

**PHILLY NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS RECOMMENDATIONS OF BALLOT QUESTIONS
MORE INFORMATION, EXPLANATIONS AND REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

QUESTION 1: BUDGET STABILIZATION RESERVE/RAINY DAY FUND INCREASE.

Should The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to expand the requirements for annual minimum appropriations to the Budget Stabilization Reserve, more commonly known as the “rainy day fund?”

For context: In 2011, Philadelphians voted to approve the Budget Stabilization Reserve, better known as the [“rainy day fund.”](#) This reserve has a General Fund, established by the director of finance. Funds allocated here, called General Fund Revenue, depends on whether or not the city’s fiscal year budget has a surplus.

Currently Council must appropriate ¾% of projected revenue for the next Fiscal Year into the Fund whenever current Fiscal Year revenues are on track to exceed budget estimates for that year by 3% or more.

If approved, this amendment would increase the required deposit to 1% or more when revenue estimates are exceeded by 5%, and bump the deposit amount up again if revenues seem to be headed to an 8% overage. The maximum amount that can be contributed to the Fund in any one year would jump from 5% to 17%.

RECOMMENDATION ON QUESTION 1: VOTE NO. The current law is sufficient to provide Rainy Day Funds. If this is passed, the City would be obligated to put more and more money into the Rainy Day Fund when there are surpluses. It’s a deeply regressive proposal that would tie the hands of Council from spending surplus funds on vitally needed programs without approval of the Finance Director whose decision is final.

QUESTION 2: NEW DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS. Should The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to create the Division of Workforce Solutions within the Department of Commerce and to define its duties?

If approved, the Division of Workforce Solutions would:

- Promote workforce development.
- Provide information on job training and skills development.
- Help connect folks to job training and employment opportunities.
- Generate information about city and workforce development programs.

RECOMMENDATION ON QUESTION 2: VOTE YES. This division would provide more resources to learn about work and development opportunities which is very important to Philadelphians looking for employment or better jobs. It should be a

good thing and be more efficient for the City to consolidate all of its private and public workforce development programs under one roof, or at least have them coordinated by one responsible division.

QUESTION 3: CIVIL SERVICE EXEMPTION FOR CITIZEN POLICE

OVERSIGHT COMMISSION. Should The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to make employees of the Citizens Police Oversight Commission exempt from civil service hiring requirements?

For context: The Citizens Police Oversight Commission’s role is to help hold the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) accountable, evaluate and help improve police officer conduct, make officers’ disciplinary processes clearer, explain procedures for submitting and considering citizens’ complaints of police misconduct, and improve the communication between the PPD and the community..

Members are currently not exempt from civil service hiring requirements, which is a system of evaluating people based on merit principles when it comes to appointing, promoting, demoting, or laying off someone.

Currently only very selected persons are exempted such as elected officers and their deputies, the director of finance and Mayor’s secretaries and clerks.

According to the [Philadelphia Home Rule Charter](#), exempted employment “is carefully limited so that it shall not serve as an avenue for evading the civil service requirements of the Charter.”

RECOMMENDATION ON QUESTION 3: VOTE NO. There is no reason to open this agency to political interference by taking it out of the Civil Service system. It is important to have civil service employees who are qualified and can act independently.

QUESTION 4: CREATE OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR. Should The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to create the Office of the Chief Public Safety Director and to define its powers, duties and responsibilities?

For context: The chief public safety director will be a new position, created to coordinate Philadelphia public safety responses. The legislation /comes as Philadelphia experiences its third year of an unprecedented number of homicides.

The director would be among the top four administrative positions in city government alongside the mayor, managing director, and finance director and would have the following functions:

- Coordinate the deployment of Police, Fire, Prisons, Parks and Recreation, Emergency Management, and any other relevant agency personnel resources.
- Provide guidance and initial approvals of operational policies, work programs, violence-prevention programs, and budgetary policies.
- Draft evaluations about public safety measures, as directed by the Mayor. And evaluate how effective safety-related City departments and agencies' programs and procedures are.
- Establish and maintain relationships with civic and business organizations, violence prevention agencies, schools, court offices, and emergency services citywide.

RECOMMENDATION QUESTION 4: VOTE YES: Due to the importance of public, safety, the city needs a coordinated approach to address this. With this type of high-level oversight, we would hopefully have a more holistic view of what it takes to cut crime.