



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

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Instructions

Please complete the following questions on this form and return by email to gmgilman@gmail.com. Note: Although these questions are uniform, we recognize that the perspective of the incumbent and challengers will differ based on whether your viewpoints arise from within or without the Office.

I. Background

1. Please describe your professional and educational history and how it prepares you for the position of Register of Wills. I have an Asst Degree from CCP in Business and a BA from Immaculata University in Human Performance. More importantly, I worked for Council President Anna Verna for 6 years, then in the Register of Wills for 4 years when under Ron Donatucci. Most recently I worked for Mayor Kenney for 7 years, having to resign to run for office.
2. Why do you want to hold the Office of The Register of Wills & Clerk of Orphans' Court? What skill set do you bring that qualifies and make you stand out for this position? The Register of Wills is a crucial office which ensures the transfer of wealth in addition to other administrative services such as marriage licenses. At times the

Register will also preside over hearings determining the appointment of an administrator. This office should have a candidate who exemplifies integrity and fairness. We can not have an elected official treating this office as a personal business for family members to be employed. In addition to exposing the office to impartiality in it's hiring practices, the lack of understanding in what the services it provides are detrimental for leadership. This is the current state of the office. This is why I am compelled to run for Register of Wills. I have the experience and leadership qualities that can take the office up to a respectable department with the integrity and professionalism needed.

3. How much money have you raised, and how much do you anticipate raising? What is your plan to win? We have raised a considerable amount for a first time campaign and continue to raise funding through grassroot efforts.

4. What endorsements have you obtained and what others do you expect? In this brief time we have been able to secure TWU, Longshoreman,

II. General Duties of Office

5. Please briefly explain the mission of the Office of The Register of Wills & Clerk of Orphans' Court. The mission of the Register of Wills is to administer estates, probate wills and issue marriage licenses. To whom, or to what department, is this office accountable? The office is a county office with it's duties mandated by the state. It is funded by the City of Philadelphia, therefore audited by the city controller.

6. Why is The Register of Wills important? The most important function of the Register of Wills office is to handle the administration of a deceased person's estate. This includes the collection of all assets, payment of any outstanding debts and taxes, and the distribution of the remaining assets to the heirs or beneficiaries named in the will or according to state laws if there is no will.

The Register of Wills office is responsible for overseeing the probate process, which is the legal process of validating a will, appointing an executor or administrator, and ensuring that the wishes of the deceased are carried out according to their instructions. The office is also responsible for maintaining records of wills and other legal documents related to the distribution of an estate.

In addition to the administration of estates, the Register of Wills office also performs other functions related to the legal system, such as issuing marriage licenses. However, the primary function and responsibility of the office is the administration of estates.

Above all the Register of Wills should exhibit the utmost integrity while carrying out the mandated duties of the office. The office should be held to the highest possible standard.

7. How does this office interact with and affect the citizens of Philadelphia? The office lacked access during the pandemic and was slow to react with changes in its public hours. Has that interaction increased or decreased? Why or why not?
8. What is the annual budget, and what expenditure classes take up a good portion of it, whether salaries, programming, or other items? According to the City's finance department, its last budget reflected 4.5 million dollars. More than 50% of its budget accounted for salaries.
9. What are the staffing needs? Is there room for growth or changes in job numbers, skills, or requirements? If I am elected, I will perform a full audit of the office to determine its efficiency and overall viability in how staffing and services are performed. From there we will make the necessary changes to save citizens from overpaying for basic services.
10. Do you see a need for an increased budget to perform this work? The audit will ultimately dictate this, but I believe we can cut costs through added efficiency.
11. How much revenue does your department generate annually? Are there departmental expenditures that aren't covered by City appropriations, and do they require you to find other ways to supplement your department? What, if any, other financial resources do you use to supplement expenditures for your department? According to the City's finance department revenues have been in the 4 million dollar range over the past several years.
12. Would you support efforts to have your department revenues deposited into a Public Bank? Would that create any additional positive/negative actions on the part of your department? Yes, I would support a public bank being established to help underserved Philadelphians, and would assume that city offices be required to utilize the public bank for all operating revenues and expenditures.
13. Are your department revenues going to the City of Philadelphia General Fund or some other place? **N/A**
14. Are you in support of the Wealth Tax and do you believe it would have any possible effects on the citizens going through probate and/or any additional work this office would have to perform? Yes, I am in support of a wealth tax.
15. What type of programming and changes have been implemented over the past three years, and how successful have those changes been? How would you measure that success? **N/A**

16. What additional programming and changes, would you like to implement that would benefit the public? (i.e., internships, technology, status of old records, documentation, archiving, storage, and historical preservation) The office is in dire need of a technological upgrade. This alone will increase output and efficiency in its services.

17. How diverse is this office compared to three years ago? According to the Controller's diversity report the office has increased. On another note, to my knowledge the office is lacking in transparency to its hiring process and has fallen into the age old practice of nepotism and favoritism.

1. There has been some controversy around office hiring practices that have folks questioning the incumbent's leadership ability. Please speak to that. As I referenced in my prior answer, in 2023 this office has conducted gross violations in hiring practices. The moral has taken a huge hit as a result and set a poor example for its leadership. We would assume in this day and age we wouldn't need to address concerns like this which have been eradicated in the majority of employment at governmental institutions.