LT. GOVERNOR 2022 QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR PHILLY NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS

Prepared by: Brian Sims Phone/Email: 215-266-4696/bsims557@yahoo.com

Campaign Manager: Benjamin Aitoumeziane
Campaign Manager’s Phone/Email: 352-615-5997/benjamin@sims4pa.com

Committee Name: SIMS 4 PA
Campaign Address: 2008 Chestnut St, Suite 1R, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Email: info@sims4pa.com
Fax: N/A
Website: sims4pa.com

CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Brian Sims
Office Sought: Lt. Governor

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: Brian Sims Date: 2/18/2022

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

Gloria Gilman: gmgilman@gmail.com
and
Stan Shapiro: shapsj@comcast.net
2022 PNN Lt. Governor Questionnaire

BACKGROUND Please note: answers to questions 7-9 are optional.

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

2. If you have previously held a government office:
   a. What are the primary issue areas in which you were involved?
      ● LGBTQ+ Equality, Women’s and Reproductive Rights, Racial and Ethnic Justice, Economic Justice, Climate Justice, Voting Rights
   b. What committees, caucuses or working groups have you served on?
      ● State Government Committee, Game & Fisheries Committee, Human Services Committee, Tourism & Recreational Development Committee, LGBTQ Equality Caucus (Chair)

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.

5. What, if any, endorsements have you received? What others are you seeking?
   ● LGBTQ Victory Fund

6. What is your plan to win this race, including your fundraising goals and strategies.
   ● My path to victory lies in engaging Democratic voters in all of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties. I’m the only candidate in the race who’s been running for over a year and I’ve spent that time meeting with, working with, and supporting Democratic groups and voters all across the Commonwealth. I announced far in advance of the election because I believe all Pennsylvanians deserve to hear from you when you run for statewide office. I also announced early on to ensure that my team has the resources necessary to win in May. I’m proud to say that just last year I raised over $670,000, which is more money in the year ahead of the primary than any other Democratic candidate for Lt. Governor in Pennsylvania history. I received over 14,520 donations including donations from all of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties and all 50 U.S. states. From now until
the election, I'm going to continue to show up and meet with voters to continue the important conversations about criminal justice reform, climate justice, LGBTQ equality, high-quality public education, and so much more.

7. What, if any, genders, do you identify with?
   - I identify as a cisgender man
8. What is your sexual orientation?
   - Gay
9. What is your racial, ethnic identity?
   - White

ISSUES
Please note: Although many of the following questions may be answered “yes” or “no” feel free to elaborate if doing so would provide a clearer understanding 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. Duties of Lt. Governor

1) What would be your three highest priorities as Lt. Governor? Explain.

As Lt. Governor, my top priorities will align with the nature of the office. I'm running to be Pennsylvania's next Lt. Governor to bring my 10 years of experience to the helm of the Pennsylvania Senate and to be the progressive voice that our Board of Pardons desperately needs. The Lt. Governor serves as the President of our Senate and at a time when this body has grown more racist, classist, homophobic, and sexist under Republican leadership, it's clear that what's necessary is a progressive Senate President who knows how to operate in, under, and around Republican rules to stop the onslaught of bigoted and discriminatory legislation from advancing and promote the passage of progressive, equity-focused legislation. The Lt. Governor also chairs the Board of Pardons. I will be the first civil rights attorney to serve in this role and will serve with an eye towards decarceration. Our state has unjustly imprisoned far too many individuals, and while the deeply racist and classist roots of our criminal justice system make reforming it impossible, the Board of Pardons is one of the few places where we can bring justice to those that have been falsely imprisoned. Pennsylvanians deserve to have an unabashedly progressive voice in the executive office in order to challenge the
status quo and create real, structural change. I've spent my ten years in the House fighting for policies that break down historic, structural barriers and working to build a better world for all Pennsylvanians. As Lieutenant Governor, I will continue these fights and will use the platform of the office to build statewide coalitions that advance workers' rights, racial and ethnic justice, climate justice, criminal justice reform, LGBTQ+ civil rights, and women's and reproductive rights.

2) Do you agree or disagree that “tough on crime” policies have overcrowded our prisons, and if so, what steps would you take in your role with the Board of Pardons to reduce our prison population?

I agree wholeheartedly. Tough on crime policies have been nothing but a detriment to our society at large, but specifically for black and brown communities. Because of tough on crime policies, an entire generation of people have been falsely imprisoned and ripped from their families, causing irreparable harm to communities across Pennsylvania and the US.

I will be the first civil rights attorney to chair the Board of Pardons and will make decarceration a guiding principle in my service. As Chair of the Board of Pardons, I will work with the board to further streamline the application process and will work to ensure the pardons process is as accessible as can be so that all who seek clemency have a fair chance.

3) Specifically, what changes in the structure, policies or rules of the Board of Pardons would you recommend, and how would you try to make them happen?

Historically, the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons operated with a restorative justice approach, recommending clemency for applicants at a much higher rate than at present. Because of the “tough on crime” approach to criminal justice that took root both in Pennsylvania and nationally during the 1980s, the Board of Pardons saw a steep decline in the number of clemency recommendations. While much of this is tied to structural changes to the Board of Pardons made through constitutional amendments, there are steps that the Chair of the Board can take to move the Board further toward a framework of restorative justice, such as ensuring that the incarcerated and returning citizen community have a voice on the Board, and working with district attorneys to ensure that their testimony— which has great influence over the fate of clemency applications— is fair, unbiased, and not prejudicial.

4) Should all persons convicted of marijuana possession be pardoned?
Yes. Recreational marijuana possession and consumption should be legalized and those convicted of possession should have the convictions cleared from their record.

5) What opportunities does the Board of Pardons offer for the future of criminal justice in Pennsylvania? Is the term “restorative justice” meaningful to you and if so, how does it differ from a punitive system?

The Board of Pardons is one of the few avenues that reformers have for meaningful criminal justice reform in Pennsylvania. Although the racist and classist roots of our criminal justice system make true reform impossible, we can use the Board of Pardons as a vehicle to right the heinous wrongs of the past. All justice should aim to be restorative as opposed to punitive or retributive. Our Commonwealth and country have had to bear witness to a punitive justice system for hundreds of years and have seen little positive effect. Our criminal justice system should seek to repair the harm done to victims and rehabilitate offenders.

II. Education

1) 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 am firmly against the expansion of charter schools in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's experiment with charter schools has largely been a failure. Recent studies have confirmed that except for specific schools, the overall education provided at Charter Schools does not exceed that provided at traditional public schools and that the cyber school experience is especially susceptible to poor testing results. I am also firmly opposed to vouchers in all forms. Instead of creating tax credit programs for businesses to fund private school tuition, any and all funding (through tax credits and fair funding) should go directly to our public school system. We must ensure that, regardless of zip codes, all of Pennsylvania's students have access to a quality education and districts have the tools and resources for supplies, investments, and salaries to attract and maintain faculty and staff. Public schools are an integral part of our city's and state's social fabric. All students should have access to a high-quality public education that cares for their educational, emotional, physical, and social health. Public schools are also one of the most important links for families to have access to federal, state, and local social services. For these reasons, we must do all that we can to protect our public school system from funding cuts and privatization attempts.
2) What factors do you believe should be considered in determining overall levels of school funding in the Commonwealth, and funding per school district?

Overall levels of school funding should be determined by present student needs (which vary widely by district), district incomes and property tax bases, and student enrollment numbers. That being said, the state of Pennsylvania needs to increase its overall school funding budget. Pennsylvania ranks close to the bottom in the amount spent by the state on student education. This lack of funding leaves school districts to make up the difference and often leads to increased property taxes in districts that already struggle to raise the necessary revenues for school funding. Funding per school district should be based on an equitable fair funding formula that takes into account the racialized and inequitable funding in our state's history. Our funding formula should apply to all funding, not just new funding, otherwise we are only building upon the racist and classist funding inequities of the past.

3) Do you believe public college, or community college, should be tuition free, and if so, how would you propose the state fund this change?

Yes. Public and community college should be free of charge to those who seek it. Pennsylvania could fund free public and community college by closing our numerous corporate tax loopholes and instituting a progressive income tax.

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

All students across the Commonwealth should receive the same high-quality education regardless of what zip code they live in. Evaluating the learning outcomes of students to ensure they are meeting expected milestones is important, but the current system of standardized tests in place in Pennsylvania and in many other states is unacceptable. Many of our schools have adopted a “teach to the test” mentality that often leaves important information and lessons off the table in order to prepare students for standardized tests. Our education system should have high standards for our educators and students, but the current system of standardized testing needs a complete overhaul to achieve this.

III. Budget and Taxes

1) Do you support a Constitutional Amendment to permit progressive taxation in PA, in whole or part?
Yes. Our state's flat tax system is regressive and classist in its structure. If we are to have consistent funding for our state's programs and ensure that the tax burden is shared equitably, we must join the multitude of other states in the US and institute a progressive tax structure.

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/](https://krc-pbpc.org/issues/corporate-income-taxes/)

I support an end to separate reporting in order to ensure that all corporations doing business in Pennsylvania pay their fair share of taxes. Our state's corporate tax cuts are costing us billions of much needed dollars for education and social services, and are putting an undue burden on our small businesses.

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

I support a progressive tax structure that would relieve the tax burden from middle class and working class families and ensure that our state's high earners are paying their fair share of taxes.

4) Do you support the [Fair Share Tax Plan](https://pa-budget-policy.org/issues/fair-share-tax-plan/) proposed by the PA Budget and Policy Center?

Yes. I support closing all loopholes that allow large multi–state and multinational corporations to skip out on paying their fair share of taxes in Pennsylvania.

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

Yes. The Delaware loophole has allowed corporations to not pay their fair share of taxes for far too long. If a company is doing business in Pennsylvania and earning profits here, they should pay taxes on those profits made here. This would bring billions of dollars to our general fund and spread the tax burden more equally across all businesses in Pennsylvania.

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

Fracking should be banned in Pennsylvania, but until that is a reality, we should apply a severance tax to corporations who engage in fracking in our state. Ideally, the federal government would pass a national tax on corporations engaged in fracking, but in absence of this, it is up to our state government to muster the political will to do so.

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. Public banks allow for the democratization of banking and capital lending. Pennsylvania should have a public bank with affiliates at the local level in order to ensure that our state’s funds are being invested in our communities and to increase banking access to communities that have historically been denied access to private banking.

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

A woman's right to choose is sacred – full stop. As Lt. Governor, I'll be among the loudest voices pushing back against Republicans if they ever try to jeopardize that right.

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 right to choose should be codified into law at the federal level. The House has passed the Women's Health Protection Act and it’s currently sitting in the Senate. Roe is codified in many states, but in the event that it is overturned, our nation will be left with a patchwork of red and blue states where abortion access will be dependent upon political control. In order to protect access for the most vulnerable individuals seeking abortions, Roe must be codified at the federal level.

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

Yes. I’ve spent my decade in the House working to advance equal pay legislation that will close loopholes and crack down on wage discrimination. I’m the proud sponsor of HB819, a bill that aims to modernize Pennsylvania’s antiquated Equal Pay Law. As Lt. Governor, I’ll continue this advocacy at the executive level and will work with the Governor and Democratic leaders in the Senate to ensure equal pay for all women becomes a reality.

VI. Children and Families
1) Should the state require businesses to provide paid family leave?

Yes. The US is the only industrialized nation in the world without national paid family leave. While some states require employers to provide paid family leave, Pennsylvania does not and this is unacceptable. I’m proud to sponsor HB 788, a bill that will require Pennsylvania employers to provide paid family leave.

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

Yes. Affordable quality childcare is essential to the wellbeing of families across the Commonwealth. We should be doing everything in our power to make childcare affordable and accessible for everyone that needs it, as well as a career that provides a comfortable living wage and benefits for those who work in the field. Sadly, our government views childcare as the responsibility of the individual, not the community, when the future prosperity of our society as a whole depends on the upbringing and education of our children. The lack of affordable childcare options, coupled with unequal pay, forces parents and guardians, predominantly women and elders, to leave the workforce to care for children. No one should have to give up on their dreams because they cannot afford childcare and no child should go without adequate care and supervision. As Lieutenant Governor I will advocate for universal childcare so that all children can learn and grow safely while their caretakers are paid living wages for their labor. I will also work with Democratic leaders in the Senate to push for expanded tax credits for families with children and increased funding for childcare providers to ensure that all families have the proper funds to care for our next generation and that we are providing the highest quality care to our children.

VII. Environment

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

Yes. Pennsylvanians deserve clean air and water, and the continuation of fracking in our Commonwealth is in direct opposition to that goal. Our state needs to invest in renewable energy sources and green infrastructure in order to complete the transition away from fossil fuel dependence. Extracting natural gas and oil by fracking is polluting drinking water and poisoning communities across the Commonwealth. In the long term, removing fossil fuels from the earth and burning them is only contributing to the poisoning of our air and the warming of our climate.

2) Would you support banning the use of single-use plastic bags?
Yes. I’m the proud sponsor of HB 1382, a bill that bans the supply of single-use plastic bags at retail locations and provides for a tax on non-reusable paper bags to fund the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program to conduct cleanup actions at sites where hazardous substances have been released. I will continue this advocacy as Lt. Governor and will work to ban single-use plastic bags in the Commonwealth.

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

No. PGW is by no means a perfect utility company, but at a time when privatization of public utilities across the country has only led to increased prices and harmful cost cutting, we must find ways to reform PGW while keeping it under municipal ownership.

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

I’m the proud sponsor of HB 100 which aims to transition Pennsylvania to one hundred percent renewable energy by 2050. As a state, we must invest heavily in the renewable energy industry in order to make it a viable alternative to nonrenewable energy for consumers, while also limiting the production of nonrenewable energy. As Lt. Governor, I will continue to support legislation that invests in renewable energy infrastructure and green jobs while also working to decrease our state’s reliance on fossil fuels.

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

Appointees to the P.U.C. must believe in human-caused climate change and must be committed to advancing climate justice and ending environmental racism.

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

An important component of my bill to end single-use plastic usage is a fee on single use paper bags that is directed toward funding the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program. This program allows for the remediation of sites where hazardous substances have been released. As Lt. Governor, I will work to increase funding levels for this program and will work to ensure that funds are applied in a way that corrects the racist and classist environmental decisions of the past.
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’m proud to be one of the original legislators of the Fund Our Facilities Coalition. Together, we worked with legislators, unions, and teachers to demand that Philadelphia’s crumbling schools be treated as the emergency that they are. We worked with the Governor to secure funding for the remediation of Philadelphia’s toxic school buildings, but we cannot stop there. As Lt. Governor, I promise to fight for increased funding for remediation so that educators and students can learn and thrive in safe facilities.

VIII. Criminal Justice

1) Should marijuana be fully legalized?

Yes. The criminalization of the consumption, sale, and possession of marijuana is rooted solely in racism and classism, and must be overturned in Pennsylvania.

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

No. Across the US, we’ve seen that privately-owned and operated prisons produce worse conditions and outcomes for people who are incarcerated.

3) Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania?

Yes. Individuals who have paid their debts to societies deserve all the freedoms that come with a second chance. It’s far past time that Pennsylvania joins the growing list of states that have banned the box.

4) Should PA continue to build new prisons?

No. Pennsylvania should be moving away from a politics of mass incarceration, not embracing it. The funds that we put toward new prison construction should be devoted to workforce development, education, and social services in order to decrease the need for prisons down the line.

5) Should PA begin to close prisons?

Yes. Pennsylvania should embrace meaningful criminal justice reform that aims to rehabilitate and restore individuals convicted of non-violent
crimes. This will decrease the state's reliance on prisons and allow the state to begin to decrease the number of prisons in operation.

6) Do you support an end to the death penalty, and would you implement it even if it's not legislatively repealed?

Yes, I fully support an end to the death penalty and would refuse to implement it.

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

Never. Studies have shown that juveniles' brains are often not done maturing until past 18, and thus they should not be treated as or tried as adults in the criminal justice system.

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

I have been extremely vocal during my time in the legislature about my belief that Pennsylvania's Criminal Justice System is far from equitable for several reasons. First, no system built upon the deeply ingrained racism within police forces, district attorneys’ offices, public defenders offices, and the judicial systems of this, or any other state, can be called non-racist simply by the passing of time or simple attrition. In order to “un-do” this racist system, it needs to be dismantled and rebuilt with the better data and diverse systems we know can avoid both the same racist outcomes and the same pitfalls of “self-justification.”

From the glaringly inappropriate use of “neighborhood” data to inform or justify criminal sentences and parole decisions, to the systematically disproportionate arrest rates for black and white Pennsylvanians, no one can pretend that this justice system is equitable. Specifically, regarding cash bail, I believe it is unconstitutional and that it targets poor people to “criminalize” their economic status. Moreover, the state spends billions of dollars each year incarcerating people simply for not being able to pay their bail. The cash bail system is weak morally, wrong constitutionally, and makes poor economic sense.

Similarly, I believe mandatory minimum sentencing has proven to be a system wrought with classicism and racism. Robbing judges of the ability to look to individual circumstances when making sentencing decisions is the opposite of the intention and purpose of judicial sentencing. Add to that the Federal sentencing guidelines on issues such as drug sentencing and it's even clearer that mandatory minimum sentences aren't about ensuring that justice is handed down, but ensuring that the classist and
racist approaches to drug policy at the state and federal level are continued.

Regarding the selection of judges, among the first pieces of legislation I introduced was a Merit Selection bill that I had been working on for years prior to joining the legislature. States that have Merit Selection have greater diversity on their benches and have opinions that are more likely to be upheld by appellate courts. The money required to run successful judicial campaigns in Pennsylvania ranges from tens of thousands of dollars in some regions and for some courts, to over $3 million to become a member of the State Supreme Court. Moreover, so much of the money raised to sustain those campaigns comes from firms and attorneys directly impacted by the bench. The optics are wrong. The substance is wrong. And the outcomes are wrong. Merit Selection is necessary to strengthen and improve our judiciary.

9) Should stop and frisk be limited or outlawed?

Stop and frisk should be outlawed altogether. It is a wholly racist practice that does nothing to increase public safety and only serves to terrorize and incarcerate black and brown communities.

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?

The state can reduce the murder rate in Philadelphia by investing more in our communities instead of incarceration and policing. Our communities need high-quality job training, high-quality and accessible education, good paying jobs, and a strong social safety net. Without these strong social programs that invest in uplifting the community, we will not be able to solve the underlying problems that contribute to the city's murder rate.

IX. Campaign Finance Reform

Would you support legislation to provide public financing for state and local election campaigns?

Yes. Public financing of elections would decrease politicians' reliance on wealthy donors and increase their responsiveness to the communities that they serve.

X. Labor
1) Should the minimum wage be increased? If so, to what level and should the increase be indexed to inflation?

Yes. I've been proud to stand for a $15 minimum wage indexed to inflation during my time in the Legislature. Pennsylvania's minimum wage is not a living wage. Raising our minimum wage would put much needed money into the hands of millions of working families and would stimulate our state's economy.

2) Do you believe that Philadelphia should continue to be pre-empted from increasing the minimum wage on its own?

No. If Republican leadership in Harrisburg cannot muster the political courage to increase the state minimum wage, municipalities should have the right to increase it on their own.

3) Do you support privatization of retail liquor sales in Pennsylvania? Are there any other services that you believe should be considered for privatization?

I do not support the privatization of retail liquor stores in Pennsylvania. Our state liquor stores provide union jobs with union wages to thousands of employees across the Commonwealth. Privatization of our state's resources rarely leads to positive outcomes for consumers or employees.

4) Would you support legislation to strengthen protection for workers trying to form or join a union?

Yes. The right to organize is among the most important rights for workers. Unions create worker power and allow for increases in wages and better workplace conditions for employees. It's our duty as elected officials to safeguard and strengthen the right to organize.

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?

In order to ensure that decent, high-paying jobs are equitably distributed throughout our city, we must invest in and diversify our trade unions so that more folks have access to high-paying union jobs. I also fully support increased funding to CTE programs to give our next generation the skills necessary to compete in the workforce.
XI. Transportation

Currently the state constitution mandates that revenue from the state gasoline tax be spent only on roads and bridges. Would you support an amendment to the Constitution allowing gas tax revenue to be spent on public transportation?

Yes. While the Commonwealth’s public transportation systems cannot not be solely funded by gasoline taxes, I do support changes that would allow gas tax revenue to be spent on public transportation.

XII. Health Care

1) Would you support the creation of a single-payer health system in PA?

Healthcare is a human right. I’ve spent my time in the House pushing for legislation to expand access to affordable healthcare and I will always advocate for universal healthcare for Pennsylvanians. While I believe that we need a national single-payer healthcare system to truly solve our crisis of unaffordability, I do support a single-payer health system in PA.

2) How would you reduce or eliminate the racial disparities in the provision of health care, in particular the distribution of life-saving COVID vaccines and medications?

I’m the proud sponsor of HR54, a resolution that would publicly recognize discrimination as a public health crisis. Discrimination in healthcare has killed untold numbers of black and brown individuals. The first step in turning the tide in medical racism is addressing it. Another key step is bringing the decision making on resource allocation closer to the community level. In Philadelphia, the Covid–19 crisis showed that when black and brown doctors are given the necessary resources, they are better able to equitably distribute them.

XIII. Housing

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

Our state has an incredibly troubling lack of affordable housing which is having detrimental social and economic effects on communities across Pennsylvania. Hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvania families are unable
to pay rent due to rising costs leading to an unprecedented eviction crisis. Simultaneously, the black–white home ownership gap continues to grow, locking many black families out from creating generational wealth. We must take bold, systematic steps to create more affordable housing for renters and homeowners.

During my time in office, I’m proud to have taken the Homes Guarantee pledge. Protecting and investing in the rights of all people to have safe, affordable housing is a moral imperative, and an economic and financial necessity. We must do all that we can to move housing from a commodity to a human right that is guaranteed for all. I fully support implementing rent control in areas where rising rents have outstripped wage growth. If we continue to not prioritize the building of affordable housing, we will further push long term renters out of their communities. This is unacceptable and we have the tools at our disposal to stop it.

XIV. 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. Voters should choose their elected officials, not the other way around. It’s unacceptable that our state leaves the process of district reapportionment to politicians. This only serves to politicize the reapportionment process in a way that serves the parties in power. Our voters deserve fair maps and fair districts, and our democracy desperately depends on it.

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

Yes. Eviction is a terrifying and stressful process and can lead to a cycle of chronic housing insecurity for evicted residents. Our state must move to strengthen protections for renters and require that landlords show good cause in the case of eviction.