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## 2024 PA Legislative Questionnaire

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### CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Malcolm Kenyatta

Office Sought: **PA House**

**Representative**

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: \_\_\_\_\_ Malcolm Kenyatta \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 2.27.24

Please complete, sign and return this form via email in PDF format to [info@phillynn.org](mailto:info@phillynn.org)

and mail or fax a copy of the signature page to

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**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? My current position.
2. If you have previously held a government office(s), state:

- a. the name(s) of the office(s) and dates served  
State Rep. 2018–Present

- b. the primary issue areas with which you were involved? I have led the fights on protecting the right to unionize, access to abortion, gun violence, affordable housing, criminal justice reform, and non-discrimination legislation.

- c. your main accomplishments

I have led the fights on protecting the right to unionize and access to abortion. I brought to light Republicans' attempts to subvert the election results of 2020 through a so-called "election integrity" bill, getting the Fairness Act passed out of the House. Additionally I worked hard to get Democrats to flip the House.

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?

When I talk about tough issues that face many working families across the Commonwealth, I speak from experience. I had to get a job at the age of 12 to help pay bills. My parents divorced when I was very young which meant I had to move around a lot. I lost both my parents by the time I was 27 because they didn't have access to affordable healthcare. I became a junior block captain when I was a teenager because I wanted to see positive change on my block. I believe those who are closest to the pain should be closest to the power. We need government to work for working people, and that starts by having working people in government positions like the legislature and the Auditor General's office.

4. What three things would you most want to accomplish if elected?  
Funding education, protecting abortion rights, commonsense gun law reform

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

I am uniquely poised to turn out the vote in this election. Research shows that when a millennial is on the ballot, more millennials turn out to vote. When a candidate of color is on the ballot, more Americans of color turn out to vote. Young voters and voters of color are critical to ensuring victory in 2024. Pennsylvania needs a candidate who can inspire and activate voters across the Commonwealth. Every union that has endorsed in this race as endorsed me. I have also been endorsed Working Families Party, Councilmembers Nicolas O'Rourke, Kendra Brooks, Jaime Gauthier, to name a few.

## II. INTRODUCTION

**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, say so.**

### **III. ISSUES**

#### **A . OVERALL**

What would be your three highest priorities as a legislator? Explain.  
Funding education, protecting abortion rights, commonsense gun law reform

#### **B. Education**

1. How do you feel about the role of charter schools in Pennsylvania's educational mix? If dissatisfied, what changes in State law would you sponsor to fix the problem?

Charter schools must be held to the same standards as public schools

If we are going to fund Charter schools with tax dollars then they must be held accountable just as Public schools are.

2. What factors do you believe should be considered in determining overall levels of school funding in the Commonwealth, and funding per school district?

The BEFC layed out a comprehensive approach to how we disperse funding for basic education. It's my view that the majority report represents the best path forward prioritizing school facility investments. The adequacy of previous funding, the concentration of poverty, ESL learners, district size, and MHII. Their formula provides a path forward in adresing the Commonwelath Court's decision.

3. Do you believe public college, or community college, should be tuition free?

Yes.

4. What role do you believe standardized tests should play in evaluating teachers, schools and students, if any?. They are important to get a glimpse into how schools are performing.

### **C. Budget and Taxes**

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

Yes

2. If legal, would you support raising the tax on unearned income as a way to increase State revenue without increasing burdens on working people?

Yes if they are, investment-type income such as taxable interest, ordinary dividends, and capital gain distributions.

3. What changes if any would you support in corporate net income tax levels?

I would support raising them.

4. What changes, if any, would you support in the personal income tax?

Lowering the burden on low-income taxpayers.

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

Yes

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

Yes

7. Would you support abolition or reduction of the property tax for all or some payers? If so, which ones, and how would you replace the revenue?  
For low income families.

#### **D. Public Banking**

1. Would you support the creation of a Pennsylvania Public Bank, modeled after [the Bank of North Dakota](#)?

Yes

#### **E. Women's Rights**

1. Do you believe there should be any restrictions on a woman's right to choose? If so, what? Is any new legislation needed in light of the Dobbs decision to overrule Roe v. Wade?  
NO. There needs to be legislation to ensure and protect a woman's right to choose.
2. What additional protections should be enacted into law to protect women's health care?  
To start we should codify abortion protections by passing my legislation, the Pennsylvania Women's Health Protection Act.
3. Would you support proposals to ensure that women and men working in the Commonwealth receive equal pay for equal work?  
Yes
4. Do you support new legislation to protect individuals against sexual assault?

Yes

#### **F. Children and Families**

1. Should the State require businesses to provide paid family leave? Yes
2. Should the State provide universal availability of affordable child care? Yes

## **G. Environment**

1. What measures, if any, would you support to move PA off its reliance on fossil fuels and expand use of renewable energy sources? I believe we need to expand on solar, wind and nuclear energy.
2. Do you support a ban on fracking in whole or part? I support a moratorium on any new wells as many have been awarded but remain unused.
3. Would you support developing the Philadelphia area as an Energy Hub?  
  
Yes
4. Do you think Philadelphia should be compelled or induced to sell PGW?  
  
No

## **H. 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?  
This is not a simple issue. We have to provide opportunities in the communities most afflicted by mass incarceration. Those opportunities are access to affordable housing, quality

education, jobs with family sustaining wages, and safe and healthy neighborhoods.

3. Should marijuana be legalized for recreational use? Yes
4. Should privately-owned prisons be permitted in Pennsylvania?  
No
5. Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania?  
Yes
6. Should PA continue to build new prisons?  
No
7. Should PA begin to close prisons?  
Yes but done in a way not to cause over crowding.
8. Do you support an end to the death penalty?  
Yes
9. When if ever, should a juvenile be tried as an adult?

## **I. Campaign Finance Reform**

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

Yes

## **J. Labor**

1. Would you support legislation to strengthen protection for workers trying to form or join a union? Yes
2. Should the minimum wage be increased? If so, to what level and should the increase be indexed to inflation? Yes. \$15 and yes it should 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
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

## **K. 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

## **L. Reforming Legislative Districts**

1. Do you support measures that would (a) form an independent commission, and (b) apply sound methodologies, to draw all congressional, State House, and Senate districts fairly in Pennsylvania? Yes
2. Would you support the reduction in size of the current PA House from 203 seats to 151 seats, or some other number?  
No