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## 2024 Auditor General Questionnaire

Prepared by: Grant Pinsley  
5585/grant@votemarkpinsley.com

Phone/Email: 484-800-

Campaign Manager: Mariel Martin  
mariel@votemarkpinsley.com

Phone/Email: 215-906-9954/

Committee Name: Pinsley for PA

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

Campaign Address: 1855 Valley Forge Rd, Allentown, PA Campaign email address:  
info@votemarkpinsley.com

Candidate Phone: (716) 861-1793

Email address: mark@votemarkpinsley.com

### CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Mark Pinsley

Office Sought: **Auditor General**

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 in PDF format to**  
**[info@phillynn.org](mailto:info@phillynn.org)**

**and mail or email a copy of the signature page to**

**Gloria Gilman**  
**121 South Broad Street Suite 1710**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19107**  
**215-601-2197**

**I. BACKGROUND – PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR CURRICULUM VITAE AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:**

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

Currently, I serve as County Controller in Lehigh County. Previously South Whitehall Township Commissioner.

2. If you have previously held a government office(s), state:

- a. Lehigh County Controller –
- b. the primary issue areas with which you were involved?
  - i. Auditing entities that use tax payer funds including
    - 1. Insurance Companies.
      - a. [Audited Lehigh County’s healthcare plan twice, discovering \\$7M/yr in price-gouging by insurance companies.](#)
    - 2. Prisons.
      - a. [Found that the county was profiting off prisoner phone calls, putting an undue burden on prisoners’ families.](#)
    - 3. Pensions.
      - a. Served on the Pension Board of Lehigh County, maintaining oversight throughout the system.
    - 4. Energy
      - a. [Recommended the county switch to renewable energy in government buildings and transit.](#)
    - 5. Banks
      - a. [In the wake of the \*Dobbs\* decision, recommended the county move all funds \(\\$145M\) from Wells Fargo, which was donating to anti-choice candidates, and to a politically independent bank.](#)
  - ii. Issuing reports of potential malfeasance.
    - 1. Probation
      - a. [Recommended changes to the probation system to make sentencing fairer.](#)
    - 2. Children and Youth Services
      - a. [Discovered dozens of families her were wrongfully separated from their children; recommended changes to the CYS system.](#)
- c. your main accomplishments
  - i. Uncovered misdiagnoses of Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy and other child abuse allegations at Lehigh Valley Hospital and pushing for CYS reform.
  - ii. Auditing Lehigh County’s insurance purchases, finding millions of dollars in savings and overcharges.

- iii. Successfully persuaded the Board of Commissioners to start the process of moving \$145 million away Wells–Fargo, which donated to anti–choice candidates.

3. What about your background qualifies you to hold this office, including any civic activity that you may have been involved with over your adult life?

For the primary, I am the only candidate who has actually done the job and who can win the general. I am the only candidate with a Finance degree, the only candidate with an MBA, the only candidate who is a Controller, the only candidate who has private–sector experience managing multimillion–dollar budgets, and the only candidate who has performed an audit. I am also the only candidate who has flipped seats from red to blue, first becoming the first Democrat to win in over 20 years in my township and defeating an incumbent Controller in my county. It is clear that I have the most professional and political experience to do the job.

As Controller of Lehigh County, I've had the opportunity to do the same work as the Auditor General but at the county level. I've been able to connect the position to healthcare and discover \$7 million/yr in price gouging. I've been able to connect the position to criminal justice and call for the elimination of cash bail. I've been able to connect the position to the right to choose and push for divesting from our anti–choice bank. Each of these things, and more, can be done by the Auditor General. Ultimately, money drives policies, and the Auditor General can reveal healthcare savings, promote criminal justice reform, prevent wage theft, protect women's right to choose, and more by following the money. I'm running because I know the power that this position holds and I can use it to its fullest extent.

4. What three things would you most want to accomplish if elected?

- Conduct a sweeping, comprehensive audit detailing the many costs of our terribly underfunded public education system. We're sending kids to schools in outdated buildings, and they're learning on old equipment. Underfunding education hurts our state's competitiveness, damages our economy, harms our children's health, and puts their future prosperity at risk. It's an issue that's been ignored for far too long and will be one of my first acts as Auditor General.
- Establish a wage theft hotline that will allow union workers to report wage theft by their employers so that my office can audit them, the Treasurer can halt payments, and the Attorney General can prosecute them. I will also audit the economic benefits of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs), Responsible Contractor Ordinances (RCOs), and apprenticeship programs.
- Ensure proper oversight of funds that should be spent to protect children's best interests. This involves state systems that provide cash for kids, including foster care, therapy, children and youth services, family courts, and guardians ad litem.

5. What is your evaluation of the current Auditor General in the performance of his duties?

The Auditor General is not using his powers fully and he is allowing powerful interests to operate in the dark. The Auditor General can do so much more--to bring to light issues of abuse, misuse, and proper funding. The current Auditor General is allowing waste, fraud, inefficient programs, deregulation, misdiagnoses of child abuse, and wage theft run rampant.

6. What is your strategy to win this race, including all relevant organizational, financial and grass-roots components?

For the Primary, I need people to understand the importance of the Auditor General's race. I am engaging in a campaign to get people to recognize what the Auditor General does and why it's important to elect someone with experience. I believe that, if people know what the Auditor General can do for Pennsylvanians, voters will respond with a passion for progress. I am actively recruiting dozens of volunteers when I am out in the community, building a web of voters that support auditing for impact.

Adequate funding is necessary to spread this message, between TV, digital, radio, and print media.

## **II. INTRODUCTION**

Although many of the questions below call for a simple yes or no answer, please feel free to provide an explanation for any of your choices. If you have not yet come to a final decision, please state which way you are leaning and what additional information you would need before deciding, if any.

## **III. QUESTIONS**

7. The Auditor General in the past has issued a number of Special Reports (based on audits) that address economic and social issues - e.g., the high cost of prescription drugs in Pa., cost of climate change in Pa.; workforce development. What are the top three issues you would target in audits and Special Reports?

1. Education - Detailing the economic impact of underfunding our public schools by billions of dollars, putting pressure on legislators to act.
2. CYS - In-depth reporting on the connection between CYS and for-profit industries, ensuring both CYS and families are not being exploited.

3. Auditing Harrisburg – Ensuring that PACs or gifts aren't being improperly used to influence your government.

8. What power does the Auditor General have relating to the City of Philadelphia, the School District, and their related entities?

The Auditor General has the authority to audit entities that use state funds. Any program that runs from state funding through Philadelphia, between the school district, healthcare, state infrastructure, workforce development programs, and more, can and will be audited. The Auditor General position has the intense ability to judge the benefits, successes, or failures of existing programs and proposed implementations. I will use the position to ensure that Philadelphians are getting the best government services possible from the Commonwealth.

9. Would you be interested in auditing the State Revenue Dept with a focus on the extent to which it maximizes collection of corporate and other taxes that fall on high-income taxpayers?

I would. This fits within the idea of Auditing for Impact. High income earners need to pay their fair share and shouldn't play by a separate set of rules. I would first audit the success or failure of the Revenue Dept to collect these taxes, and further report on the potential impact of using a progressive income tax to fund necessary programs throughout the Commonwealth.

10. Do you believe you would have the power to analyze whether the State, and the City of Philadelphia, maximize the return they get on funds within their control and whether they could be enhanced by moving funds into a public bank? Would you pledge to conduct such a study?

Yes. As evidenced by my push in Lehigh County to move funds from Wells Fargo to a local, apolitical bank, I am fervent in my strive to hold the people's funds in trusted institutions. Public Banks provide for communities of color and, if done correctly, eliminate bias in lending rates, helping equalize access to home and business loans.

11. Would you commit to a performance audit of the two State Pension Funds' engagement of private managers to determine if the pension investments further or detract from the State's policies on the environment, reducing poverty, public health, affordable housing, and living wage?

Yes. As a member of the Pension Board in Lehigh County, I have much experience with oversight of pensions. Our public pensions are referendums on our fiscal values, and it is crucial that our pensions are held in the best possible investments for Pennsylvanians.

12. Do you believe you have the power to audit the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation and would you do it?

From my understanding, the PIDC does not get revenue from the Commonwealth, and hence isn't under the purview of the Auditor General. However, if there are state funds that are funneled to the PIDC, I would certainly audit it to ensure that it is best serving Philadelphia. I would also report on the economic impact of PIDC's various projects throughout the city, determining the benefits of the system.

13. Would you commit to a performance audit of the Dept of Environmental Resources, specifically regarding its enforcement of fracking regulations?

Absolutely. I have personally seen the damage that environmental deregulation has on Pennsylvania communities. It is crucial that the regulations that are in place are enforced properly.

14. Would you commit to conducting an audit of the personnel practices of selected State offices to determine if, and the extent to which, personnel practices are conducted in a nondiscriminatory manner?

Yes. As part of my platform, it is necessary to do these types of audits.

15. What role, if any, do you see the Office of Auditor General playing on issues relating to economic, social and racial justice?

The government has an absolute duty to help correct the injustices of the past and use its power to create equity. The Auditor General can point out how funding is being used in ways that are harmful to communities of color and underrepresented communities. The CYS, probation, Law and Order, prison, solitary confinement, workforce and economic development, and regulatory systems/programs can and should all be audited to ensure that discriminatory practices are stopped.

16. As a general matter, why should it matter to progressives, poor people, people of color and marginalized communities, who wins this office?

This office has the potential to serve as the greatest connection between the people and their state government. Every program, every tax dollar, every road, every pension, and every law that the state institutes can be investigated by the Auditor General. Pennsylvanians deserve to know how/if their government serves them. It is crucial that this position is filled by someone with the vision to audit for impact and the experience to carry out progressive change.

17. How would you bring more public attention to the results of your audits and reports?

- Traditional press releases to discuss any findings I make.
- Ensure I post my reports on social media sites.
- Work with community leaders to release my reports so they can discuss them locally and work with their local press to bring attention to issues.

