

**PA STATE LEGISLATIVE 2022 QUESTIONNAIRE  
FOR PHILLY NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS**

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**CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION**

Candidate Name: Janay Hawthorne

Office Sought: PA State 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete, sign and return this form via Email to:**

**Gloria Gilman: [gmgilman@gmail.com](mailto:gmgilman@gmail.com)**

**and**

**Stan Shapiro: [shapsj@comcast.net](mailto:shapsj@comcast.net)**

## 2022 PA State Legislative Questionnaire

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

1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held?

Not Applicable

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.)

-Provided testimony in support of Maryland senate bill SB0276, a bill that would repeal provisions relating to the establishment and maintenance of a Johns Hopkins Police Department. (Ari Davis adavis@csgv.org)

-Provided testimony during Rep Morgan Cephas during August 2018 regarding the impact of the Janus vs. AFSCME Council 31 decision threatens workers rights and all working families, particularly women of color. (Pam Robinson probinson@dc47.org)

-Provided an op-ed in the Uptown Standard Newspaper and Broad Street Journal utilizing Public Health policy expertise regarding Philadelphia gun violence being a public health epidemic. (James Williams Jr - phluptownstandard@gmail.com)

4. Please provide copies of all your significant campaign materials, including position papers, advertisement copy, and flyers.

5. What, if any, endorsements have you received? What others are you seeking?

I have not received any endorsements yet. I am seeking endorsements from local labor, Philly NOW, and other community organizations in the Philadelphia area.

6. What is your plan to win this race, including your fundraising goals and strategies.

My plan is to conduct outreach with disengaged voters, in addition to utilizing my widespread network to gain support amongst voters who may be more familiar with the other candidates in this race.

7. What, if any, genders, do you identify with? Female

8. What is your sexual orientation?

9. What is your racial, ethnic identity? Black

## 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 say so.**

## **I. OVERALL**

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

**Public Health**– Current Pennsylvania Public Health policies and infrastructure are antiquated and fail to address the current health issues facing Philadelphians AND other Pennsylvanians daily. The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the health disparities across the state, especially in urban and rural areas. An update and upgrade is needed for the public health infrastructure in our state. Health care, environmental health, gun violence, mental health, and behavioral health services are among the few issues needing immediate remedy, and current policy cannot adequately address.

**Education**– A more equitable state education funding formula could provide Pennsylvanians with a more realistic approach to educating our students. We have an opportunity to teach our children how to apply what they have learned in school to real-life functions and in a more practical manner. Combat the school-to-prison pipeline from all angles. Our current education system needs to be restructured to provide our children and youth with more innovative practices as we navigate education in this current landscape.

**Equitable jobs & wages**– Pennsylvania needs a system that allows its constituents to obtain and maintain a job paying equitable and livable wages. Still, with a growing number of jobs requiring postsecondary education or training, we need to equip individuals with the necessary education and skills. Pennsylvania needs tradespeople, nurses, educators, engineers, and so much more. Preparation for these careers must start before completion of high school

## **II. Education**

1) Do you believe public college, or community college, should be tuition free?  
Yes

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

I believe that standardized testing ideally serves as an “objective” way to evaluate and measure student performance and success. However, it has been repeatedly proven that standardized tests have placed some school districts at an advantage

or disadvantage. I do not believe that standardized tests should play a role in evaluating teachers, schools, or students. There are alternatives that consider students who learn and demonstrate academic proficiency in different ways. It also places pressure on schools and teachers to measure achievement against goals rather than measuring progress.

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

-Student needs- The number of low-income students, students with disAbilities, ESL students, and students in foster care within the district (just to name a few).

-The size of the district and variations in the price of resources depending on location.

- Preschools should be included in school funding formulas

4) Approximately 33% of Philadelphia students are enrolled in charter schools. What is your position on the expansion of charter schools? Should they be given public money via vouchers or similar programs (like ESAs)? What role do you think public schools play in our city?

I think that like standardized tests, charter schools ideally would create a “higher-quality” alternative, but quickly showed otherwise. Charter schools often have not undergone the scrutiny that our public schools handle, and often leave students unprepared for higher educational opportunities. I think that charter school expansion should be eliminated, and that the focus should be on increasing the quality of and resources within public schools. I don’t think they should be given public vouchers. I would suggest that a 529 savings program is an alternative to utilizing taxpayer dollars.

### III. Budget and Taxes

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

Yes- everyone should pay their fair share in taxes.

2) What changes if any would you support in the corporate net income tax levels?

See this: <https://krc-pbpc.org/issues/corporate-income-taxes/>

I would reinstate an equitable capital stock and franchise tax and eliminate separate reporting.

3) What changes, if any, would you support in the personal income tax?

I support an increase in the PA personal income tax if there are equitable tax credits provided to Pennsylvanians based on income.

- 4) Do you support the [Fair Share Tax Plan](#) proposed by the PA Budget and Policy Center, with its emphasis on raising the tax rate on unearned income?

Yes- It would raise billions in revenue annually, while cutting or leveling taxes for most Pennsylvanians.

- 5) Do you support full elimination of the Delaware loophole?

Yes- this loophole costs the Commonwealth a ridiculous amount of tax revenue, while placing a heavier burden on smaller corporations.

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

Yes, as the Commonwealth is the only major gas-producing state in the country that doesn't have a severance tax. The tax level should be comparable to states that produce similar levels of natural gas due to fracking.

- 7) Do you support the Keystone Opportunity Zone program? Would you introduce legislation to eliminate it, or to limit the number of times a parcel's KOZ designation can be renewed or extended? More generally, do you support tax breaks to lure or retain businesses?

I don't support the KOZ program as it stands. It has failed to provide the "economic prosperity," as promised to individuals in low-income and distressed neighborhoods. I think considering the amount of tax breaks provided to businesses and the fact that Philadelphia is still considered the poorest big city in the US, shows that these programs aren't as beneficial as officials perceive. This program should not be extended and should be ultimately eliminated.

#### **IV. Public Banking**

Would you support the creation of a Pennsylvania Public Bank, modeled after the Bank of North Dakota, and/or the creation of local public banks in PA cities and counties?

Yes

#### **V. Women's Rights**

- 1) Do you believe there should be any restrictions on a woman's right to choose? If so, what?

No restrictions- Every woman or child-birthing individual has the right to choose/ have autonomy over their body

- 2) What additional protections should be enacted into law to protect women's health care in light of the pending decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to override or sharply curtail Roe v. Wade?

The Commonwealth can pass a statute like the Freedom of Choice Act or enact some state-level constitutional protection considering the pending decision.

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

Yes

## VI. Children and Families

- 1) Should the state require businesses to provide paid family leave?

Yes

- 2) Should the state provide universal availability of affordable childcare? If yes, how would you achieve this?

Yes- I like the initiatives introduced within the Child Care for Working Families Act (CCFWA), as childcare indeed enables all other work, allowing parents and guardians to work while their children enjoy the benefits that come from quality care. I think universal availability of affordable childcare can be achieved with:

- A sliding scale to determine parental copays for childcare. The scale would align income categories to state median income, accounting for the cost of living in Pennsylvania and the number of children in a family.
- Make information about the applicable Pennsylvania childcare assistance programs publicly available.
- Devote an allocation of 5% of authorized and appropriated funds toward services for children and families with disabilities.

## VII. Environment

- 1) Do you support a ban on fracking in whole or part? Explain.

Yes- Most PA voters oppose fracking within the Commonwealth. But aside from adhering to what constituents want, fracking causes environmental and public health harm. I don't believe the mixed economic impact is worth the disadvantages.

- 2) Would you support banning the use of single-use plastic bags?

Yes

- 3) Do you think Philadelphia should be compelled or induced to sell PGW?

No- PGW is owned by the people

- 4) What measures would you support to move PA off its reliance on fossil fuels and expand use of renewable energy sources?

I would support a state Green New Deal to create jobs and invest in local environmental sustainability.

5) What criteria would you use in making appointments to the P.U.C.?

Experts who are committed to partaking in clean energy and investing in future technology that doesn't negatively impact our environment. The appointments should also have some public opinion or citizens commission for review prior to approval.

6) What steps would you take to ensure environmental justice in the placement and remediation of structures that pollute?

The first step is educating the masses to develop more environmental justice advocates. We need to be more intentional about how tax dollars are spent and with whom while not supporting entities that engage in these environmental malpractices. Also, constituents need to be informed on the inequitable hazards and those that create the policies surrounding them.

7) What, if any, other measures would you support to preserve or improve our environment? (water issues, park preservation, detoxification of school buildings, etc.)

Aside from the issues listed within this question, Philadelphia, in particular, has a massive illegal dumping issue and these individuals need to be held accountable for their actions.

## VIII. Criminal Justice

1) Should stop and frisk be limited or outlawed?

Stop and frisk should be limited, and gradually outlawed.

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

Invest in communities rather than punitive systems including prisons and jails.

3) Should marijuana be fully legalized?

Yes

4) Should privately-owned prisons be permitted in Pennsylvania?

No

5) Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania?

Yes

6) Should PA continue to build new prisons?

No

7) Should PA begin to close prisons? Explain.

Yes- There has been a decline in the Commonwealth's state prison population. In addition to the massive openings of prison positions, this is an opportunity to reimagine the prison system in PA.

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

Yes

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

Never

10) As a general matter, what do you think the state can do to reduce the murder rate in Philadelphia, while maintaining respect for civil liberties and the overall need for decarceration of our city?

The state should implement evidence-based behavioral interventions that have been proven to reduce murder rates in cities comparable to Philadelphia.

## IX. Campaign Finance Reform

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

Yes

## X. Labor

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

Yes- I am a former union member and was raised within a union family. I understand the importance of unions and their impact on enabling individuals to receive equitable and fair wages and benefits.

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

I believe that the minimum wage is severely overdue for an increase. The \$15/hr minimum wage that is consistently promoted in the media still wouldn't be enough for Pennsylvanians. In 2017, the National Low Income Housing Coalition state that a minimum wage of nearly \$19 is needed to afford a 2-bedroom home in PA. Considering that this information is nearly 5 years old, this amount is a better starting point when determining a fair number.

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

No



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

No and No

- 5) Philadelphia remains the most impoverished major city and about 75% of our residents lack bachelor's degrees. What policies would you implement to ensure that decent, high-paying jobs created here are accessible to the majority of our population, not just the relatively well-educated and already well off?

There needs to be a creation of an initiative that complements Philadelphia's citywide workforce development strategy. This program would include specific strategies that ensure sustainable career pathways especially for opportunity youth, returning citizens, and immigrants.

## XI. Reforming Legislative Districts

- 1) Do you support legislation that would (1) form an independent commission, and (2) apply sound methodologies, to draw all congressional, State House, and Senate districts fairly in Pennsylvania?

Yes & yes

## XII. Public Health

- 1) Would you support state legislation to create a single-payer system in PA?

Yes

- 2) How would you reduce or eliminate the racial disparities in the provision of health care, in particular the distribution of lifesaving COVID vaccines and medications?

Addressing this matter includes expanding health insurance coverage, improving cultural competencies and capacity of medical providers (especially those that attend underserved communities), and increasing their knowledge base on causes and interventions to reduce disparities. Health care professionals need to understand the history of vaccine hesitancy, in addition to acknowledging that disparities exist.

## XIV. Housing

- 1) How would you deal with the growing affordable housing gap in PA, both in the homeownership and rental markets?

I would support legislation that allocates funding to build and preserve affordable housing, increases funding for preventing homelessness, boost the state income tax credit, increasing minimum wage, provide an annual grant to

families with children (with an income-based sliding scale), and more rigorous enforcement of existing fair housing laws.

- 2) Would you support a mandate requiring landlords to show good cause for evictions?

Yes