



Connect with your Neighbors.....Change the World

2023 Council At-Large Questionnaire

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CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name Katherine Gilmore Richardson

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: Katherine Gilmore Richardson

Date: January 11, 2023

Please complete, sign and return this form via email in Word format to: info@phillynn.org and Gloria Gilman gmgilman@gmail.com. Also mail a copy with the signature page to

**Gloria Gilman
121 S. Broad St., Suite 1710
Philadelphia, PA 19107**

I. INTRODUCTION

Although many of the questions in Section III 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, or don't currently have enough information to provide an informed answer, please so state.

II. BACKGROUND

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

City Council At-Large (2020-present)

2. With respect to your other qualifications for the office of At-Large Council member:

1. 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.)
 - Workforce development
 - Generational wealth
 - Climate change and environmental justice
 - Transparency and accountability in government

Hon. Blondell Reynolds Brown
Steve Jones

c. What other endorsements have you received?
34th Ward
Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters

d. How do you plan to win?
Run a 21st century campaign that reaches every voter

e. How much money have you raised? More than \$100k How much do you expect to raise? \$100k

3. What three things would you most want to accomplish if elected?
 1. Improve public safety and quality of life in every Philadelphia neighborhood
 2. Ensure every child graduates from college or career ready
 3. Address climate change and environmental justice through a whole of government approach

III. ISSUES

A. Economic Development

What do you see as the current economic picture of Philadelphia and what would you do to make economic development more just, fair, and equitable for all Philadelphians?

Would you back legislation to:

1. Impose an impact fee on businesses failing to pay workers \$15/hr to reimburse the City for the costs of relieving poverty?
 - I strongly support a robust partnership between the city, labor unions, worker advocates, and the business community to ensure every Philadelphian earns a living wage and has robust career opportunities
2. Take \$200 million of City pension funds now invested in risky securities to invest in neighborhood economic development projects, through a public bank or otherwise?
 - I am open to discussing innovative ideas to increase funding for neighborhood economic development projects. For example, I have been a leading City advocate for Senator Saval's Whole Home Repairs Act program, and through my work with the EPA Local Government Advisory Committee, I've already helped bring millions of dollars to the City to address lead in schools and air pollution in environmental justice communities. I also supported Council President Clarke's Neighborhood Preservation Initiative and secured \$7.6 million through that program to help Philadelphians maintain their generational wealth by addressing tangled

titles. I have also worked closely with the Pension Board to ensure we are making smart investment decisions that will benefit our retirees now and in the future. This includes passing a resolution to prioritize environmental, social, and governance standards in our investing and to include climate risk disclosures.

3. Create a program to provide technical assistance and start-up funding for cooperative, worker-owned businesses and housing?
 - I strongly support Council President Clarke’s Turn the Key program, which creates workforce housing for city employees, and I would be interested in conversations to support other innovative programs to expand access to affordable housing and business ownership.
4. Take whatever steps are needed to create and fund a Bank of Philadelphia to hold all City deposits and invest them locally?
 - I co-sponsored and voted in favor of the public bank bill introduced by Councilmember Green
5. Create a system of participatory budgeting that would allow City residents to control allocation of all or a portion of the funds allocated in the City budget?
 - I supported the participatory budget program created during the current Administration and worked to widely share the opportunity with community groups across the city. I also think zero based budgeting should be implemented in some City departments.

B. Education

What are the root causes for the current state of Philadelphia Public Schools and what would you do to address these issues?

Specifically, would you back legislation to:

1. Regulate charter schools by making their budgetary practices transparent, ridding them of conflicts of interest, and stopping them from cherry-picking their student bodies? Would you be willing to attach that plan to a budget rider?
 - As a Philadelphia public school graduate via Gompers, Masterman and the Philadelphia High School for Girls, former teacher, and current parent of three public school students at two different schools, I know every child in Philadelphia deserves to have the best education possible, and I am committed to collaborating with my colleagues, the Administration, District leadership, and the School Board to ensure our Philadelphia Public School system is fully supported. In addition, I have been very vocal and have been working with the district to change their internal policies about how families are directed to schools so that each school receives the correct amount of funding, teachers and staff [Philadelphia City Council questions district ‘s projection for lower enrollment - Chalkbeat Philadelphia](#)
2. Make the School Board an elective office, or otherwise deepen community participation in School Board appointments?
 - I believe deeper community participation is needed and necessary when decisions are made regarding appointments to the School Board
3. Compute the cost/benefit ratio for the School District of all proposed KOZ zones before they’re approved by Council?

- Every child in Philadelphia deserves to have the best education possible, and I am committed to collaborating with my colleagues, the Administration, District leadership, and the School Board to ensure that is the case.
4. Increase direct City funding for the School District? If so, please explain.
- Since my time as a staffer and now as a member of Philadelphia City Council, the funding the City provides to the School District of Philadelphia has vastly increased. As a mom of 3 children in our public schools, I wholeheartedly agree with ensuring SDP has and appropriately allocates funding received from the City of Philadelphia.

C. Criminal Justice

What do you see as the current state of the Criminal Justice System in Philadelphia and what would you do to address any perceived problems/issues?

Would you back legislation to:

1. Fully end the stop and frisk program?
 - The City should not engage in any practices that violate the civil rights of our residents
2. Change the Charter to create an oversight board to keep a check on Philadelphia prison conditions?
 - I am a strong advocate for transparency and accountability in government, and I am open to conversations about how we expand transparency in all of our operations.
3. Increase post-release counseling for jobs, housing and other support services?
 - My main priority in council is connecting Philadelphians to family sustaining and supporting careers, and I work diligently to ensure we are reducing barriers to employment and connecting our justice-involved residents to good career opportunities, housing and other support services to ensure they are successful upon release.
4. Bar employers from denying jobs to ex-offenders without a specific job-related basis?
 - I supported Councilmember Jones' "Ban the Box" legislation.

D. The Role of Community in the Economic and Political Systems in Philly

What do you see as the role of the community in our political and economic systems and what would you do to make it more fair, just, and equitable for all Philadelphians?

Would you back legislation to:

1. Bar or limit privatization of City property and work done by City employees? More specifically are there any circumstances under which you would sell PGW?
 - As a member of City Council, I am a steward of our City's resources and a strong supporter of our city workers. I am committed to ensuring we are always doing all we can to provide good career opportunities and maintaining important city assets. We should not be in the business of privatizing our City services. I support our hard-working City employees.
2. Move Pension Fund investment decisions in-house?

- I have worked closely with the Pension Board to ensure we are making smart investment decisions that will benefit our retirees now and in the future. This includes passing a resolution to prioritize environmental, social, and governance standards in our investing and to include climate risk disclosures.
3. Reform PIDC, the City's main economic development funding agency, so that its Board has a majority of public and community members, rather than Chamber of Commerce appointed members?
 - PIDC is a crucial partner to the City, and I am committed to ensuring it is always working to best support and expand economic development opportunities in the communities that are most in need while also benefitting the residents of the community.
 4. Require the City to withdraw subsidies from corporations that fail to provide jobs or other benefits to City residents?
 - My main priority in council is connecting Philadelphians to family sustaining and supporting careers, and I work diligently to ensure we are prioritizing job opportunities for Philadelphians in all of our economic development decisions.
 5. Publicly finance City elections?
 - I am a strong supporter of free and fair elections, and I am open to conversations about how we can best achieve that goal. I also supported an increase in funding for our City Commissioners office in the last budget cycle.

E. Housing

What are the root causes of the current Housing Crisis in Philadelphia and how would you address these issues?

Would you back legislation to:

1. Create a rent stabilization program?
 - a. As a lifelong Philadelphian, who was born and raised in Philadelphia, I am committed to ensuring Philadelphia remains affordable for all Philadelphians, including engaging in conversations about how to best maintain and expand our naturally occurring affordable housing stock while providing additional affordable housing options. In addition, I also think it's important to focus on the expansion of homeownership options as well as programs to help keep Philadelphians in their homes and/or save their homes. Homeownership is one of the fastest ways to create generational wealth. Over the last 20-30 years, homeownership rates amongst black and brown residents in Philadelphia have decreased instead of increasing. We must work on creating generational wealth for all families.
2. End, limit or curtail Councilmanic prerogative over land disposition?
 - a. As a member of Council's Rules committee, I am committed to thoroughly researching every bill heard in committee regarding land disposition.
3. Create or support more affordable housing, both rental and home ownership? Please specify.
 - a. As a lifelong Philadelphian, who was born and raised in Philadelphia, I am committed to ensuring Philadelphia remains affordable for all Philadelphians, including engaging in conversations about how to best maintain and expand our naturally occurring affordable housing stock while providing additional affordable housing options. In addition, I also think it's important to focus on the expansion of homeownership options as well as programs to help keep Philadelphians in their homes and/or save their homes. Homeownership is one of the fastest

ways to create generational wealth. Over the last 20-30 years, homeownership rates amongst black and brown residents in Philadelphia have decreased instead of increasing. We must work on creating generational wealth for all families.

4. What would you do to curtail or limit the effects of gentrification in our neighborhoods that is displacing long term and low-income residents?
 - a. As a lifelong Philadelphian, who was born and raised in Philadelphia, I am committed to ensuring Philadelphia remains affordable for all Philadelphians, including engaging in conversations about how to best maintain and expand our naturally occurring affordable housing stock while providing additional affordable housing options. In addition, I also think its important to focus on the expansion of homeownership options as well as programs to help keep Philadelphians in their homes and/or save their homes. Homeownership is one of the fastest ways to create generational wealth. Over the last 20-30 years, homeownership rates amongst black and brown residents in Philadelphia have decreased instead of increasing. We must work on creating generational wealth for all families. In addition, I have worked very hard in Council to ensure we are providing additional support for the more than 10,000 residents facing tangled titles/deeds. I worked to ensure we invested \$7.6 million to help additional families, passed legislation to ensure families receive an information sheet on estate administration when a loved one passes away, as well as worked with Revenue to modify the regulations for the LOOP program for those that can prove equitable ownership. All in an effort to assist Philadelphians from being displaced

F. Environmental Justice

What are the major Environmental issues in Philadelphia and what would you do to address them?

Please answer the following specific questions:

1. Would you use the City's power of the purse to prevent SEPTA from continuing to build and use natural-gas fueled power plants in the City?
 - a. As Chair of the Committee on the Environment and a member of the U.S. EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee, I am deeply committed to addressing climate change and environmental justice, and I am hyper focused on ensuring we take a whole government approach to addressing these challenges.
2. What will you do to support and promote the use of solar and other renewable energy sources in the City?
 - a. As Chair of the Committee on the Environment and a member of the U.S. EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee, I am deeply committed to addressing climate change and environmental justice, and I am hyper focused on ensuring we take a whole government approach to addressing these challenges. Additionally, I have secured an additional \$2 million over the last two fiscal years to ensure we are increasing funding for the Office of Sustainability and the Philadelphia Energy Authority.
3. Do you support a plan for City government or the entire City to be fossil-free by a particular date? If so, how would you accomplish that goal?
 - a. As Chair of the Committee on the Environment and a member of the U.S. EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee, I am deeply committed to addressing climate change and environmental justice, and I am hyper focused on ensuring we take a whole government approach to addressing these challenges.

G. Health Care

What can the City do to provide and support adequate and affordable health care for its residents?

Specially answer the following question:

1. Would you support the construction of a City-owned Northeast Health Center?
 - Yes

H. Taxes

Would is your plan for a fair, just and equitable taxing structure for the City of Philadelphia, addressing specifically your position on real estate, corporate, and individual taxing rates?

Specifically answer the following:

1. Would you increase taxes if the programs you wish to fund cannot otherwise be paid for?
 - Appropriating funds is one of the most important jobs we have as members of City Council. I am committed to ensuring we have robust funding to address the needs and quality of life issues of our residents and provide the highest quality service, and am open to conversations about the best ways to do so.
2. Which taxes would you propose raising?

I. General Statement

Use this space to provide any further information that you would like us to consider about your candidacy, not covered by the questions above.

Katherine Gilmore Richardson is serving her first term as Councilmember At-Large for the City of Philadelphia. Gilmore Richardson is the youngest woman ever elected citywide and the youngest African American woman ever elected to Philadelphia City Council. She is focused on addressing the city's ongoing recovery from Covid-19, upskilling and reskilling our workforce, supporting local, small, and minority-owned businesses, and addressing climate change and environmental justice.

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson has passed legislation that bolsters transparency and accountability in city government, requires businesses to provide information about workforce development training when they separate an employee, cracks down on nuisance businesses, and integrates climate risk disclosure and sustainable investment decisions into the City's Pension Fund operations.

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson also created Philadelphia's first Apprenticeship Guidebook. The Guidebook includes information about application requirements, training programs, career fields, and pay and benefits for over 20 apprenticeship programs in Philadelphia.

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson is also focused on improving Philadelphia's public schools. As a result of her work, the School District is now providing Tier I conflict resolution, which includes daily programming, to every student in the District. She has also advocated for improving Career and Technical Education curricula to better align with the jobs of the future and create more direct pipelines to family sustaining and supporting jobs.

As the Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Councilmember Gilmore Richardson passed legislation updating the landscaping requirements in the zoning code and creating a Philadelphia Tree Fund, which collects fees from developers to expand and maintain our city's tree canopy. She has also secured millions of dollars to expand funding for Environmental Justice through the budget process, including creating a new Climate

Resilience Grant Program. In 2021, Councilmember Gilmore Richardson was appointed to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC). She is also the Vice Chair of the LGAC's Environmental Justice Working Group. She is the only representative on the LGAC from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Through this role, she has helped secure funding to address lead in school water facilities and air pollution in environmental justice communities.

Gilmore Richardson previously served as a staff member for Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown for 11 years in roles ranging from Constituent Services to Chief of Staff. A lifelong Philadelphian, Gilmore Richardson is a graduate of the Philadelphia High School for Girls and West Chester University. She is a member of Ridge Avenue Church of God of Prophecy and a proud life member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. Gilmore Richardson resides in Wynnefield with her husband and three children.

Articles:

<https://www.inquirer.com/politics/election/philadelphia-council-2023-at-large-race-who-is-running-20221216.html>

[Bill to increase Philadelphia's tree canopy would impose fees on developers who cut down trees without replacing them | PhillyVoice](#)

[COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE RICHARDSON PASSES THREE BILLS IN CITY COUNCIL, ADDRESSING CAREERS PIPELINES, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND PUBLIC SAFETY - Philadelphia City Council \(phlcouncil.com\)](#)

[Opinion: Infrastructure funds should be for green projects - WHYY](#)

[CITY COUNCIL, PARTNERS ANNOUNCE \\$7.6 MILLION INVESTMENT TO HELP HOMEOWNERS CLEAR THEIR TANGLED TITLES - Philadelphia City Council \(phlcouncil.com\)](#)

[CITY OF PHILADELPHIA RECEIVES OVER \\$6 MILLION IN UNCLAIMED PROPERTY FUNDS FOLLOWING PASSAGE OF COUNCILMEMBER GILMORE RICHARDSON'S REPORTING LEGISLATION - Philadelphia City Council \(phlcouncil.com\)](#)

[City Council member Kathy Gilmore Richardson's new initiative aims to crack down on nuisance properties in Philadelphia - 6abc Philadelphia](#)

[A Philly Council member nearly lost her family home. Now she has a bill to help others avoid that plight | Local News | phillytrib.com](#)

[Support Local Black- and Brown-Owned Businesses this Holiday Season with Visit Philadelphia® — Visit Philadelphia Media Center \(visitphilly.com\)](#)

[Philadelphia City Council questions district's projection for lower enrollment - Chalkbeat Philadelphia](#)