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2024 PA Attorney General Questionnaire

Candidate Phone: 717-779-4885 Candidate email: eugeneadepasquale@gmail.com

Prepared by: Eugene DePasquale Phone/Email: same as above

Campaign Manager: Carver Murphy Phone/Email: 610-207-7419 Carver@DePasqualeforAG.com

Committee Name: DePasquale for AG

Campaign Address: PO box 53043, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Fax: N/A Email: info@DePasqualeforAG.com Website: www.DePasqualeforAG.com

CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Eugene DePasquale

Office Sought: Attorney General

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: *Eugene DePasquale*

Date: 2/20/2024

Please complete, sign and return this form via email in PDF format to info@phillynn.org and mail or email the signature page to:

Philly Neighborhood Networks
c/o Gloria Gilman
21 S Broad St, Suite 1710
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-601-2197
gmgilman@gmail.com

NN Attorney General Candidate Questionnaire

I. BACKGROUND

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

I was proud to serve as a State Representative for 6 years from York county and as Auditor General for 8 years.

2. If you have previously held a government office:

a. What are the primary issue areas in which you were involved?

As the former two-term Auditor General of Pennsylvania, I was the fiscal watchdog for the State of Pennsylvania. I led the effort to expose nearly \$2 billion in wasted tax dollars, led the fight to reduce the backlog of thousands of untested rape kits, and exposed 58,000 unanswered phone calls at the child abuse hotline.

Prior to serving as Auditor General, I was a three-term member of the state General Assembly representing the 95 th district. I was a leader in advocating for public schools and creating a fairer education funding formula. I was also the first legislator to post his expenses online and is the author of The Alternative Energy Investment Act and led the fight to ban texting while driving.

b. What committees, caucuses or working groups have you served on?

Judiciary, Environmental Resources, Consumer Affairs, Labor and Appropriations.

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.)

N/A - I have held elected office.

4. Please provide copies of all your significant campaign materials, including position papers, and information on your campaign strategy, expected funding sources, and endorsements.

Campaign Chair, Allegheny State Rep. Emily Kinhead

Perry County Democratic Committee
Armstrong County Democratic Committee
Northumberland County Democratic Committee

Central Pennsylvania Building Trades
Ironworkers Local 3
Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 520

ATU Local 85
Operating Engineers Local 66
Bricklayers Local 5
Ricky's Pride PAC
United Rural Democrats
Pitt College Democrats
Steel City Stonewall Democrats

Bucks County President Commissioner Diane Marseglia
Bucks County Treasurer Kris Ballerini
Pittsburgh City Councilman Bobby Wilson
Carlisle Borough Councilwoman Cate Mellen
Adams County Commissioner Marty Qually
Lycoming County Commissioner Rick Mirabito
Fayette County Commissioner Vincent Vicites
Allegheny County Controller Corey O'Connor
Cambria County Controller Ed Cernic, Jr.
Allegheny County Councilwoman Anita Prizio
Allegheny County Councilman DeWitt Walton
Allegheny County Councilman Tom Duerr
Cambria Democratic County Chair Nina Licastro
Oakmont Former Mayor Christopher Whaley
Meadville Mayor Jaime Kinder
Coraopolis Mayor Michael Dixon
York Mayor Michael Helfrich
Pittston Mayor Michael Lombardo
Scranton Mayor Paige Cognetti
Penn Hills Mayor Pauline Calabrese
Carlisle Mayor Sean Shultz
Cambria County Retired State Senator John Wozniak
Allegheny County Retired US Congressman Mike Doyle
York State Rep. Carol Hill-Evans
Dauphin State Rep. Dave Madsen
Allegheny State Rep. Joe McAndrew
Dauphin State Rep. Justin Fleming
Allegheny County State Rep. Lindsay Powell
Dauphin State Rep. Patty Kim
Allegheny State Senator Jim Brewster
Allegheny State Sen. Wayne Fontana
Clarion County Commissioner Braxton White
York County Commissioner Doug Hoke
Dauphin County Commissioner Justin Douglas
York City Council Edquina Washington
Harrisburg City Council Lamont Jones

5. What makes you think that you can win this election?

I have compiled a campaign team of seasoned professionals that know what it takes to win, I have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, and we plan to use those resources to communicate my record of protecting Pennsylvanians. Our polling shows I'm best positioned to win this election because I have a base of voters that know that record and will support it.

6. Describe your fundraising goals and how much money you have raised to date.

My campaign reported more than \$320,000 raised on our end of year report. Since then, we have raised and pledged more than a \$100,000 in additional money and continue to receive robust support.

II. ISSUES

1. Describe your issue objectives in the environmental protection area.

As Auditor General, I investigated the drillers in an effort to hold them accountable and protect our environment. We never know when the next environmental disaster may happen - like the train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. When environmental regulations are not being abided or when a disaster strikes, I will commit to ensuring that those accountable are held responsible.

2. Describe your issue objectives in the consumer protection area.

As Attorney General, I will be your legal advocate against corporate greed. I will crack down on businesses and CEOs taking advantage of consumers and help defend workers from wage theft, stop price gouging, and close tax loopholes.

3. Describe your issue objectives in the financial enforcement arena.

Prosecuting wage theft to protect workers and holding corporations accountable, particularly in the student loan industry and pharmaceuticals.

4. What are your other goals in the civil litigation area?

a. What goals do you have concerning fraudulent and deceptive business practices?

As Attorney General, I will be your legal advocate against corporate greed. I will crack down on businesses and CEOs taking advantage of consumers and help defend workers from wage theft, stop price gouging, and close tax loopholes.

b. What are your plans for civil rights enforcement?

As the state's lead prosecutor, I will fight for every Pennsylvanian's rights of liberty and freedom. As your Attorney General, women will have the freedom to choose what they do with their bodies, children are free to go to school without fear, banning books is vehemently opposed, and the right to vote is fully protected.

c. What, if anything would you do regarding the healthcare industry?

Everyone should have access to affordable and quality healthcare. I will represent Pennsylvanians who are victims of deceptive policies, price gouging, or any other unethical health service practices.

5. Describe your concerns about the criminal justice litigation area.

As Attorney General, I will work with law enforcement to protect our communities by investing in prevention tactics and holding those who threaten our safety accountable. I will work to restore trust between residents and local law enforcement to ensure our police can best serve and protect the Commonwealth.

6. What is your position on the death penalty?

I oppose capital punishment.

7. Would you ever pre-empt the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office from exercising their duties anywhere in Philadelphia? Do you think Act 40 is constitutional and would you enforce it?

I will not pre-empt the DA and look forward to working in partnership with Mr. Krasner. The courts will determine the constitutionality. Until then, any enforcement will not be a priority.

8. What, if any, goals do you have regarding protecting the rights of:

a. victims of hate crimes

I will start, during my transition, a committee on hate crimes. I will make education and holding hate crimes accountable as a top priority.

b. domestic violence victims?

Any victim of domestic violence will have an ally with me as Attorney General. Abuse will not be tolerated. I have met many victims and know the trauma it causes. My support of them will not be just prosecuting the abuser but supporting the victim throughout.

c. children?

As Auditor General, I exposed 58,000 unanswered phone calls at the child abuse hotline. I didn't stop fighting that children were protected until that problem was solved. As Attorney General, I would defend those children in any way I could.

d. women seeking abortions?

My record is clear when it comes to reproductive freedom - I believe women should have complete control over the decisions they want to make with their bodies. Roe v Wade's reversal was a dark day for women and liberty in America - I want to promote freedom, and that includes freedom of choice. As Attorney General, I will stand up to any extreme forces that try to tell people what to do with their own bodies. This includes Pennsylvanians and anyone traveling to Pennsylvania.

9. What, if any, policies would you have regarding gun control?

States that have stronger gun laws have less gun violence which is why I support universal background checks. I will work with local and state authorities to get weapons of war off the streets and end cycles of retaliatory violence in Pennsylvanian urban communities.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE

1. How, if at all, do you think AI will affect the duties of your office? Are there uses by others that might raise legal concerns that would be within your jurisdiction to address?

This is an evolving field and I will work in partnership with other state Attorneys General to develop appropriate policies and a prosecution strategy which aims to protect consumers, identities and prevent fraud.

2. Describe what, if any, training you would provide to your staff regarding EEO concerns.
I'm committed to ensuring there will be a diversity officer in the human resources division and that my staff are appropriately trained and receive ongoing training.

3. What, if any, changes would you make in the hiring and appointment of staff?

I'm committed to ensuring proper representation in my staff from across communities of color, ethnic backgrounds, linguistic backgrounds, people in the LGBTQ+ community, and people with disabilities that is reflective of Pennsylvania's diverse population.

4. Describe the role of the attorney general in litigation. How important do you think it is for the attorney general to have a background in one or more of the litigation areas within the office's purview?

The Attorney General must hire and manage a complex staff. Providing the leadership, hiring the right staff and selecting the priorities are the skills needed to be a successful Attorney General.