



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

2023 Council At-Large Questionnaire

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CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name

Daniel Orsino

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: *Daniel Orsino*

Date: 1/10/23

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?

None

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

a. 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.)

Senior Social Service Access (Kamryn Bonds, North City Congress/Philadelphia NAACP 267-252-9633)

LGBTQ+ Seniors of Color Culturally Competent Programing (Ed Miller, LGBT Elder Initiative at William Way 610-850-4272)

Fighting Food Insecurity-(Tyler Ray, Urban Creators 215-650-7043)

c. What other endorsements have you received?

American Youth 4 Climate Action, Former Democratic State Representative **Emilio Vazquez** of the PA 197th, and **Robert Weslar** Minority Party Leader of the Broom County Legislature, New York State.

d. How do you plan to win?

I have a large team of supporters from across the state working to help meet our fundraising goals and spread our message. While we are of course hyper-focused on a local level with our voters, we are also forging strong alliances with progressive organizers and politicians across the Commonwealth who believe in our cause. We are in the process of building a self-sustaining fundraising machine and are in touch with a coms and media team we plan to hire. We have just hired a professional fundraiser who previously fundraised for the Summer Lee campaign and are very optimistic. We are confident our new coms person, along with our fundraiser and strategically place meet-and-greets, fundraisers, and candidate events will get me the exposure, funding, and positive press coverage I need to succeed.

e. How much money have you raised?

Prior to hiring our fundraiser we raised about 2500. Our campaign launched in December.

How much do you expect to raise?

We expect to raise 100k or over.

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

- 1. Institute the biggest investment and expansion in public transit in over 100 years** by demanding Harrisburg and Washington fund our transit infrastructure properly so we can build the Roosevelt Blvd Subway, the Germantown Ave Subway, finish the Arch Street Subway, build subway stations in Center City between 15th Street and 30th Street, and expand SEPTA commuter bus service into NJ to reduce traffic congestion on our streets.
- 2. City-wide Universal Healthcare.** Many times people fall into this weird situation where they have too much of an income to qualify for Medicaid, but too little money to afford private insurance coverage. I am proposing the creation of a city-wide insurance program that people in this situation can apply for and will provide no-cost treatment at any medical facility within the city of Philadelphia's boundaries. As another initiative within this program, I will increase the number of city-owned and run medical facilities providing essential medical services such as general practitioners, behavioral health, pediatricians, OBGYN, reproductive health, family planning, urgent care, geriatrics, and LGBTQ+ services.
- 3. Improved Essential City Services & Better Constituent Services.** It shouldn't take months (if they ever come at all!) to get a pothole filled. You should be able to access the alleyways behind rowhomes. It shouldn't take an hour and a half to get through to 311. Workers at a municipal office should be able to answer your questions in a correct and timely fashion. These are basic concepts that we expect from any municipal government, anywhere. Philadelphia should be no different. I also am a firm believer that the Public should have better access to their elected officials. I will pass legislation allowing for the creation of district and local constituent service offices for both City Council and the Mayor's office so those who are unable to go all the way to Center City have better access to constituent services and city programs.

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?
Yes
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?
Yes
3. Create a program to provide technical assistance and start-up funding for cooperative, worker-owned businesses and housing?
Yes
4. Take whatever steps are needed to create and fund a Bank of Philadelphia to hold all City deposits and invest them locally?
Yes. I am 100% in favor of the Public Bank by the way
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?
Yes

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?
Yes
2. Make the School Board an elective office, or otherwise deepen community participation in School Board appointments?
Yes
3. Compute the cost/benefit ratio for the School District of all proposed KOZ zones before they're approved by Council?
Yes

4. Increase direct City funding for the School District? If so, please explain.
48.9% of the School district's budget is funded from the collection of various local taxes. However, there is no money directly funded to the schools directly from the city's general fund. I think It would be a fantastic idea to take some money out of the general fund and help the school district with some direct funding.

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?
Yes. It's unconstitutional and racist.
2. Change the Charter to create an oversight board to keep a check on Philadelphia prison conditions?
YES
3. Increase post-release counseling for jobs, housing and other support services?
Yes. I plan to vastly increase social services and this is part of that plan.
4. Bar employers from denying jobs to ex-offenders without a specific job-related basis?
Yes

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?
I wouldn't ever sell PGW. For one, it's a major revenue generator for the city. Two, it belongs to the Public, i.e. the People and isn't the government's to sell without the public's consent, and three, as a city and society, we should be weening ourselves off fossil fuels anyway.
2. Move Pension Fund investment decisions in-house?
Yes
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?
Yes
4. Require the City to withdraw subsidies from corporations that fail to provide jobs or other benefits to City residents?
Yes
5. Publicly finance City elections?
Yes

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?
Yes
2. End, limit or curtail Councilmanic prerogative over land disposition?
YES
3. Create or support more affordable housing, both rental and home ownership? Please specify.
Yes. We need to rethink the current models of affordable housing in Philadelphia and build new ones with entrepreneurial spaces, low rent commercial spaces, and offer educational spaces that will encourage upward mobility.
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?
We need to be able to find ways to rework zoning in some neighborhoods so that we are promoting truly economically diverse neighborhoods. We need to pass policies that make that put tax freezes on long-term low income residents. We also need to develop rental subsidy programs for those that wish to stay in the same apartments or rented homes if they have been there long-term.

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?
Yes. I would cease building them and begin to phase them out slowly.
2. What will you do to support and promote the use of solar and other renewable energy sources in the City?
I would offer tax credits and subsidies to allow homeowners to afford the cost of solar panels & their installation. I would also pass construction ordinances stating mandating new structures need solar panels. I would also encourage the construction of a wind farm by the antenna farm in Manayunk.
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?
Ban the sale of new gas-powered vehicles by 2035, institute the strongest emissions standards in the United States, start a program to convert homes from oil heat to electric heat for free, ban the sale of new gas stoves, water heaters, and other appliances.

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?

Not on the Working or Middle Classes.

2. Which taxes would you propose raising?

I'm looking to put a 1% sales tax on Luxury goods,

a 1% tax on Luxury Apartments, 1% Luxury Home tax.

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.