

2024 Congressional Questionnaire

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Committee Name: Friends of Tracey Gordon _____

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**Please complete, sign and return this form via email in PDF format to
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and mail or email a copy of the signature page to

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I. BACKGROUND *Please note: answers to questions 7-9 are optional.*

1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held? The Honorable Tracey L. Gordon has held the position fo Register of Wills & Clerk of the Orphan’s Court for the City of Philadelphia from January 2020 to January 2024.
2. If you have previously held a government office:
 - a. What are the primary issue areas in which you were involved?

During my tenure, I was primarily involved in implementing strategies and policies related to estate planning and probate, as well as community outreach and collaboration initiatives to provide legal assistance to low-income residents. And of course I ran the office breaking revenue records, probating estate even during Covid-19, increasing revenue to the state in inheritance taxes by 37% and increasing revenue to the city. At one point we were the only office in the state probating estates and issuing marriage licenses during the global Covid-19 shutdown.

- b. What committees, caucuses or working groups have you served on? I've as a member on the State Register of Wills Association and served on their Board. Philadelphia hosted their annual Register of Wills conference for the first time since 1961.
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.) I was a member of Neighborhood Networks and have worked extensively on issues related to estate planning, community outreach, and voter education. I have been involved in supervising young adults transition to independence. Gloria Gilman can vouch for my community work and Angela McIver, CEO of Fair Housing can vouch for my work in the community. I am also a proud block captain of 23 years.
4. Please provide copies of all your significant campaign materials, including position papers, advertisement copy, and flyers. I will provide this material once I get my ballot number
5. What, if any, endorsements have you received? What others are you seeking? It's pretty early I have yet to receive any endorsements
6. What is your plan to win this race, including your fundraising goals and strategies. I have always depended on grassroots fundraising I intend on using that same strategy
7. What, if any, genders, do you identify with? She/Her
8. What is your sexual orientation? Straight
9. What is your racial, ethnic identity? Black

II. ISSUES

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, please so state.

A. Income and Wealth Inequality, and Benefit Programs.

- 1) What is your position on the rate of the estate tax, and to whom it should apply? From my experience as a former Register of Will, I see the estate tax and probate fees problematic for a large majority of poor and working class

folk in this city, as you know we are considered America's poorest largest city so the fees have been a problem for many of our citizens which is one reasoning why we have such a huge problem with tangled titles here in the city because people can't afford the fees. The bigger problem is the lack of education surrounding estate planning in general. Many of our citizens are not educated on the process of probate and paying inheritance taxes they believe the wealth is automatically transferred from one heir to the next. This is a question for State legislators because they have the authority to review and revise. As the Register I did come up with a program, the Probate Deferral Initiative to address the probate fees. As for the inheritance taxes I think it's time that our legislative body have this discussion. As of last year we sent \$107 million dollars to the state in estate taxes more than any other county, as a matter of fact we broke records yet how have Philadelphia benefited from these taxes is the question?

2) How, if at all, should the personal income tax be modified?

The decision to modify personal income tax should involve careful consideration as well as broader public input and deliberation. Any changes to the tax system should aim to balance competing objectives and promote the overall welfare of society.

3) Would you impose a tax on stock and bond transactions? If so, at what rate?
Not sure need to do more research on this topic.

4) Would you support a wealth tax? Absolutely

5) To what level and by what date would you raise the minimum wage to ensure it provides a sustainable living wage? Immediately \$15/hour

6) Would you support a single-payer health care system or seek to improve Obamacare, and if the latter, how? I would seek to improve Obamacare make it more affordable for middle income hard working folk

7) Would you support universal child care, and/or universal pre-K to reduce poverty? Yes.

8) Would you support making the choice of union membership less onerous by, among other things, requiring certification of unions based upon a card-check alone, easing union organizers' access to the workplace, and barring mandatory attendance by workers at employer anti-union meetings? I'm not sure but I support unions

9) Would you break up or nationalize the big banks? I would need more information.

10) How, if at all, would you modify the Federal Reserve system? I would need more information

B. Campaign Finance and Voting Rights.

- 1) Would you support a publicly financed system of campaign financing for Congressional campaigns? Yes
- 2) Would you support complete transparency regarding the funding of campaigns, including disclosure of all spending by wealthy donors? Yes
- 3) Would you impose a cap on spending by Super-PACs, advocacy groups and lobbyists? Yes
- 4) Would you support a Constitutional Amendment establishing that corporations are not people and do not have the rights of citizens, such as free speech or religion? I would say yes but need more information
- 5) What reforms would you support to make it easier to vote in Federal elections? (e.g., early voting, same day registration, a federal Holiday on Election Day, federal standards for voting rights, counting of votes, and redistricting by states, a Constitutional Amendment establishing the right to vote, restoration of the Voting Rights Act to its original scope)? I definitely do not approve of how our local DCC is being ran! I would love to see a federal holiday but I'm wondering would that get the vote out because people are very apathetic about government right now especially in this city, I support election protection as a committee woman I see a lot of bullying going on in this city and pay to play. It's very sad that the person with the most money usually wins. And at the local levels the bullying is at an all time high. How do you have the authority to suspend duly elected officials its corruption at its all time high in this city

C. Climate Change. Would you support:

- 1) A tax on carbon? yes
- 2) A full or partial ban on offshore drilling? partial
- 3) A ban, or other limitation, on fracking? limits
- 4) A ban on mountaintop removal? Need more information about this
- 5) Raising petroleum fuel economy standards to 65 miles per hour? not sure

- 6) Legislation requiring 100% clean energy by a date certain and the funding needed to make it a reality? yes
- 7) Banning new nuclear plants and enacting plans for the ultimate shutdown of existing ones? yes

D. Immigration. Do you believe we should:

- 1) Provide a path toward citizenship for the millions of residents who are here without papers? depends on their background if they have criminal history this needs to be considered.
- 2) Allow undocumented residents to buy health insurance under Obamacare? Yes
- 3) Provide humanitarian parole to return unjustly deported immigrants and unify broken families? yes I don't believe in breaking families up
- 4) End the dumping of Central American immigrants in dangerous locations in their home countries? Yes but where would they be relocated?

E. Racial Justice. Do you believe the federal government should:

- 1) Demilitarize local police forces? yes
- 2) Provide incentives, or mandates, to:
 - a. increase diversity in local police forces? Yes Yes Yes
 - b. require police to use body cameras? Yes
 - c. replace police as the first or sole responders to incidents not involving the threat by purported offenders of violent force? Yes
- 3) Abolish minimum sentencing? yes its not fair
- 4) Decriminalize possession of marijuana or other controlled substances? Marijuana I'm not sure about other controlled substances
- 5) Ban private prisons? Yes
- 6) Ban the box that requires job applicants to declare prior arrests? yes

- 7) Require that the environmental analysis for a permit for a polluting facility must consider both the disparate and cumulative environmental burden borne by a community? Yes!!!!
- 8) Provide reparations for the impact of slavery and Jim Crow on African-Americans? Yes

F. Women's Rights. Do you believe the federal government should:

- 1) Guarantee affordable child care for every working parent? Yes
- 2) Require employers to provide paid family leave, paid vacation and paid sick days to every American worker? Yes
- 3) End the ban on federal funding for abortion services? Yes
- 4) Enact Roe v. Wade into law nationwide? yes

G. War and Peace. Do you think the federal government should:

- 1) Use economic incentives to pressure Israel to end the War in Gaza and the occupation in both Gaza and the West Bank? That may be too late but yes
- 2) Support a policy of reducing American military presence around the world? I need more intelligence to answer this question.
- 3) Repeal or modify the Patriot Act? I believe the law has expired I definitely believe we need to hold hearing in this regard
- 4) Bar the US from torturing prisoners under any and all circumstances? yes
- 5) Cut the defense budget to increase spending on social service priorities at home? Yes
- 6) Close Guantanamo? yes
- 7) Ban first use of nuclear weapons and renew arms negotiations to lower nuclear stockpiles? yes and yes

H. Corporate Tax Policy. Do you think we should:

- 1) Prevent corporations that are American for all practical purposes from avoiding U.S. taxes by claiming to be a foreign company through the establishment of a post office box in a tax haven country? yes

- 2) Repeal loopholes and tax subsidies throughout the federal tax code that benefit oil, natural gas, and coal special interests? yes
- 3) End the carried interest loophole? yes
- 4) Reverse or modify the Trump tax bill's corporate tax cuts, and if so, how? Not sure need more information

I. Education

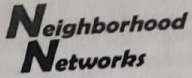
- 1) What is your view of the appropriate role of testing in student and school evaluations? I am anti testing
- 2) How, if at all, should the federal government promote equity in school district funding? By awarding equalization grants to ensure all school districts have a baseline level of funding that targets districts with lower property values or limited tax bases to bridge the equity gap. Appropriating fair funding for disadvantage communities and providing infrastructure grants and technical grants because these buildings are old and full of asbestos and lead and are technologically behind.
- 3) Do you support eradicating all student debt? Yes!!!!
- 4) What role should charter schools play in school districts and how do you believe the federal government should either promote them, restrict, or otherwise regulate them? They need more oversight and accountability
- 5) Do you support making public college tuition free? If not, do you have other proposals to reduce the cost of a college education? Yes definitely for two year college and don't forget we need more trade schools. The unions are definitely segregated.

J. Miscellaneous

- 1) How, if at all, do you think U.S. trade policy needs to change? Continue to promote fair trade agreements that protect intellectual property, labor rights and environmental standards. We definitely need to support and protect domestic industries "made in America" and promote as much exporting as importing.
- 2) What measures would you support to reduce youth unemployment, particularly among minorities? I would begin paid internships in high school. When I was coming up I worked year round. We worked 10 - 20 hours

during school time in hospitals, all types of programs maybe do half a day schooling. We need to subsidize co-ops and they should earn school credits for working as well.

- 3) How would you reform or repair Social Security? I want it to be fully funded.
- 4) How, if at all, would you change the filibuster? Not sure
- 5) Do you believe the Supreme Court should be enlarged, or other measures taken to reverse the ability of the Court to permanently be in the way of progressive legislative policies. I think it should be larger definitely they have way too much power.



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

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Tracey L. Gordon
2/27/2024

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