

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

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**CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION**

Candidate Name: Stephen Kinsey \_\_\_\_\_

Office Sought: PA State Rep 201<sup>st</sup> Legislative 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: \_\_\_\_\_ 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?

*PA State Representative*

*Trustee at West Chester University (appointed by Governor Wolf)*

*Board Member Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority*

2. If you have previously held a government office:

- a. What are the primary issue areas in which you were involved?

*Healthcare, Public Safety, Criminal Justice Reform and Education*

- b. What committees, caucuses or working groups have you served on?

*Past Chair Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus*

*Subcommittee Chair of Public Health on the Health Committee*

*Subcommittee Chair of Public Transportation on the Transportation Committee*

*Subcommittee Chair of Health & Equities, Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus*

*Subcommittee Chair of Drug & Alcohol on the Human Services Committee*

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.)

*N/A*

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

5. What, if any, endorsements have you received? *PA SNAP* What others are you seeking? *PHILADELPHIA NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK, DC 47, DC 33, LABORERS LOCAL 33, TWU 234, PFT, PSEA, AFSCME, PA AFL/CIO, DEMOCRATIC CITY COMMITTEE, SEIU, 1199C, TEAMSTERS, APSCUF, PAM PAC, NOW, Sierra Club and UFCW 1776*

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

*I intend to knock on at least 10,000 doors, host a series of community meetings and distribute at least 5 mailers throughout the district. My fundraising goal is 100,000*

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

8. What is your sexual orientation? *Heterosexual*

9. What is your racial, ethnic identity? *African American*

## **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.

*Although my list of priorities as a legislator is vast; if I had to choose three, ensuring public safety for all our citizens is a top priority. Another priority is ensuring citizens have access to affordable healthcare without having to choose between paying for prescriptions or missing a meal. I am also an advocate for fair funding for education. These three issues although inherently different affect every faction of our society. Citizens regardless of where they live, their economic status, race, or gender identity should have equal access to resources in all these areas.*

## **II. Education**

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

*Yes, I believe tuition should be free for both public and community colleges. We now recognize that simply obtaining a high school diploma is no longer a viable means to obtaining gainful employment. At minimum that requires a bachelor’s degree and obtaining one should be a basic part of public education. In addition, understanding that all students are not college bound; I think the state should allocate funding to provide grants to attend technical and trade schools which upon graduation could act as a pipeline to employment with the state and or local and federal government and local unions.*

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

*In my opinion, standardized tests cannot be used to evaluate teachers, schools, or students because quality education is not equal across the board. We cannot expect a student in an underperforming school to score as high as their counterparts at high performing school where those students have better student to teacher ratios as well as access to better resources.*

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

*We need to ensure that funding and resources are equal across the state. This can be done by increasing funding to underserved and low performing school districts to make*

*them as viable as the higher performing districts. Once that is achieved, we should continue to utilize and monitor the fair funding formula which the state has in place.*

- 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?

*As opposed to expanding charter schools I would prefer to bring our traditional public schools to a level of educational excellence. Charter schools are public schools because they exist, we need to support them. Our focus should be on our children achieving not the separation of one educational source versus another.*

*I am not in favor of vouchers or ESA's if the monies for them reduce monies available to public schools. We have failed our public schools and it is our obligation to bring them up to acceptable standards.*

*Public schools are vital in my city however due to inadequate funding and resources some are not performing at the level they should be which is why I am an advocate of increasing funding to public schools from every level of government.*

### III. Budget and Taxes

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

*Yes, I believe everyone should pay their fair share of taxes and that we should eliminate any loopholes that allow the wealthier of our citizen to pay less.*

- 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 support raising the corporate net income tax so that corporations pay their fair share.*

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

*I would consider legislation that promotes an equitable distribution of taxes based on wages earned which would include a reduction of taxes for the middle class and a possible increase on higher wage earners.*

- 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, support the fair tax plan proposed by the PA budget Policy and Policy Center, I believe it is directed toward help fix our broken tax system.*

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

*Yes, I also support the full elimination of the Delaware Loophole. Large corporations operating in Pennsylvania should be held to Pennsylvania standards.*

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

*Yes, support a tax on fracking at level between 7% and 15 %. Pennsylvania's current impact fee for fracking is too small.*

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?

*Although I support the Keystone Operating Zone, I am in favor of limiting the number of times designations can be renewed and/or extended.*

#### **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?

*I support the concept of a Pennsylvania Public bank as well as local public banks such as the one currently being proposed in Philadelphia. These types of banking systems help support people of color who otherwise have trouble accessing the business credit they need due to discriminating lending practices in the private banking systems.*

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

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

*I believe a woman's right to choose is exactly that, her right to choose. We, in government, should not be allowed to restrict or set guidelines that impede on those rights.*

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

*We need to make sure that protections that involve access to preventive, emergency and chronic care is readily available for all women under Pennsylvania law.*

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

*Yes, I am a staunch supporter for equal pay for equal work for woman. In this country woman have evolved way pass what is typically considered "woman work" and have crossed over into careers that were traditionally only available to men. They have proven that they can compete with men across the board and at all levels, from labor industry to CEOs of major corporations. More importantly many of them have done*

*this while still raising families. They have earned and deserve equal pay for equal work.*

## **VI. Children and Families**

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

*Yes, however, I also feel that the state should share in the cost and leave should be based on the size of the business. We can't expect small businesses to be able to afford offering such leave at the same level as larger businesses. This can be accomplished by setting up a system much like unemployment where a employees can opt to pay into the funds to be eligible to utilize it in the future. I also think the type and length of family leave needs to be considered when establishing what should be covered by state funding.*

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

*Yes, the state should provide universal availability of affordable childcare. This can be achieved by not only providing childcare tax credits but by establishing state run and operated centers across the commonwealth.*

## **VII. Environment**

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

*Absolutely, I do support a ban on fracking in whole.*

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

*Yes, I support the banning of single use plastic bags. These bags are not biodegradable and most often find their way into landfills or littering streets. These bags also find their way to our waterways endangering wildlife and clogging our drainage systems.*

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

*No, I think Philadelphia should hold on to PGW so that they can continue manage prices so that residents don't fall victim to those energy suppliers who have the tendency to fluctuate prices at will.*

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

*I support legislation that provides tax incentive to companies, transit agencies and residents who invest in renewable energy and/or purchase items which do not rely on fossil fuels to operate.*

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

*The main criteria are someone with a history of consumer advocacy and a vast knowledge of the functions of public utilities within the area they are chosen to serve.*

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

*I will continue to advocate and support legislation that addresses environmental justice. I feel the state should lead by example by starting with government buildings and schools across the Commonwealth. I would also support legislation that provides incentives as well as grants to businesses and/or organizations focused on remediation.*

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

*I would introduce and/or support legislation that provides incentives as well as grants to businesses and/or organizations focused on improving the environment in all the areas noted. I would also invest monies into outreach and education so that residents see the benefit of doing their part.*

## VIII. Criminal Justice

- 1) Should stop and frisk be limited or outlawed?

*Fundamentally, it should be outlawed, however I am interested in seeing the results of a pilot project that Philadelphia 14<sup>th</sup> Police District recently participated in.*

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

*I think mass incarceration is wrong under any circumstances. I would address this issue through legislation that provides alternatives for youths as opposed to incarceration.*

- 3) Should marijuana be fully legalized?

*Yes, I support legalizing and regulating marijuana not only because of the potential health benefits; studies show that it can help reduce the crime rate and improve the economies of states where it has been legalized. If it is regulated properly, it can bring more money and jobs into our economy.*

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

*No*

- 5) Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania?

*Yes, I support banning the box. Our penal system was developed not only to be punishment but rehabilitation. If a person has done their time for the crimes and they have been released back into society; it our expectation of them to become productive*

*citizens. Many offenders have learned trades while incarcerated that could be the game changer for them and their families if given the opportunity and not having their past interfere with their future is the start.*

6) Should PA continue to build new prisons?

*No, I would rather see PA invest money in public education.*

7) Should PA begin to close prisons? Explain.

*Yes, we have seen a decreased need for long term incarceration.*

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

*Yes*

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

*I don't think we should ever try juveniles as adults.*

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 demarcation of our city?

*As a general matter, the state would have to pass sensible gun laws as well as invest monies into education, mental health, and job training programs.*

## **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 support unions as well as strengthening their protections.*

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

*Yes, I support increasing the minimum wage. I have co-sponsored legislation to increase the minimum wage to \$12 with increments leading up to \$15.*

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, I have continuously voted against privatizing of retail liquor as well as the PA lottery.*

- 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 most of our population, not just the relatively well-educated and already well off?

*I would support legislation that funds free admission to state college for every eligible resident regardless of economic status. I think the state should allocate funding to provide grants to attend technical and trade schools which upon graduation could act as a pipeline to employment with the state and or local and federal government. I would also consider legislation that would incentivize unions who lessen the criteria for entrance into their apprenticeship programs.*

## **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*

## **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?

*I would support any legislation that focused on provided resources and/or funding to organizations like the Black Doctors Consortium as well as churches and nonprofit organizations who provided service in impoverished communities. I founded the Northwest Covid Coalition which advocated to ensure that covid testing and vaccines were accessible to local communities in the northwest section of Philadelphia.*

## **XIV. Housing**

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

*We would first have to increase wages so that people can afford to rent or own. I would support legislation to increase opportunities for first time homeowner via tax credits and assistance with down payments. I would also work with local developers to encourage them to commit to at least 20% to 25% of their units for affordable housing.*

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

*Yes, I would support such a mandate.*

# View my Memos

Draft	Bill No.	Posted on	Co-Sponsors	Subject
D07593	<a href="#">HB2347</a>	02/09/2022	17	Medical Parole
D07123	<a href="#">HB2204</a>	12/08/2021	9	Educating PA Students on the Civil Rights Era and Nonviolent Principles of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
✘		11/29/2021	6	New Application Process for Philadelphia Liquor Licenses
✘		11/29/2021	14	SCI Nutritional Health Study
D07490	<a href="#">HB2351</a>	11/29/2021	15	Probation and Parole Reform: Earned Compliance Credits
D06796	<a href="#">HB2349</a>	11/17/2021	9	Alternatives to Arrests
D05890	<a href="#">HB2350</a>	11/05/2021	10	Protecting Student Pedestrians
D07307	<a href="#">HB2348</a>	11/05/2021	16	Inmate Visitation Rights
D06810	<a href="#">HR162</a>	11/01/2021	25	Resolution Honoring Colin Powell
D06420	<a href="#">HB2009</a>	10/12/2021	20	Center for Gun Violence Research
D05710	<a href="#">HB1886</a>	08/19/2021	8	Making a Commitment to Health Equity
D05520	<a href="#">HB2124</a>	08/12/2021	5	Academic Integrity: Creating the Offense of Academic Fraud
D05507	<a href="#">HB2123</a>	08/10/2021	8	Conditions for Closing Schools
D05506	<a href="#">HB1782</a>	07/28/2021	11	Safe Schools Partnership Act
D05505	<a href="#">HB1788</a>	07/26/2021	9	Parental Notification of Students Involved in School Incidents
D01639	<a href="#">HB1751</a>	07/07/2021	24	Identification for Ammunition Purchases
D04261	<a href="#">HB1786</a>	06/29/2021	5	Encoded Ammunition
D02356	<a href="#">HB1783</a>	06/21/2021	14	Classifying Dyslexia as a Disability under the Public School Code
D01922	<a href="#">HB1778</a>	06/10/2021	4	EITC for Educational Improvement Organizations serving Low-Achieving Schools
D05279	<a href="#">HB1719</a>	06/08/2021	19	Increasing opportunity for pardons in Pennsylvania
D03458	<a href="#">HB1784</a>	06/08/2021	8	Teacher Retention - Beginner Educator Support and Training (BEST)
D04299	<a href="#">HB1846</a>	05/20/2021	21	Firearms Safety Training for First-Time Purchasers
D02335	<a href="#">HB1781</a>	04/15/2021	18	Greater Transparency for PA Law Enforcement: Body-Cameras

Draft	Bill No.	Posted on	Co-Sponsors	Subject
D03520	<a href="#">HB1661</a>	04/14/2021	24	Supporting Our Veterans Exiting Incarceration
D02922	<a href="#">HB1787</a>	04/05/2021	6	Fire Drill Compliance
D02620	<a href="#">HB1640</a>	04/05/2021	23	Designating the South Lawn as the "Irvis Equality Circle"
D01836	<a href="#">HB970</a>	02/22/2021	10	Extending PennDOT Products During COVID-19
✘		02/22/2021	24	Pennsylvania Clean Transportation Infrastructure Act
D02411	<a href="#">HB869</a>	02/11/2021	10	Prohibiting Weapons at Public Demonstrations
D02388	<a href="#">HB971</a>	02/11/2021	9	Securing Waiting Areas in Courthouses and Hospitals
D01683	<a href="#">HB713</a>	02/05/2021	27	Fresh Food Financing Initiative
D02378	<a href="#">HB870</a>	02/05/2021	26	Banning Chokeholds and Positional Asphyxia by Law Enforcement
✘		02/05/2021	19	Cyber Charter School Study
D00924	<a href="#">HB345</a>	02/05/2021	40	One Fair Wage
D01926	<a href="#">HR172</a>	02/03/2021	28	Recognizing February 3rd as "Emancipation Day"
D00663	<a href="#">HR66</a>	01/25/2021	30	Study on Impact of Universal Free Full-Day Kindergarten
D01050	<a href="#">HB712</a>	01/15/2021	13	Governor's School of Urban Teaching
D01063	<a href="#">HB968</a>	01/15/2021	16	Promoting Access to Advanced Placement Courses
D01689	<a href="#">HB967</a>	01/15/2021	5	Substitute Teacher Shortage
D00651	<a href="#">HB689</a>	01/15/2021	20	Full Day Kindergarten
D01244	<a href="#">HR80</a>	01/11/2021	13	Urging Congress to End Legal Slavery
D02009	<a href="#">HB872</a>	01/08/2021	15	Firearm Safety Training
✘		01/06/2021	25	Designating April 15, 2021 as "Jackie Robinson Day" in PA
D01312	<a href="#">HR81</a>	12/23/2020	22	Honoring a Baseball Icon
D02347	<a href="#">HB871</a>	12/09/2020	8	Audit County and Municipal Authorities
D04998	<a href="#">HR133</a>	12/09/2020	16	Recognizing the Harmful Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences
✘		12/07/2020	16	Require all schools in the Commonwealth to close on the 3rd Monday in January, in recognition of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
D02358	<a href="#">HB973</a>	12/07/2020	20	Bullying Prevention Education for All Grade Levels

RE-ELECT

# STEPHEN KINSEY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 201<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

**"MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER"**

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 267.258.3673

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