



# 2024 PA Legislative Questionnaire

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## CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Cass Green Office Sought: PA House Representative - HD-10

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: Cassandra Green Date: 2/20/24

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?

I have not held any elected position.

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

- a. the name(s) of the office(s) and dates served
- b. the primary issue areas with which you were involved?
- c. your main accomplishments

No

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?

This is one of the real strengths we've had in my previous race and throughout my life. My work has always been about community, and through it all, I've cultivated many relationships with people who got involved in politics and the betterment of our community first through being a recipient of services or an organizational volunteer interested in just getting involved. In 2004, I co-founded Mill Creek Community Partnership (MCCP), a community based non-profit, resigned from my job at Penn, sold my house, and returned to the community I loved. I devoted my life to supporting the residents of Mill Creek and became Mill Creek's representative for The People's Emergency Center and the Make Your Mark planning process, which ultimately led to my joining PEC full time in the role of Community Engagement and Partnership Developer. My work expanded throughout five neighborhoods, and I was responsible for all of the quality of life programming, which included food access, expungement clinics, workforce development, youth and senior empowerment, the arts, and creative placemaking. I was instrumental in the Promise Zone designation, Promise Neighborhood funding, and the development of the early childhood education initiative Action For Early Learning-AFEL. For the three years after that, I did similar work in Kensington at NKCDC as the Community Engagement Project Manager. Through each project and organization, I've grown my community. Because the work of many of these organizations is important but insufficient for the scale of the challenges we face, many of the people I've gotten to know through this work have started to look to our government to find real solutions to these huge gaps and challenges. Those people - people throughout our community frustrated with crumbling infrastructure and a lack of services for mental illness, homelessness, and more - are the base I want to cultivate to deliver the change we need.

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

My top three priorities are criminal justice, public education, and housing. In West Philadelphia, these three issues intersect at every level. In the past 10 years, several schools, including West Philadelphia High School, have been closed down and converted into luxury condos. Rent goes up and up while our wages stagnate. Additionally, our public schools are in crisis and terribly underfunded. Schools in the 10th district are struggling to stay afloat and are at risk of shutting down or being forced to convert to a charter school. A robust, high quality education is a right that must be afforded to every child in Pennsylvania, no matter their zip code or their income. These issues lead to the criminalization of poverty in Philadelphia; our young people don't have afterschool programs and are profiled and targeted by police for existing in public spaces. Our neighbors who have been kicked out of their homes and are now living on the street are criminalized and treated with disdain by our justice system. I believe we must transform our criminal justice system and divert people away from the system as much as possible. I support ending life without parole, ending cash bail, and ending the death penalty.

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

We plan to win this race by raising between \$150,000-200,000 with both small dollar and PAC contributions, receiving a broad array of endorsements, running an aggressive, coordinated field operation, communicating with voters via direct mail and digital advertising, and engaging community members with a focus on young adults and new voters along the way with assistance of our social media team across various social media platforms. Our field plan is to knock 30,000 doors in the district to get us to our win number of 4,700 votes. This campaign is about building community and making politics accessible, especially in an area like HD10 that typically has low voter turnout. In fighting for

education for all, housing for all, and criminal justice reform that prioritizes healing and care over criminalization.

## **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. As mentioned above, my three highest priorities would be criminal justice reform, education and housing 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?**

I believe access to free public school education is fundamental for communities to thrive. It is imperative that we provide as much support for our traditional neighborhood public schools as we can,

rather than replace them with charter schools. I would support legislation that stops the privatization of our schools, and that includes putting a state-wide moratorium on new charter schools. Existing charters are not required to be even close to as transparent with their finances or performance as traditional neighborhood public schools, and private schools that receive what is in essence public revenue through programs like EITC can discriminate against queer students, disabled students, and religious minorities. I applaud Governor Shapiro's proposal to standardize tuition for cyber charter schools as a start, but all charters receiving public money should be held to the same accountability and transparency standards as traditional schools.

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

As a single parent of two now adult daughters, I have lived the struggle of trying to get my daughters an affordable but good education. It starts with funding. In addition to the Commonwealth Court ruling, the Basic Education Funding Commission recently released its report stating that Pennsylvania needs to invest at least \$5.4 billion over seven years to close the gap in funding between wealthy and poor districts. With nearly \$14 billion in the state's Rainy Day Fund, I would support making those adequacy investments much quicker. There is no path around the funding inequalities that have created different realities across PA public schools. I support, and will fight for, a fair funding formula that will increase the funding received by the Philadelphia School District - so that no student in Lower Merion gets more funding

than a student in Philadelphia. Furthermore, as an artist and cultural producer, I strongly believe that the arts, STEAM and alternative education/career exposure opportunities should be returned to the base curriculum in every school, not just schools for privileged communities.

**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?** I do not think that standardized tests should play a big role in evaluating our teachers, schools and students. It has been shown time and time again that standardized tests misrepresent some people at the expenses of others, and do not capture a holistic view of what is happening at each school.

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

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

*Yes, I support an amendment that would permit progressive taxation and force corporations to pay their fair share of taxes. I also believe that a percentage of the 10 year tax abatement to developers be put into a fund to support affordable, rent controlled and low income housing development.*

**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.

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

I support raising the corporate net income tax level. Corporations should not be paying little taxes while the rest of our city suffers.

- 4. What changes, if any, would you support in the personal income tax?** I would support changes that lower personal income taxes on individuals and/or that more adequately match tax levels with income. As I said above, we need to raise taxes on corporations not working people.

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

- 6. Do you support a tax on fracking, and at what level?** Yes, I support a natural gas severance tax at least at the level of Texas (7.5%), among the highest in the nation. I believe in banning fracking, but in the meantime, I believe we should tax it and send that revenue back into our communities.

- 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?**

Property tax reduction would be a welcome byproduct of greater state investment in public education, which is largely funded by taxing property. Renters and owners over 65 years old already benefit from the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate program, which I would support expanding. In an ideal world, we would repeal the Uniformity Clause in our Constitution and replace revenue through a graduated income tax and corporate taxes.

## 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?** There should not be any restrictions on a woman's right to choose. : I support the right to an abortion and the right to contraception. As a state representative, I will vote to enshrine the right to abortion into Pennsylvania law and will cosponsor existing contraceptive equity legislation to eliminate co-pays for contraception, require insurance companies to cover contraception, including emergency contraception, and allow for a six-month supply of contraception.
2. **What additional protections should be enacted into law to protect women's health care?** As a state representative, I will vote to enshrine the right to abortion into Pennsylvania law and will cosponsor existing contraceptive equity legislation to eliminate co-pays for contraception, require insurance companies to cover contraception, including emergency contraception, and allow for a six-month supply of contraception.

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

Yes. In Pennsylvania, women make 79% of what men make in the same jobs, creating a \$10,000 gap annually, and it's even worse for women of Color. Occupational segregation, bias against working mothers, and direct pay discrimination have contributed to the gender wage gap. I would sign on to existing legislation, like SB 421 introduced by PA Senator Maria Collett to create more worker protections and expand the scope of current pay discrimination laws.

**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. The state should absolutely require businesses to provide paid family leave. No one should have to decide between having a family and having a job. It is a shame that the United States is one the wealthiest countries in the world and yet one of the only ones to not provide any paid sick leave to families.

## **2. Should the State provide universal availability of affordable child care?**

Yes, the state should absolutely provide universal availability of affordable child care. We know that the lack of universal child care directs working class people - and women - the hardest. And this question is particularly personal to me. As a single mother, I know how important affordable childcare is - and know that both my children benefited greatly from affordable, accessible and quality childcare at the West Philadelphia YMCA. Furthermore, both of my daughters attended the Community Education Center (CEC) on Lancaster Ave. CEC was a vital part of our lives - and it was affordable. It was there my daughters took classes in sign language, dance, music, printing and much more - and were able to develop into the leaders, artists and entrepreneurs that they are today. I want to fight to make it possible to make everyone have access to free and good quality childcare.

## **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?**

Environmental injustice is a part of the fabric of life in West Philadelphia and the surrounding communities. Lead in soil levels, particularly in West Philadelphia, has been shown to be at higher levels than other places in the city. Additionally, too many of our school buildings are toxic with mold and asbestos. It is imperative that we create pathways through legislation to combat and remediate environmental pollution in the communities most hard

hit, typically Black and brown communities. I also do not support continuing the Covanta contract in Chester City – the asthma impacts on Black youth in that community as a result of the incinerator are unconscionable. I would support Governor Tom Wolf’s Climate Action Plan goal of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and to ultimately achieving net zero emissions. I would support policies that the state can use to reduce its environmental impact, including investing in the public transit we deserve, banning fracking, pursuing companies that cause pollution for criminal and civil penalties, investing in parks and green spaces as an extreme weather mitigation and quality of life improvement, and more.

**2. Do you support a ban on fracking in whole or part?**

I support a full ban on fracking.

**3. Would you support developing the Philadelphia area as an Energy Hub?**

I would support developing Philadelphia as a Clean Energy Hub! The Energy Hub long-discussed by City Council and PES appears to be off track now that the PES refinery has been shuttered and torn down. In terms of the Hydrogen Hub proposed for Philadelphia, I do support using green and pink hydrogen for powering industrial processes, fueling truck fleets, and heating and cooling buildings.

**4. Do you think Philadelphia should be compelled or induced to sell PGW? No, I do not think Philadelphia should be compelled to sell PGW. Privatizing public goods, whether it’s PGW or schools, almost always results in worse outcomes for the public.**

## 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?**

Diversion is a proven strategy for reducing crime. The problem of mass incarceration is a systemic one, and not enough is being done to invest in our communities and in diversion programs. By institutionalizing alternatives to prosecution and incarceration, we mitigate the moral, social and economic costs of mass incarceration that disproportionately harm poor communities and communities of color. Not all who are arrested are dangerous. Where incarceration would cause more harm to individuals and communities, science- and community-based solutions serve to build public trust in the criminal justice system. Too often, frontline providers of services for people experiencing addiction (I know, I was one!) have too few resources to deploy - not enough beds and treatment providers so that those who do want to get help can do so. In addition, diversion programs provide an essential alternative to incarceration for people experiencing addiction. I support proposals to fully fund treatment and support for people experiencing addiction, and will not bend to outdated "tough on crime" talk about people I care for deeply.

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.** The rest of the Commonwealth should follow Philadelphia's lead and remove this barrier to employment.

6. Should PA continue to build new prisons? No, PA should not continue to build *additional* prisons.
7. Should PA begin to close prisons? Yes, this is something we should strive for. The prison population has ticked down in recent years and as we move more toward rehabilitation than incarceration, we will need fewer prisons.
8. Do you support an end to the death penalty? Yes
9. **When if ever, should a juvenile be tried as an adult?** A juvenile should never be tried as an adult.

## **I. Campaign Finance Reform**

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

Yes. We need more kinds of public financing for state and local elections so that it is easier for more working class candidates to run. Running for office is not only challenging, it is expensive and if we want representation that looks like us - we need to make it easier for people to run.

## **J. Labor**

1. **Would you support legislation to strengthen protection for workers trying to form or join a union?** Yes, all workers should be able to be part of a union and we should have more legislation, like the PA Workplace Freedom Act (“card check”), to allow them to do so.

**2. Should the minimum wage be increased? If so, to what level and should the increase be indexed to inflation?**

I support raising the statewide minimum wage to at least \$18, no exceptions. It is way past time that we pay our workers fairly across the state. There are also issues for our tipped wage workers. Women of color and Black women in particular receive over \$5 less than their white male counterparts in restaurant service sector jobs in Pennsylvania due to customer racism in tipping and occupational segregation. Workers in restaurants, hotels, parking lots, car washes, airports, hair salons, and other settings all deserve to make at least the full minimum wage. And yes, the increase 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, they should not continue to be preempted. Every municipality should be able to set their own minimum wage at or above the state's.**

**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, I do not believe in the privatization of retail liquor sales. Privatizing liquor sales would likely lead to more stores with lower wage and non-unionized workers, and less overall oversight of alcohol distribution across PA.**

## **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, our public transportation is in a dire circumstance and especially as SEPTA is facing a fiscal cliff, the state needs to be putting more gas tax revenue into public transportation, as opposed to roads and bridges.**

## **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. Fairer districts make for fairer representation.**
- 2. Would you support the reduction in size of the current PA House from 203 seats to 151 seats, or some other number?**

No. The current size allows for small enough districts that voters and residents can really capture the attention of their state representative. Being closely tied to a community, or small subset of communities truly makes the PA House the People's House.