

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

Prepared by: Andre Carroll and Steph Drain Phone/Email: n/a

Campaign Manager: Steph Drain

Campaign Manager's Phone/Email: 267-579-8787, Steph@andredcarroll.com

Committee Name: Andre Carroll

Campaign Address: PO Box 11009, Phila, PA, 19141

Email: n/a

Fax:

Website: <https://www.andredcarroll.com/>

CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Andre D Carroll

Office Sought: PA State House District 201

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: Andre D. Carroll

Date: 1/28/22

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

Gloria Gilman: gmgilman@gmail.com

and

Stan Shapiro: 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 have not held any previous elected or appointed office.

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.)

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

Will be linked in email

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

Endorsements Received: Free The Ballot, Reclaim Philly

Endorsements Sought: PA WFP, Reclaim Philly, 215 PA, SEIU 32BJ, SEIU Healthcare PA, AFSCME, One PA, Make The Road, PASNAP, Our Revolution, New Power Project, Sunrise Philly, Liberty City Dems, CASA, DFA, Color of Change, The Collective PAC.

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

Given the current state of the pandemic, we plan to run a covid informed campaign. Which means that we'll rely heavily on digital and socially distant measures to communicate with voters. More specifically we're going to be investing heavily in a phone+text operation, and limit our in person door knocking contact. Our district is a fair bit older than many others in the city, so mail is going to be ramped up, optimally we'd do 7+ touches, which would include typical mailers and alternative types of mail, i.e thank you cards, holiday cards, etc..

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

8. What is your sexual orientation?

9. What is your racial, ethnic identity?

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.

Criminal Justice, Education, Healthcare

Community violence and mass incarceration are issues core to my identity. My father has spent 95% of my life in state or county custody. This is an all too familiar statistic for young Black people in this city. That's why I am a volunteer with the Brothahood foundation, an organization that provides court support and mentorship to youth who are incarcerated facing adult charges. We have to be preemptive in engaging with young folks, but also successfully help them disconnect from the carceral machine. There are 4.6 million opportunity youth in this country, which means there are over 4 million young adults disconnected from school or employment. Coming from this background I know exactly what it means to work a full time job and take classes at night. That's why I'm committed to increasing access to education for folks just like me. I am honored that I had the privilege of connecting seniors with quality healthcare, when I worked for a healthcare organization. Our low income seniors feel the effects of the increased price of living more than any other group. As many of them have a fixed budget and their SSI checks don't increase as the cost of goods increases.

II. Education

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

Yes I do. This is one of the major ways poor and working class folks gain access to education and higher wages.

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

I believe that they should be used as a performance evaluation, but I do not believe that funding should be tied to them.

3) What factors do you believe should be considered in determining overall levels of school funding in the Commonwealth, and funding per school district?
Population should determine the amount of funding, not white privilege!

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 support public schools, and I think there should be a moratorium on new charter school construction. I don't support the voucher system.

III. Budget and Taxes

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

I support progressive taxation wholly.

- 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 instituting combined reporting for the corporate net income tax

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

We need to eliminate the Delaware loophole.

- 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*

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

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

I support a ban on all new fracking projects and once there is a green jobs transition, all fracking projects.

- 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 would support legislation to eliminate it. No, only if they support small businesses which are Black or brown owned, to support with hiring staff who are disenfranchised in any way.

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, I support public banking efforts across 100%, and believe in the viability of public control of funds for major projects. Public banking could help open up loan access, financial literacy and other major economic access historically inaccessible to so many people.

V. Women's Rights

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

If so, what? No, I do not support any measure to restrict 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? *I would like to support healthcare which would increase access to reproductive healthcare. Which could include, birth control, sex education and abortion access.*

- 3) **Would you support proposals to ensure that women and men working in the Commonwealth receive equal pay for equal work?** *Absolutely, in a just and equitable society there would be no wage gap, regardless of gender expression, race, sexual orientation or religious belief.*

VI. Children and Families

- 1) **Should the state require businesses to provide paid family leave?** *Yes, I believe that businesses should provide paid family leave. All too often folks have to choose between their families and their employment.*
- 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 affordable childcare. On the low end, raising a child can cost an additional 13,000 dollars a year. This doesn't factor in emergencies and unforeseen expenses. Universal child care would help mitigate some of the costs that come with raising children.*

VII. Environment

- 1) **Do you support a ban on fracking in whole or part? Explain.**
I support a ban on all new fracking projects. Once there is a green jobs transition and guarantee for communities that are currently facing or would face job shortages, I would support ending all fracking projects.
- 2) **Would you support banning the use of single-use plastic bags?** *Yes, I would support a ban on single-use plastic bags. They are an unnecessary waste and I would push for the use of reusable bags.*
- 3) **Do you think Philadelphia should be compelled or induced to sell PGW?** *No, PGW is the largest municipally owned gas utility in this country, and should stay that way.*
- 4) **What measures would you support to move PA off its reliance on fossil fuels and expand use of renewable energy sources?** *Pennsylvania operates one of the largest waste incinerators in the country, which is housed in Chester, a predominantly Black city. Residents of Chester have been calling for the site to be shut down, and I stand in support of these demands. Clean air, and water are human rights and are being unconstitutionally violated by this waste treatment facility. The (PES) refinery explosion which happened a few years ago really highlighted the danger and unsustainability of oil and gas as our energy sources. As an elected I will*

push for legislation that focuses on sustainable sources of energy, like solar and wind energy. I'm also really invested in sustainable public transit, and support the modernization of trolleys, trains and buses across the commonwealth.

- 5) **What criteria would you use in making appointments to the P.U.C.?** *I would prioritize poor Black and brown folks, especially folks who have had their utilities shut off before.*
- 6) **What steps would you take to ensure environmental justice in the placement and remediation of structures that pollute?** *I would start by employing folks to maintain, rehabilitate and tend to the trees in our communities. It's unfair that citizens have to be responsible for damage caused by trees to their homes and sidewalks. I also believe that we need to increase access to hybrid and electric cars, by offering subsidies to folks who would like to make the transition.*
- 7) **What, if any, other measures would you support to preserve or improve our environment? (water issues, park preservation, detoxification of school buildings, etc.)**
The average age of a school building in Philadelphia is around 70 years old. We need to make sure that our buildings are lead, mold and asbestos free before we send any children into them. Remediating toxic school buildings is one of my highest priorities.

VIII. Criminal Justice

- 1) **Should stop and frisk be limited or outlawed?** *The use of Stop and frisk needs to be completely eliminated.*
- 2) **How would you deal with the problem of mass incarceration of minorities, particularly minority youth?** *I am currently a member of the Brothahood foundation, an organization that supports juveniles facing adult charges. What this looks like is mentorship, court support and advocacy. My father has spent 90% of my life in prison, from the time I was 9 months old. Poverty is uncontested in it's hold on the lives of people, and most crime is committed out of desperation. I will fight to increase a living wage, and I will fight to make sure that families stay together.*
- 3) **Should marijuana be fully legalized?** *Yes, marijuana should be legalized, and all people incarcerated on marijuana charges should be released from prison.*
- 4) **Should privately-owned prisons be permitted in Pennsylvania?** *No, private prisons are notorious for harmful conditions and human rights violations. There should be no private prisons in operation anywhere.*

- 5) **Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania?** *Yes! It's inhumane, cruel and unusual.*
- 6) **Should PA continue to build new prisons?** *Absolutely Not! They are draconian structures of torture and one of the core pieces of modern day slavery.*
- 7) **Should PA begin to close prisons? Explain.** *As stated earlier, prisons are draconian and only lead to greater suffering. If we are clear that they aren't designed for rehabilitation, but for harm and degradation, we must be clear that something new must take shape.*
- 8) **Do you support an end to the death penalty?** *Yes, this also means ending death by incarceration, I do not believe in life or virtual life sentences.*
- 9) **When, if ever, should a juvenile be tried as an adult?** *Never! Juveniles are not adults and should never be tried as such.*
- 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?** *It's simple. We need to divest from mass incarceration, and invest in a living wage, invest in giving quality healthcare to all folks, invest in young people's education and invest in programs and paths for re-entry.*

IX. Campaign Finance Reform

Would you support legislation to provide public financing for state and local election campaigns? *Small donor public financing seems like it could help offset some of the inequality that exists, which favors the wealthy few.*

X. Labor

- 1) **Would you support legislation to strengthen protection for workers trying to form or join a union?** *Yes absolutely. As a person raised by a single grandmother who was a union LPN, I will do everything in my power to strengthen workers protections. What we saw in Bessemer, Alabama was a gross violation of workers rights by Amazon. Amazon's tactics included undermining, intimidating and coercing workers to guarantee that they'd stay out of the union election. We can not allow this to happen anywhere else.*
- 2) **Should the minimum wage be increased? If so, to what level and should the increase be indexed to inflation?** *The minimum wage has remained the same in PA*

since 2009 at a rate of \$7.25 an hour. I would say that \$15 an hour would be a good start, but the wage should be adjusted based on inflation.

- 3) **Do you believe that Philadelphia and other municipalities should continue to be pre-empted from increasing the minimum wage on their own?** *Absolutely not, the cost of living is not exactly the same in different places across the commonwealth. This fact is true nowhere more than Philly, given that this is the only city in the state with a population over a million, the second largest city doesn't even have half of our population.*

- 4) **Do you support privatization of retail liquor sales in Pennsylvania? Are there any other services that you believe should be considered for privatization?** *The PLCB jobs are unionized and I would not support privatization of retail liquor stores.*

- 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 support increased funding for (CTE) and workforce development programs. This would include adding apprenticeship opportunities for People of Color, who have been intentionally kept out of many of the trades. Additionally, I support free community college and public college for everyone, with priority admission for poor Black and brown people.*

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 and yes. No more partisan, racial or ethnic gerrymandering.*

XII. Public Health

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

- 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?** *We can start by making sure that Black and brown healthcare professionals are a part of the decision making processes. I believe that we need to prioritize higher density, lower income areas with existing disparities in access to healthcare, when distributing vaccines and PPE.*

XIV. Housing

- 1) **How would you deal with the growing affordable housing gap in PA, both in the homeownership and rental markets?** *Increased subsidized housing is key in making sure that no private/external housing developer could take advantage of low income tenants. I also believe that we need to end the 10 year tax abatement.*
- 2) **Would you support a mandate requiring landlords to show good cause for evictions?** *Absolutely, I support the creation of a PA based renters bill of rights.*