communities, the Urban and impoverished communities, I have to address and enact law as a holistic approach. It is urgent that I address the concerns on my platform simultaneously. We do not have time to address two or three pressing issues each term.

DEMOCRAT PLATFORM

Crime & Safety – L3B (Abolish Life Without Parole)

Advocate for Exonerees and their compensation

Mental Health/Health

Education

Employment

Affordable Housing

Seasoned Seniors Secure

Veterans' Inclusive Pathway to Recovery Resources

5. What is your strategy to win this race, including all relevant organizational, financial and grass-roots components?

My strategy to be triumphant in this Legislative Race is to reach as many people as possible, where they are. I like to build relationships with people by going into the communities.

As a Grass-root Candidate, I will seek to raise fund via donations, endorsements, and fundraisers.

II. INTRODUCTION

Please note: Although many of the following questions may be answered “yes” or “no” you should feel free to elaborate if doing so would provide a clearer Statement of your position. If you believe you do not have enough information to answer a question, or have not formed an opinion, say so.

III. ISSUES

A . OVERALL

What would be your three highest priorities as a legislator? Explain.

1. Crime & Safety (to Include Returning Citizens Issues)
2. Education
3. Mental Health/Health
4. Seasoned Seniors Secure

I'm going to advocate that Legislation **MANDATE** that we give our children the same **QUALITY EDUCATION** that they do the Suburbs and the surrounding counties!

B. Education

1. How do you feel about the role of charter schools in Pennsylvania's educational mix? If dissatisfied, what changes in State law would you sponsor to fix the problem?

I'm going to advocate that **Legislation MANDATE** that we give our children the **SAME QUALITY EDUCATION** that they do the Suburbs and the surrounding counties!

Every child should have a right to a quality education. Likewise, parents have a right to enroll their children in a Public School, Private, Catholic, or Charter Schools etc. However, Commonwealth have a right to make sure that the children attending Public Schools are fully funded, the children are given a Quality Education,

opportunities, and resources that will enable the children to thrive, help them to become academically inclined across all subjects, prepared, trained, and ready to go straight into the workforce. This approach will help the Public School children given that they decide that they do not want to go to college and/or a trade school or do not get accepted into the programs of choice.

In brief, Pennsylvania's Public Schools fund should have a separate budget from the other avenues of education. We should allocate funds to the other means of education as well. However, we must make sure that our Public Schools are fully funded first! Also, we must make salaries more attractive to teachers in the Philadelphia County, to foster teacher retention and motivation to stay committed to providing a Quality Education to the students attending the School District of Philadelphia; also, we must make salaries attractive to Black Men. This is imperative for the Urban Communities and its children. Children in the Urban Communities respond better when they work with people who can identify with them and not the issues that they are plagued with, prior to and after their school hours. Black Men can help restore structure in our schools and within our communities while working as educators and working with our students.

2. What factors do you believe should be considered in determining overall levels of school funding in the Commonwealth, and funding per school district?

Commonwealth should make every effort to assist with funding the various means of education, to allow our children and parents to have a choice of what type of school our children will attend and acquire knowledge from. However, we should strongly consider the needs of the students based on their performances academically,

economically, socially, and mentally. This requires a holistic approach. Unlike Private, Catholic, and Charter School children, it is a proven fact, those children in the Urban and impoverished communities perform poorly as a result of other adverse issues before and after school. This is largely due to their parents and grandparents not acquiring a Quality Education from the Public School System which resulted into them earning less wages, working two (2) and three (3) jobs to make ends meet (STILL NOT ENOUGH), not being able to assist with homework because they have to be at work, unemployed and part-time employed parents, the system removing the rights of parents to discipline their children the best way they know how (it worked for my brothers; they are respectful men today), mass and wrongful incarceration of the Black men, family health, alcoholic, and drug addictions, and mental health issues (Stemmed from Life's Frustrations), etc.

3. Do you believe public college, or community college, should be tuition free?

An investment in our children is an investment towards our future!

Absolutely!!! I would have been a doctor or an attorney had public and state colleges been free. I had the drive, determination, motivation, and desire to pursue a career possessing a dual doctorate and law degree. Unfortunately, that dream was halted because I did not have the money to attend and pay all fees for education, room & board, travel, and food expenses. It is okay though because I was able to happily be a public servant to the people who needed me most.

4. What role do you believe standardized tests should play in evaluating teachers, schools and students, if any?

A standardized test should be utilized to identify the subjects that students require remediation and school funding. Often, standardized test reflects students' academic performance level or lack thereof. This gives Law Makers and the School Board insight on what areas and how much funding should be allocated to each school, to make sure that every child receives a Quality Education and what he/she needs to academically thrive.

Please note that there are other adverse issues that need to be examined and addressed to accompany how we utilize standardized test and the allocation of funds to the various schools across the School Districts.

C. Budget and Taxes

1. Do you support a Constitutional Amendment to permit progressive taxation in PA, in whole or part?

Yes, I do support the Constitutional Amendment to permit

Progressive taxation in PA. However, I support lowering the tax brackets as well. I do not agree with workers having to pay nearly half (37%) of their earnings in taxes.

2. If legal, would you support raising the tax on unearned income as a way to increase State revenue without increasing burdens on working people?

No, I do not support raising the tax on unearned income.

In many cases, people receiving unearned income solely rely on the benefits. Moreover, the benefits are only a fraction what is needed to survive with today's inflations, re-gentrification displacements, and increase in COLA- Cost of Living Allowance.

3. What changes if any would you support in corporate net income tax levels?

Corporations' income tax need to increase. This would

revenue into our communities. Corporations' tax percentage should not be lower than individual tax payers.

4. What changes, if any, would you support in the personal income tax?

I would support lowering the tax bracket for individuals.

5. Do you support full elimination of the Delaware loophole?

Honestly, I would have to look into this further

to see how I would amend the existing law because I like the idea of consumers and residents not being taxed. This has become more firm with me as a result of the outrageous soda tax, here in Philadelphia. However, Corporations should be stipulated to pay corporate taxes.

I do know that I would immediately support a change (100%) in Corporations paying corporate taxes to bring more revenue into the state.

6. Do you support a tax on fracking, and at what level?

I do not support fracking! Therefore, I have not gotten this far to conclude what or how to support tax fracking. Sorry.

Fracking damages our Earth, neighborhoods, the health of people, our fur babies, wildlife, our air, our

water supply, our ecosystem, can lead to fatalities, and so on.

7. Would you support abolition or reduction of the property tax for all or some payers? If so, which ones, and how would you replace the revenue?

D. Public Banking

1. Would you support the creation of a Pennsylvania Public Bank, modeled after [the Bank of North Dakota](#)?

Absolutely! It is my opinion that a City or State Public Bank would be more beneficial and provide fair lending opportunities to people of all races, especially Blacks.

It is a proven fact that Blacks have for decades and continue to be adversely impacted by **redlining**. This is unconstitutional and need to be made just to foster inclusion and equality for equal and fair bank loans opportunities for Blacks as well. I believe that a City and a State bank will do that.

E. Women's Rights

1. Do you believe there should be any restrictions on a woman's right to choose? If so, what? Is any new legislation needed in light of the Dobbs decision to overrule Roe v. Wade?

NO RESTRICTIONS FOR WOMEN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE!!!

It is discriminatory and unconstitutional for women's rights to be restricted.

In fact, I need to enact a law to have this right for women to choose be amended into the Discrimination Law.

2. What additional protections should be enacted into law to protect women's health care?

At this time, I am not sure. However, I will support any law that will make us whole as a woman.

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

Absolutely! 100% Equality!

Issuing an amount of pay/wage should be based on whether a service/work was rendered and NOT which gender/sexual orientation completed the work.

4. Do you support new legislation to protect individuals against sexual assault?

Absolutely!

I would always support legislation to protect people of

all race, nationality, creed, religions, economic background, age, and gender/sexual orientation against heinous acts of sexual assault. Sexual assault on anyone at any time is PROHIBITED, OFFENSIVE, & A CRIME to anyone!!!

F. Children and Families

1. Should the State require businesses to provide paid family leave?

Absolutely! The State should require corporate businesses to pay family leave.

2. Should the State provide universal availability of affordable child care?

ABSOLUTELY YES!

If and when doing so, the law needs to state that the funds allocated for the universal availability of affordable childcare should be stipulated for that program and no other program. Our children need to be whole and have the assurance of having a wholesome quality education. Too often, funds are secured for one entity and be disbursed amongst other entities, leaving us back at ground zero. This too needs to stop!!!

Legislation need to stop playing on our heartstrings when using our babies to secretly secure funds for other programs, instead of using ALL of the money on our Children of the Future!!!

G. Environment

1. What measures, if any, would you support to move PA off its reliance on fossil fuels and expand use of renewable energy sources?

Off the top of my head, I would secure funds to create a program issuing discounts and/or tax credits for transitioning to the use of renewable energy sources.

Once in office and assessing what's currently in place, its pro and cons, and benefits I can better make an informed decision.

2. Do you support a ban on fracking in whole or part?

I do not support fracking!

Fracking damages our Earth and its crust, neighborhoods, the health of people, our fur babies, wildlife, our air, our water supply, our ecosystem, can lead to fatalities, and so on.

3. Would you support developing the Philadelphia area as an Energy Hub?

I need studies to see how the building of the Energy Hub would damage our infrastructure and any other pros and cons of having it here in Philadelphia.

Otherwise, I immediately say yes because it would bring revenue into our Great City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection. More importantly, it would create jobs for our residents of Philadelphia.

4. Do you think Philadelphia should be compelled or induced to sell PGW?

**I WOULD NEVER SUPPORT PHILADELPHIA IN THE SELL OF
PGA!**

I whole heartedly support Philadelphia in keeping PGW. We Philadelphians NEVER benefit when we privatize.

H. Criminal Justice

1. Should stop and frisk be limited or outlawed?

STOP& FRISK SHOULD TOTALLY OUTLAWED!!!

Stop and frisk directly targets our Black Men and has shown to be detrimental to our Black and Brown families and communities, which has also negatively impacted both the rich and the poor in all communities.

2. How would you deal with the problem of mass incarceration of minorities, particularly minority youth?

I would first assess case by case to see if the charges are warranted, accurate, and fair. Then, I would assess whether the placement is the correct placement. Many people are placed in prison when they should actually be stipulated to a mental institution to be treated for a mental instability (ies). Likewise, there are some people imprisoned when in fact they need to be stipulated to complete a drug treatment program.

3. Should marijuana be legalized for recreational use?

I do not have a preference on it being legalized or not. However, I would not object if Legislation wanted to pass marijuana for recreational usage.

It is a known fact that marijuana is medicinal. What I would immediately advocate for is that job does not terminate employees for having prescribed marijuana in their system. Employers should find accommodating non-hazardous positions for those

employees who require prescribed medicinal marijuana.

4. Should privately-owned prisons be permitted in Pennsylvania?
ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!

Privately own businesses largely financially benefits off of the MASS INCARCERATION of Black and Brown men.

5. Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania?

I need more information on this topic to provide a sound and informed answer,

6. Should PA continue to build new prisons?

NO!!! For what? We need to build structurally sound and safe schools that would foster well educated children ready for the workforce and to be law abiding, and productive citizens.

7. Should PA begin to close prisons?

Yes, we can began to close a few prisons as we move towards making our citizens gain a quality education, sustainable employment, and housing where people have no reason to resort to crime.

8. Do you support an end to the death penalty?

ABSOLUTELY YES!!!

The death penalty is unconstitutional. Totally abolishing the Death Penalty, Life Without Parole, Exonorees, and Death row is what I advocate for. My Democratic Platform speaks to enacting laws to protect inmates experiencing these crimes.

9. When if ever, should a juvenile be tried as an adult?

At no point should a juvenile be tried as an adult. It is a proven fact that a child's mind is not developed until 25 years of age. The juvenile is still young, immature, make irrational and impulsive decision.

I. Campaign Finance Reform

Would you support legislation to provide public financing for State and local election campaigns?

At this time, I require more information on this topic to make a sound and informed decision. Thanks

J. Labor

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

Absolutely, yes!!! I was a member to several unions, to include the American Federation of Teacher. Unions serve as a protection for the workers. The people have a right to unions.

2. Should the minimum wage be increased? If so, to what level and should the increase be indexed to inflation?

As a start, minimum wage should be increased to \$20 and gradually increased to \$25, to reflect the inflation, COLA, and other financial instabilities caused by re-gentrification here in Philadelphia. The aforementioned wage increase speaks to only Philadelphia. I would have to assess the COLA and wage

impacts in other counties of Pennsylvania before I make an informed and sound decision for other counties.

3. Do you believe that Philadelphia and other municipalities should continue to be pre-empted from increasing the minimum wage on their own?

Philadelphia should be able to increase the minimum wage for Philadelphia.

4. Do you support privatization of retail liquor sales in Pennsylvania? Are there any other services that you believe should be considered for privatization?

I WILL NEVER SUPPORT PRIVITIZATION OF ANYTHING THAT BELONGS TO PENNSYLVANIA!!!

Pennsylvania has well and highly qualified professional and experts that that run our liquor industry. If not, we can create them.

K. Transportation

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

I would support an amended law for the State Constitution allowing gas tax revenue to spent on public transportation if it states that the roads, bridges, and infrastructure is fixed first with the money. I'm open, but I have to see how it would work. I do not want to take monies away from one entity if it still needs it to share with another entity.

Further, I would have to review the existing law (s), data of what is already in place, the current benefits, future pros and cons, and so on before making a sound and informed decision.

L. Reforming Legislative Districts

1. Do you support measures that would (a) form an independent commission, and (b) apply sound methodologies, to draw all congressional, State House, and Senate districts fairly in Pennsylvania?

At this time, I cannot state whether or not I would support

or not support an independent commission on the various district levels. I would need more information to make a sound decision or render my support. For example,

1. What are the pros and cons to the redistricting?
 2. Would there be an adverse effect by redistricting the districts?
 3. Ultimately, what would be the benefits to the state and the people with the redistricting?
2. Would you support the reduction in size of the current PA House from 203 seats to 151 seats, or some other number?

At this time, I support that we keep the PA House with 203 seats. "If it's not broke don't fix it." Moreover, a decrease in the PA House seats would cause a displacement in employment. I, NaDerah Griffin advocate for jobs!