

PA STATE LEGISLATIVE 2022 QUESTIONNAIRE  
FOR PHILLY NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS

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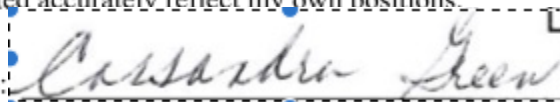
**CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION**

Candidate Name:

Office Sought:

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:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cassandra Green". The signature is written in black ink on a white background and is enclosed within a dashed rectangular box.

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?

*I am a first-time candidate seeking elected office in PA's new 10th house district.*

### 2. If you have previously held a government office:

a. What are the primary issue areas in which you were involved? N/A

b. What committees, caucuses or working groups have you served on? N/A

### 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.)

**Derrick Pratt-Colleague** is the founder of PC Live Coalition and Radio and co-founder of We Embrace Fatherhood. Derrick has been a supporter and collaborator in my work in Mill Creek, Mantua and West Philly over the past six years. He also worked with me during my tenure at People's Emergency Center (PEC) facilitating quality of life programs which included food access, community connector engagement and outreach teams and arts & cultural programming. Since leaving PEC our work has expanded to anti-violence, capacity building and youth programming.

**Rose Bryant-Colleague** is a resident leader in Mill Creek and PHA Tenant Council President for the Lucien E. Blackwell and Marshal Shepard Homes. Ms. Rose and I have worked together over the past ten years to offer youth programming in Mill Creek. Her efforts started out in the front yard of her home and are now offered at the LEB Center. She is a true example of grassroots impact in and for the community and is a huge source of inspiration.

**DeWayne Drummond** is the President of Mantua Civic Association. We met during my work at PEC when I was the Director of Community Engagement and Partnership Development. We worked closely on the Promise Zone designation and Promise Neighborhood Grant with Drexel University. Our work includes Byrne Justice Community Policing Initiatives, Funeral for a Home, Community Connector Training and most recently PACDC Podcast Iron Sharpens Iron. He is also one of the co-founders of We Embrace Fatherhood and is a longtime supporter of Mill Creek Community Partnership initiatives.

*I have worked on building capacity and engagement to increase voter registration and access to voting through an initiative I started last year called Stay Woke, which aims to bring together grassroots agencies together to identify and combine assets to serve the community in a holistic manner. Most recently I have been supporting the residents of the University City Townhomes who are facing displacement in advocating to stay in their homes or equitable transition and relocation support.*

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

*Attached to this questionnaire is a brief viability document. My campaign has been launched extremely recently, as the HD10 district is a brand new district that came out of the 2022 redistricting process. It was only set by the LRC at the beginning of February.*

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

*Since the district is brand new and our campaign was recently launched, we have not yet received any endorsements. We are trying to receive a broad array of endorsements - from building trades and other unions, to more progressive organizations like WFP and Neighborhood Networks.*

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

*We plan to win this race through raising over 100k, receiving a broad array of endorsements, running a vast field operation and through engaging community members and intergenerational supporters with a focus on young adults and new voters along the way. This campaign is about building community and making politics accessible, especially in an area like HD10 that typically has low voter turnout.*

## 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.**

*My priorities all center around bettering my community and creating an atmosphere where all people can thrive. My highest priorities are as follows:*

- 1) Education for All** – *I believe that everyone deserves access to a quality education. As a single part of two daughters, I have lived the struggle of trying to get my daughters an affordable but good education. When my daughters reached middle school age, I had to make the difficult decision to leave my West Powelton community and move to Ardmore so that my daughters could receive a better education. Before I moved, I had gone into thousands of dollars of debt sending them to private school. I believe that no one should have to make the false choice between staying in their community or access to good education. I support, and will fight for, a fair funding formula that will increase the funding received by the Philadelphia School District - so that no student in Lower Merion gets more funding than a student in Philadelphia. Furthermore, as an artist and cultural producer, I strongly believe that the arts, STEAM and alternative education/career exposure opportunities should be returned to the base curriculum in every school.*
- 2) Affordable Housing for All** – *I believe that housing is a human right. The reality today in the newly drawn 10th district is the tensions of gentrification in West Philadelphia. As more and more*

*luxury housing is developed, I see more residents being displaced and rents increasing to rates that are unaffordable to working class families, young adults and single parent families. Throughout my career, I have worked with homeless families and youth stuck in the cycle of having to make impossible decisions between working a full-time low wage job and potentially losing their access to housing subsidies along with young adults couchsurfing in order to not go into a shelter. I would fight for legislation that keeps people in their homes and regulates development in my district and beyond. I also would fight to build, preserve or rehab hundreds of thousands of units of affordable housing as well as to end exclusionary zoning practices.*

- 3) Criminal Justice Reform + Community Investment** – *Our current criminal justice system sets up our children for failure by criminalizing poverty, targeting black and brown communities and creating a positive feedback loop that makes re-entry hard and recidivism likely. I will fight so that our children are not simply set up to become a source of revenue, which starts at the juvenile detention center just a block away from my house. I support ending life without parole, ending cash bail and getting rid of the death penalty. In addition, I will fight for my community to have access to health resources that are trauma-informed and prioritize support, healing and prevention as opposed to the current system of victimizing and penalization.*

## **II. Education**

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

*Absolutely, I believe every person should be able to go to college without taking on debt or having to take on the risks of student loan financing and penalties.*

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

*I do not believe that standardized tests are an accurate method to evaluate teachers, schools and students.*

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

*The main factors should be centered on need rather than currently based on family income and local property taxes.*

- 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?**

*Public schools play a crucial role in our city, and I would fight to better our public schools rather than replace them with charter schools. Beyond being education hubs, public schools also support the infrastructure of community cohesion, resources and collective efficacy. Charter schools take money away from our communities and are not accountable to the public in the*

same way. I would support legislation that stops the privatization of our schools, and that includes putting a state-wide moratorium on new charter schools.

### III. Budget and Taxes

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

*Yes, I support an amendment that would permit progressive taxation and force corporations to pay their fair share of taxes. I also believe that a percentage of the 10 year tax abatement to developers be put into a fund to support affordable, rent controlled and low income housing development.*

**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 support raising the corporate net income tax level.*

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

*I support changes that lower personal income taxes on individuals, or that more adequately match tax levels with income. We need to raise taxes on corporations, not individuals.*

**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, and if elected will work alongside those who presented this legislation to help it pass the House.*

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

*Yes, absolutely.*

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

*I support a heavy tax on fracking, and believe the money raised from that tax can go directly back into our communities.*

**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?**

*No, I absolutely do not support tax breaks to lure businesses and, as stated above, am against the 10 year tax abatement. We have not seen that tax breaks to lure businesses has meant any more money for our communities. Rather, we've been more development that raises rent prices and pushes our community members out of their homes.*

### 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?**

*There should not be any restrictions on a woman's right to choose.*

- 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 decisions related to a woman's body should be reserved for all women to make their own decisions. Men's healthcare rights are not decided by open consensus politically. Legislation like the Equality Act should be enacted to prevent this debate from being resolved once and for all.*

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

*Yes, every person - no matter their race, gender, or sexuality - should get paid the same amount. I do not support discrimination of any kind.*

## **VI. Children and Families**

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

*Yes, the state should require businesses to provide paid family leave. It is disgraceful that the United States is one of the wealthiest countries and yet one of the only ones in the world not to provide any paid leave to families.*

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

*Yes, I believe the state should provide universal availability of affordable childcare. Lack of universal child care affects poor people and working class people the hardest. I do not believe any mother should have to make the choice between sending her child to pre-k or having enough money to put food on the table. I would fight for increased investment in early childhood education programs, access to subsidies, and also for restoring neighborhood/local school pre-k classes. As a single mother both of my children benefited from affordable, accessible, convenient and quality childcare right in West Philly at the 52nd Street YMCA.*

*Some of the most memorable experiences were when I unexpectedly went into labor with my youngest daughter 34 years ago, a beloved teacher at the YMCA made sure my oldest daughter was safe and taken care of until a family member could be contacted to pick her up. Having to return to work soon after*

*having my youngest daughter I was able to qualify for subsidized child care at the West Philadelphia Boys and Girls Club in Mantua. There my daughter was cherished and nurtured at a very young age because I did not have family to babysit. Both of my daughters attended the Community Education Center -CEC on Lancaster Ave, which was conveniently located between Powell School and my job at Penn. CEC played a vital role in our lives. Not only was it affordable/free, but the after-school classes they hosted such as sign language, dance, music, printing, karate and a host of other versatile classes fostered my girls developing into the leaders, artists and entrepreneurs that they are today. I want to make it possible so every person has the access to free childcare like I did.*

## **VII. Environment**

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

*I explain a full ban on fracking. We cannot rely on extractive energy any longer and need to transition to renewable energy instead.*

### **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, I do not think Philadelphia should be compelled to sell PGW.*

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

*I support the passing of a statewide Green New Deal, that would transition our city and state from fossil fuels and towards a renewable energy future, all while centering good union jobs.*

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

*The criteria I would use would be based on appointing people who are more focused on the needs of our community, rather than trying to create more profit for themselves.*

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

*I would take steps to demand that every toxic city in Philadelphia be cleaned up and that clean up be paid for by the fossil fuel companies who created the site in the first place. In this remediation, we should prioritize the areas that have been hardest hit by climate change. I would also fight to return all toxic sites to community controlled public lands and urban spaces.*

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

*In my vision for a Green New Deal for Pennsylvania, there would be several measures directly aimed at preserving our environment and particularly investing in bettering our water infrastructure, park*

*preservation and school buildings. I would work to expand public transportation and make it more affordable, put more money into redoing our sewer pipes and water systems so that during storms our streets do not flood with sewer water, and put more money into cleaning up our toxic schools, so no student or teacher has to worry about getting asbestos poisoning while they in school.*

## **VIII. Criminal Justice**

### **1) Should stop and frisk be limited or outlawed?**

*Yes.*

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

*I am clear that the problem of mass incarceration is a systemic one, and not enough is being done to invest in our communities and in diversion programs. I would fight for increased investment in public school education, which would include curriculums that center the arts and career exploration - such as entrepreneurship business training and co-op funding options .I would also invest in afterschool programs and other community spaces*

### **3) Should marijuana be fully legalized?**

*Yes, and I see marijuana legalization as part of a larger fight to decriminalize substance abuse and addiction - and to see it instead as a mental health issue and treat it accordingly.*

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

*No. There should not be any prisons that are driven by profit in PA or elsewhere.*

### **5) Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania?**

*Yes, it is long overdue that we ban the box in PA.*

### **6) Should PA continue to build new prisons?**

*No.*

### **7) Should PA begin to close prisons? Explain.**

*Yes, I believe we should immediately start to close prisons. Our goal should ultimately be to lower the ever growing prison population in our state.*

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

*Yes, the death penalty is wrong.*



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

*A juvenile should never be tried as an adult.*

**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?**

*I believe that a focus on community health and prevention is key to the effort to reduce the murder rate in Philadelphia. We know that high crime rates are a direct result of poverty and marginalization, and to address these issues we must see them systemic rather than individual. We can start by, instead of spending millions of dollars imprisoning our residents, investing in robust social programs and fairly funding our public schools.*

**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 believe all workers have and should be able to join a union.*

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

Yes .

*The minimum wage needs to be increased, to at least \$15 an hour. The increase should absolutely be indexed to inflation.*

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

*No, I do not think that Philadelphia and other cities should continue to be preempted from increasing their own minimum wages. Rather, I believe that Philadelphia should be able to set its own minimum wage. We cannot wait for the state to pass legislation, and our city needs to take matters into its own hands as the cost of living in Philadelphia, especially post the onset of COVID, skyrockets.*

**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 do not believe in the privatization of retail liquor sales. Privatizing liquor sales would likely lead to more stores with lower wage and non-unionized workers, and less overall oversight of alcohol distribution across PA.*

**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?**

*I love Philadelphia and moved here from New Jersey to provide a better life for my daughters. I want every person in our city to have the chance to thrive, and believe that we should start investing in our public schools so that every student can access a quality education, which will pave a clearer pathway to receiving a bachelor degree. At the same time, it is clear to me that the exorbitant cost of college is a barrier for many, and which is why I would fight for tuition free public and community college.*

*I would also fight for increased workforce development programs and increased incentives for employers to hire returning citizens, alongside more entrepreneurship opportunities prior to release.*

## **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, absolutely. I am excited to be running in a new district that was formed out of such an independent commission.*

## **XII. Public Health**

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

*Healthcare is a human right and I would fight for passage of a statewide Medicare for All bill. I believe that we need to decommidify healthcare and that doing so would open doors for a more holistic healthcare that is centered in community care and prevention - and includes trauma informed practices. I would also fight to increase access to healthcare for those who do not traditionally receive healthcare through their employers, such as part-time employees, independent contractors and seasonal workers.*

**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 see it very clearly in my community that people, for good historical reasons, do not trust the healthcare system in this country. To help combat this, I would work to provide more access to COVID care, such as through in-home vaccinations, boosters, and testing. I would also fight for more health access education, as many people have fear around vaccination or are still unclear on how COVID is transmitted.*

#### **XIV. Housing**

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

*I have advocated for affordable and subsidized housing for years through my roles as Co-founder of Mill Creek Community Partnership, and Director at the People's Emergency Center and with New Kensington Community Development Corporation. Most recently, I have been immersed in organizing a resident engagement, activism and capacity building campaign to uplift the voices and power of the University City Townhomes Residents who are facing displacement due to gentrification in West Philadelphia which includes the historic Black Bottom community. As State Representative, I look forward to working with local, state and national legislators to ensure that new construction projects include affordable units, increased rent to own options, support credit repair, homes repair subsidies, housing counseling and estate planning to increase single family home acquisition for existing residents. I will work to make sure there is safe housing for all, because I believe housing is a human right.*

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

*Yes, absolutely. Landlords should not be able to evict people without good cause. I would also fight for legislation that gives renters more protections in possible eviction cases, such as mandating funds for tenants to have a right-to-counsel.*