



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

2024 PA Legislative Questionnaire

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CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Selena V Hodge

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: _____

Date: 2-19-2024

**Please complete, sign and return this form via email in PDF format to
info@phillynn.org**

and mail or fax a copy of the signature page to

**Gloria Gilman
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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? none
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
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? I am a 30-year union member with over 25 years in leadership and 8 years as the Political and Community Engagement Chair. I have lobbied with my union for bills and worked hard to push the Pa excessive overtime for healthcare employees Act 102. I assisted with language in the current legislation Patient Safety Act that passed in the house. I spoke in the capital about workplace violence act. I met with my union political director and the committee for state

registrations to prevent the implementation of registration for radiology professionals.

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

Stronger legislation to introduce PILOT for funding programs across the city and commonwealth. While addressing legislation to amend the bias language of the UNIFORMITY CLAUSE

Establish an educated community approach to development. Realtors and RCO members engage in community conversations by tiers (ward leaders, committee people and neighborhood organization, the community) to explain the process and bring transparency.

Support programs that effectively address homelessness and housing while providing accountability to stakeholders through decreasing wasteful spending practices and increase revenue allocation to audit reviewed programs with positive outcomes.

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

My campaign strategy is to focus on the demographic of the community. I must stay engaged through door knocking and have event to listen to concerns while providing current resources. Rallies across the district with area organizations and community leadership to show unity. The campaign strategy includes text plans, social media presence, senior engagement, mailers, news articles and a strong GOTV campaign.

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.

Legislation to reverse and/or amend PILOT, UNIFORMITY CLAUSE and address BLIGHT

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 do not support the voucher program. I believe all school systems should follow the same regulations regardless of funding but especial if they receive tax dollars. State law should mandate the oversight of charter schools no matter if they receive government funds or not. I am against the lottery program for enrollment.
2. What factors do you believe should be considered in determining overall levels of school funding in the Commonwealth, and funding per school district? I believe this was just address by a lawsuit and all funds distributed equally per child across the commonwealth.
3. Do you believe public college, or community college, should be tuition free? In my perfect world, yes. I believe public and community colleges should be free. I see the situation changing once legislation towards PILOTs implementation occurs.

4. What role do you believe standardized tests should play in evaluating teachers, schools and students, if any?. Looking at the concerns of parents and students, the test use is as a measurement for curriculum adjustments. The scores provide notification to schedule tutoring or if goals are reached. If it is use to penalize students, the same is possible for the educators.

C. Budget and Taxes

1. Do you support a Constitutional Amendment to permit progressive taxation in PA, in whole or part? I believe everyone should be a productive part of society and pay their fair share of taxes to aid in the upkeep of our community and government. If you are speaking about the UNIFORMITY CLAUSE, I support a PA constitutional amendment against the bias language in the clause.
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? I do not support raising the tax on unearned income because there are too many other areas of waste and revenue to seek without touching the funds of retirees.
3. What changes if any would you support in corporate net income tax levels? It is not a popular answer but I would raise the tax because it is less than someone that makes <\$11k single, \$15.7k head of household, and \$22k married filling jointly.
4. What changes, if any, would you support in the personal income tax? Smaller percentages for each level so the middle class can thrive. 5% (<\$11k), 10% (\$11k - \$44,725), 15% (\$44,725 - \$95,375), 20% (\$95,375 - \$182,100), 25% (\$182,100 - \$231,250), 30% (\$231,250 - \$578,125) and 35% (>\$578,125)

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

If in any way it were controlled by the state, I would definitely want to eliminate the loophole to capture the tax revenue. Unfortunately, it is a federal situation.

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

I support a tax on fracking at any agreed amount and a decrease of production to support clean energy

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?

I support a reduction of property tax as a whole for all homeowners and an implementation of PILOT on various institutions for their real estate to replace the revenue.

D. Public Banking

1. Would you support the creation of a Pennsylvania Public Bank, modeled after the Bank of North Dakota? Absolutely, 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, I believe in "My body, my business". I think mirrored legislation on male penial dysfunction medication and female contraceptive or need for abortion. If the male genitals were up for discussion, the conversation would cease.
2. What additional protections should be enacted into law to protect women's health care? Laws for full access to reproductive health and

priority for the woman over the fetal rights to save the woman. Maternal care is vital for woman wanting to take a birth to term so laws should be in places to help the mother thrive.

3. Would you support proposals to ensure that women and men working in the Commonwealth receive equal pay for equal work?
As a union woman, I support equal pay for equal work.
4. Do you support new legislation to protect individuals against sexual assault? Yes, I believe the physical and mental abuse of sexual assault needs strong legislation to protect victims and additional funding.

F. Children and Families

1. Should the State require businesses to provide paid family leave? Yes, New Jersey provides short-term fmla/ disability. I would support a committee to evaluate and develop the implementation of the plan.
2. Should the State provide universal availability of affordable childcare? Yes, this plan would make it easier for families to thrive. The childcare credit is at the end of the year while parents need weekly assistants towards the excessive prices of 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? I support a PA ran program for solar panel with no contracted companies involved. I recommend a demo house in various wards to serve as models for the project. The process requires video records from the start of the project to gain community trust and support.

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

I support a band of fracking in part and stronger regulations that are enforced. There should be no fracking near residential areas. The older pipelines require plastic blast paint coating to prevent leaks from cracks. The technology is available. Part ban until alternative measures are economic for all classes

3. Would you support developing the Philadelphia area as an Energy Hub? Absolutely, it would create union jobs.
4. Do you think Philadelphia should be compelled or induced to sell PGW? My decision splits between the arguments. The revenue is good for the city but if the company does not align with the needs of the city changes are required.

H. Criminal Justice

1. Should stop and frisk be limited or outlawed?
I support outlawing "stop and frisk" because it promotes targeting. I support police stopping any individual for just cause that is documented prior to the stop.
2. How would you deal with the problem of mass incarceration of minorities, particularly minority youth? We need more social workers and programs to get to the root of the bad behavior. Parents and legal guardians need to be part of the conversation to rehab the behavior of the youth.
3. Should marijuana be legalized for recreational use? Yes and all incarcerated individuals arrested for recreational use should have their records expunged.
4. Should privately-owned prisons be permitted in Pennsylvania?
I believed all prisons should be state owned and not privatized.

5. Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania?
Yes, no one should have to answer about their prior history because they have paid their dues to society.
6. Should PA continue to build new prisons?
No, the money should go to youth programs
7. Should PA begin to close prisons?
Yes, it was apart that some people could be released during the COVID pandemic. This is a stepping-stone to decreasing the amount of prisons.
8. Do you support an end to the death penalty? I do not support an eye for an eye penalty. Also, history has shown on various occasion that individuals have been wrongly accused.
9. When if ever, should a juvenile be tried as an adult? I think the brain is not fully developed and the juvenile should not be tried as an adult.

I. Campaign Finance Reform

Would you support legislation to provide public financing for State and local election campaigns? I would only support nonpartisan email and or mailers to have constituents be informed voters.

J. Labor

1. Would you support legislation to strengthen protection for workers trying to form or join a union? 100% union strong all day long
2. Should the minimum wage be increased? If so, to what level and should the increase be indexed to inflation? Yes, large companies increase immediately. Small business gradual increase to prevent layoff and closures with a purposed \$2 - \$3/per year, which should be tied into a tax adjustment for small business.

3. Do you believe that Philadelphia and other municipalities should continue to be pre-empted from increasing the minimum wage on their own? Philadelphia should have the right to adjust the minimum wage scales to suit the needs of the constituents.
4. Do you support privatization of retail liquor sales in Pennsylvania? Are there any other services that you believe should be considered for privatization? If the retail liquor stores are privatized, state workers will be unemployed. I do not support any layoffs. I will support expansion in retail markets that currently sell wine.

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? I would support the change if there were an excess of resources for roads and bridges, otherwise, the money needs to take care of the assigned area.

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, I support applied sound methodologies
2. Would you support the reduction in size of the current PA House from 203 seats to 151 seats, or some other number? Only if it will not limit representation of constituent especially for Philadelphia. I support term limits.