

**CONGRESSIONAL 2022 QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR PHILLY NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS**

Prepared by: Josh Palackal

Phone/Email: 215-850-7873

Campaign Manager: N/A

Campaign Manager's Phone/Email: N/A

Committee Name: Alexandra Hunt for Congress

Campaign Address: endorsements@alexandramhunt.com

Email: endorsements@alexandramhunt.com

Fax: N/A

Website: <https://www.alexandramhunt.com/>

CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Alexandra Hunt

Office Sought: US House of Representatives

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: Alexandra Hunt

Date:

Please complete, sign and return this form via Email to:

Gloria Gilman: gmgilman@gmail.com

and

Stan Shapiro: shapsj@comcast.net

2022 Congressional Questionnaire

BACKGROUND *Please note: answers to questions 7-9 are optional.*

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

I have never served in public office before.

2. If you have previously held a government office:

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

N/A

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

N/A

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.)

I have been involved in organizing for a variety of different issues. Prior to launching my campaign, I was a community organizer with Reclaim Philadelphia. As part of my activism there, I organized around state-level prison reform due to my firm belief in restorative justice and understanding of how the prison-industrial-complex has severely detrimented Philadelphians. I've also worked with multiple grassroots organizations to provide food and menstrual products to low-income, working to promote food and menstrual equity in the city. I've also worked to help the unhoused in the city by organizing an unhoused encampment and doing social media outreach for fundraising, supplies, and awareness. Additionally, I have been involved in the frontline of the pandemic for public health and have worked with Philadelphia's Medical Reserve Corps to get out vaccines, COVID testing, and provide information and relief to our communities.

4. **Please provide copies of all your significant campaign materials, including position papers, advertisement copy, and flyers.**

We are still working on different versions.

5. What, if any, endorsements have you received? What others are you seeking?

Marianne Williamson, Gloria, Steinem, Blue America PAC, Right to be Free, Catch Fire, Penn Justice Dems, and End the New Apartheid

6. What is your plan to win this race, including your fundraising goals and strategies.

I plan to win this race through excessive community engagement. My campaign has extremely strong canvassing and phone banking programs which have allowed us to do immense levels of outreach and get my name out there. We are also utilizing a distributive organizing approach. We have self-starting volunteers from all over the district and the United States who actively support our campaign in many ways, from canvassing, phone banking, graphic design, oppositional research, and more. We are also utilizing a digital organizing tool called Reach (born out of the Ocasio-Cortez campaign) for the purposes of data collection and reaching more voters in Philly. I also plan on attending meetings with several grassroots organizations and are building a very strong earned media and communications strategy. Overall, I believe our strong field program will help us achieve this win, with support from our communications and fundraising teams. In terms of fundraising goals, we hope to raise \$750K - \$1 M by the primary. Even if this goal is not raised, I am confident that we will win this election due to our strong progressive platform and people-centered and people-powered campaign. Our TikTok platform has provided many more volunteers than originally anticipated.

7. What, if any, genders, do you identify with?
8. What is your sexual orientation?
9. What is your racial, ethnic identity?

ISSUES

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, please so state.

II. Income and Wealth Inequality, and Benefit Programs.

- 1) What is your position on the rate of the estate tax, and to whom it should apply?

I am supportive of Senator Sanders's thoughts regarding the estate tax. Multi-millionaires would have to pay a federal estate tax, with the people within the highest income bracket paying up to 55%. Estates worth more than \$1 billion would also be subject to an extra 10% surtax.

- 2) How, if at all, should the personal income tax be modified?

I believe that all loopholes that prevent wealthy people from paying income taxes, such as loopholes allowing for corporations to essentially shift income between foreign countries to avoid taxes, should be abolished. The wealthy need to pay their fair share.

3) Would you impose a tax on stock and bond transactions? If so, at what rate?

I would impose a stock transaction tax at 0.5% and a bond transaction tax at 0.1%, similar to Bernie Sanders.

4) Would you support a wealth tax?

Yes. I would support a 2% wealth tax on Americans with a net worth of more than \$50 million, as it would greatly combat wealth inequality in this country by providing funding to social services such as Medicare or Social Security. I will also fight to destroy tax loopholes for corporations like Amazon that allow them to pay little or zero federal taxes.

5) To what level and by what date would you raise the minimum wage to ensure it provides a sustainable living wage?

I support H.R. 603 or the Raise the Wage Act, which would gradually raise the minimum wage to \$15 over a period of 5 years and end sub-minimum wage certificates for tipped and disabled workers. When accounting for inflation, increases in productivity, and rising costs of living (made expensive by student debt, privatized healthcare, rising rent and housing costs, etc), the minimum wage should ideally be \$24, a rate that I would love to implement within 20-25 years. I will fight for a minimum wage that is reflective of the current cost of living and supported by data. The United States is the world's wealthiest country, and it is frankly embarrassing that our workers are still not being paid a livable wage.

6) Would you support a single-payer health care system or seek to improve Obamacare, and if the latter, how?

I would support a single-payer healthcare system. Approximately 50% of all Philadelphians already use a public option for healthcare, so it only makes sense for us to establish a universal healthcare system in this city. Morally, I also find it reprehensible that the United States is the only developed country in the world that does not have a Medicare-for-all system of healthcare. We cannot call ourselves a free nation if we're allowing tens of

millions of Americans to go bankrupt from medical debt, a problem that only a Medicare-for-All system would solve.

7) Would you support universal childcare, and/or universal pre-K to reduce poverty?

I would absolutely support both universal childcare and universal pre-K. Universal childcare is an inherently pro-working woman policy, as it allows for working-class women to enter the workforce, thus combatting the gender and racial wage gap. Both of these policies would also be beneficial to the United States economy, as both of them would lead to more people having jobs and being properly educated (meaning they'll have the prowess to start their own businesses and create more jobs that way). I believe that universal childcare and pre-K would do wonders for improving equity in this country, so I would support initiatives to enact both of these policies in the United States.

8) Would you support making the choice of union membership less onerous by, among other things, requiring certification of unions based upon a card-check alone, easing union organizers' access to the workplace, and barring mandatory attendance by workers at employer anti-union meetings?

I believe that unions are the backbone of the middle class. Organized labor is why we have weekends, a minimum wage, the idea of sick leave, and so many more labor policies that increase the quality of life for the working class. Union membership should be made as easy as possible to ensure that workers are represented and able to protect themselves against unfair labor conditions.

9) What you break up or nationalize the big banks?

I believe that big banks should be broken up. I fully support the reinstatement of the Glass-Steagall Act, which separated commercial and investment banks and protected taxpayers' money from being used for bank bailouts. Under our current economic structure, the failure of big banks could lead to incredibly severe economic losses and distress among not just American citizens, but the entire global community. In the words of Senator Bernie Sanders, "If an institution is too big to fail, it is too big to exist."

10) How, if at all, would you modify the Federal Reserve system?

I would support efforts to increase transparency within the Federal Reserve, so that their interactions with bankers and large corporations can be known

to the public. Generally speaking, I would also support efforts to democratize the Fed and legislatively reorient funds towards Main Street instead of Wall Street.

III. Campaign Finance and Voting Rights.

- 1) Would you support a publicly financed system of campaign financing?

As someone running in a district represented by a congressman who is a melting pot of corruption, I would support a publicly financed system of campaign financing. Public funding of electoral campaigns would limit the influence of corporate money in campaign finance and public policy and would increase transparency in candidate funds, thus greatly combating corruptions and making sure our officials work for their voters and not their donors.

- 2) Would you support complete transparency regarding the funding of campaigns, including disclosure of all spending by wealthy donors?

I would absolutely support complete transparency in regards to campaign funds. Voters are entitled to know who their representatives are funded by. A necessary part of democracy is knowledge and the capability to make informed decisions. Constituents are not able to make those decisions without initiatives to increase campaign funding transparency.

- 3) Would you impose a cap on spending by Super-PACs, advocacy groups and lobbyists?

Yes. Once again, we have to ensure that our elected officials work for their voters and not their donors. In order to do that, we also need to restrict lobbyists and Super-PAC donations.

- 4) Would you support a Constitutional Amendment establishing that corporations are not people and do not have the rights of citizens, such as free speech or religion?

Yes. As long as corporations are legally treated as people and legislatively humanized, we will never have a corruption-free society.

- 5) What reforms would you support to make it easier to vote in Federal elections? (e.g., early voting, same day registration, a federal Holiday on Election Day, federal standards for voting rights, counting of votes, and redistricting by states, a Constitutional Amendment establishing the right to vote, restoration of the Voting Rights Act to its original scope)?

I support a large variety of policies to expand the constitutional right to vote. For one, I support the Voter Empowerment Act, a piece of legislation seen within the For the People Act. This revolutionary act would directly combat felony disenfranchisement, voter intimidation, voter caging, and ID disenfranchisement. It would also require adequate early voting periods and the provision of same-day and online registration. As a strong supporter of disability rights, I would also support the elimination of incompetence laws and an increase in wheelchair-accessible polling places and voting machines, which would allow thousands of neurodivergent and physically-disabled people to vote. I also believe that we need to combat residential address laws, as they prohibit unhoused people from voting and also disproportionately hurt Indigenous communities.

IV. Climate Change. Would you support:

1) A tax on carbon?

Yes. Corporations should have to pay a fiscal price for the environmental destruction they have caused.

2) A full or partial ban on offshore drilling?

I would support a full ban on offshore drilling. This practice has greatly detriment our water supply through the perpetuation of rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and of course, oil spills. We must fight to preserve the Earth's beautiful and life-sustaining waters and ban offshore drilling.

3) A ban, or other limitation, on fracking?

I would also support a ban on fracking. This practice has led to mass amounts of air pollution and has greatly contributed to global warming, a phenomena we must combat in order to ensure the survival of our planet.

4) A ban on mountaintop removal?

Mountaintop removal is another practice I would support a ban on. Like fracking, mountaintop removal contributes heavily to air pollution levels. It also significantly harms the wildlife in the area and has promoted the building of for-profit prisons in Appalachia due to the destructive creation of flat land.

5) Raising petroleum fuel economy standards to 65 miles per hour by 2025?

Yes. Improving fuel efficiency would cut global carbon emissions and combat climate change and air pollution.

- 6) Legislation requiring 100% clean energy by a date certain (please specify the date) and the funding needed to make it a reality?

Yes. I support Representative Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Markey's Green New Deal, which contains a resolution to create 100% clean energy in America within 10 years. Climate change is one of the most drastic issues of our time, and it thus requires drastic solutions.

- 7) Banning new nuclear plants and enacting plans for the ultimate shutdown of existing ones?

Yes. While I do concede that nuclear energy is better than fossil fuels, coal, and oil, there are still many setbacks to it that must be considered. Nuclear energy is incredibly water-intensive, and has been shown to destroy local water supplies and wildlife. In the United States, uranium mining has also been associated with increased rates of illnesses within Indigenous communities, as mining sites are oftentimes near reservations. I support the use and expansion of renewable energy sources, such as wind and hydropower.

- 8) Infrastructure support (recharging stations, etc) and tax incentives for electric automobiles?

Yes. Environmentalism cannot work if its efforts are not made widely accessible. Thus, I support expanding and incentivizing the use of electric automobiles.

V. Immigration. Do you believe we should:

- 1) Provide a path toward citizenship for the 11 million residents who are here without papers?

Yes. Immigrants have done nothing but enrich our country, both economically and culturally. Simplifying the immigration process and paving the way for millions of more immigrants is not only humanitarian, but it is also the most beneficial to those already living in America.

- 2) Allow non-citizens to buy health insurance under Obamacare?

Absolutely. Non-citizens are still human, and are thus entitled to access their human rights. I believe healthcare is a human right, and therefore

support measures to ensure that non-citizens are still able to access it and live long, fruitful lives.

- 3) Provide humanitarian parole to return unjustly deported immigrants and unify broken families?

Yes. Family separation and mass deportation at the border is one the most tragic and blatantly disgusting policy failures of our generation. We cannot criminalize humans who are looking to flee from unsafe situations in their countries of origin or provide better living conditions and educational opportunities to their children. We must do all we can to reunite families and fight against deportation (something I view as an inherently unjust practice).

- 4) End the dumping of Central American immigrants in dangerous locations in their home countries?

Yes. Considering that a large source of unstable conditions in Central American countries originates from U.S imperialism, it is completely unethical to force immigrants back into dangerous situations that we are responsible for creating.

- 5) Allow Syrian refugees and others subject to political violence to settle in this country?

Yes. America has a long history of revolution and political defiance. It would go against our values and history to not allow those subject to political subjugation and harm (especially violence at our hands) to not reside here.

VI. Racial Justice. Do you believe the federal government should:

- 1) Demilitarize local police forces?

I support disarming all law enforcement, including police officers and security guards, and starting immediately with all military-grade weaponry and equipment as well as enforcing Abuse of Force laws. We must end the federal 1033 Program that provides military weaponry to local police departments and pass HR 1714, the Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act. All Byrne Grants should be used for non-carceral alternatives to incarceration, instead of police department militarization. End all grants from the Department of Homeland Security, Joint Terrorism Task Force, FBI and federal Justice Department. End all Pentagon giveaway defense appropriations. End all militarized international police training exchange programs and establish national,

state and local legal restrictions to prevent police departments from purchasing or using military weaponry.

2) Provide incentives, or mandates, to:

a. increase diversity in local police forces?

No. I am skeptical of efforts to add diversity to the police due to a lack of empirical consensus that diversifying police forces lowers police violence. I am on the side of the countless Black and Brown activists who are advocating for stronger police reforms, such as lowering police funds and reallocating the money to social services (a policy that we know decreases crime based on copious amounts of studies), and do not support diversifying efforts

b. require police to use body cameras?

Yes. Body cameras offer a great method of promoting police accountability and public knowledge of police operations. Thus, I support the requirement of police officers to wear body cameras.

c. promote community policing?

Similar to calls to diversify the police, I am also skeptical of community policing initiatives. Community policing paves the way for Black and Brown communities to become flooded with officers and overpoliced, and draws resources away from those communities into order to fund a carceral system that thrives off of punishment and control. Therefore, I do not believe in community policing as a viable reform.

d. replace police as the first or sole responders to incidents not involving the threat by purported offenders of violent force?

Yes. We need to take money away from funding police officers and invest into social workers and methods of rehabilitation and restorative justice. These approaches are significantly more humane and prevent police violence by keeping them out of the community.

3) Abolish minimum sentencing?

Yes. I support the abolishment of mandatory minimums. These incredibly stringent sentencing policies have exacerbated class and racial disparities within the criminal justice system and must be done away with.

4) Decriminalize possession of marijuana or other controlled substances?

Yes. In a world plagued by economic uncertainty, a global pandemic, state violence, and so many atrocities, we cannot criminalize the process of coping.

5) Ban private prisons?

Yes. Private prisons create incentives to imprison more people (predominantly Black and Brown), exacerbating racial and economic inequality. They also give corporations and the wealthy to profit off of the labor of these predominantly Black and Brown people, almost akin to a system of chattel slavery. Private prisoners put the lives of racial minorities into the hands of the white and rich and must be abolished.

6) Ban the box that requires job applicants to declare prior arrests?

Yes. The biggest problems facing prisoners after they're released is the loss of their rights. This includes the right to employment, which is effectively denied by forcing former prisoners to out themselves as "criminals" to their employers in a society where criminal behavior is seen as a moral choice rather than a symptom of a broken system.

7) Require that the environmental analysis for a permit for a polluting facility must consider both the disparate and cumulative environmental burden borne by a community?

Yes. The cumulative impacts of polluting facilities, such as prisons, must be examined in order to truly understand how these harmful facilities detriment their communities from a variety of different perspectives, from environmental to sociological. This then paves the way for a future that is not only better for the environment, but for the people.

8) Provide reparations for the impact of slavery and Jim Crow on African-Americans?

Providing reparations is the least we can do to atone for the grave atrocities this country has committed against Black people. In order to do this, I will not only advocate for direct financial compensation for African-Americans, but I will also push for down payment support for victims of redlining and pro-Black policies such as Medicare-for-All, free college, and accessible housing.

VII. Women's Rights. Do you believe the federal government should:

1) Enact legislation to end wage discrimination based on gender?

I support legislation that prohibits gender-based employment and wage discrimination such as the Equal Pay Act and Equal Rights Act. I also support legislation that will raise the minimum wage, such as the Raise the Wage Act, which will be a major step in achieving pay equity and narrowing the gender pay gap. I strongly support the workers' right to unionize without fear, which will disproportionately benefit women and lead to pay equity. No one should be subject to lower wages and worsened economic conditions due to an immutable characteristic, whether it be gender, race, sexual orientation, etc.

2) Guarantee affordable childcare for every working parent?

Yes. I support universal childcare, a policy that is inherently pro-woman as it eases the burden of childcare on mothers and allows them more time to leisure as well as maintain a stable job and provide them with the proper financial resources they need to support themselves and their families.

3) Require employers to provide paid family leave, paid vacation and paid sick days to every American worker?

Yes. I cannot think of a policy that is as blatantly anti-family, anti-women, and generally anti-working class than the lack of federal paid family leave, vacation, and sick days. In order to create a future that is beneficial to everyone, especially women, we must work to promote economic justice and workers' rights, and that includes the ability to safely take off from work.

4) End the ban on federal funding for abortion services?

Yes. As someone who has gotten an abortion before, I understand first-hand the need for reproductive justice. We must maintain federal funding for abortion services in order to protect the lives of those assigned female at birth and promote gender and economic equity.

VIII. War and Peace. Do you think the federal government should:

1) Use economic incentives to pressure Israel to end the occupation?

Yes. The Israeli government has been systematically killing the Palestinian people through militarism, water restriction, mass displacement, and more. We must do whatever we can to counter this apartheid state and ensure the human rights of Palestinians. I will support initiatives to end U.S. military aid to Israel, which would greatly weaken their military forces.

2) Support a policy of reducing American military presence around the world?

Yes. I consider myself anti-imperialism and anti-colonialist. As such, I will support efforts to lower military presence globally through the elimination of a majority (at least 60%) of foreign military bases.

3) Repeal or modify the Patriot Act?

I support the repeal of the Patriot Act. This act has led to mass government overreach in terms of surveillance and legitimizes the profiling and oppression of Brown people in this country under the guise of "national security."

4) Bar the US from torturing prisoners under any and all circumstances?

Yes. Torture is not justifiable in any situation. Instead of provoking fear and using punitive measures to coercively extract information out of oftentimes harmless individuals, we should focus on promoting diplomacy and good-faith communications between the U.S. and other countries.

5) Cut the defense budget to increase spending on social service priorities at home?

Yes. The military has far too much funding and far too much power as a result. I support the elimination of the Overseas Contingency Operations fund, the Foreign Military Financing program, use-it-or-lose-it contract spending, and the ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) program. I also strongly believe we should greatly reduce the number of domestic and foreign bases we hold, as well as the use and creation of ultimately ineffective, obsolete, and unreasonable weapons (such as the F-35 combat aircraft). Furthermore, I support cutting private service contracting by at least 15%. Of course, as mentioned in the question, this money would then be used to fund social services such as welfare and social security.

6) Close Guantanamo?

Yes. Guantanamo Bay has been the site of severe torture and prisoner treatment ever since its creation. I believe it should be closed and reopened as a marine conservation and research facility.

7) Pursue a different policy with North Korea?

The U.S. approach to North Korea should be based on good-faith communication and diplomacy rather than simply deterrence and economic pressure. We should enhance and improve our engagement with the DPRK, which can ethically happen in a multitude of ways. This could include increasing the amount of diplomatic channels we have with North Korea, establishing a military-to-military hotline, introducing legislation that would allow for the expedition of non-governmental organizations providing humanitarian aid to the country (such as Markey and Levin's Enhancing North Korea Humanitarian Assistance Act), and more. I also believe in reaffirming the Singapore Joint Statement and formally declaring an end to the Korean War through a peace treaty.

- 8) Ban first use of nuclear weapons and renew arms negotiations to lower nuclear stockpiles?

Yes. As long as the military still exists, I will support efforts to make sure the United States does not go towards an offensive role in defense strategy. Adopting a no-first-use policy and lowering our supply of nuclear weapons would solidify this goal paint nuclear weapons as a strategy for nuclear deterrence and nothing else.

IX. Corporate Tax Policy. Do you think we should:

- 1) Prevent corporations that are American for all practical purposes from avoiding U.S. taxes by claiming to be a foreign company through the establishment of a post office box in a tax haven country?

Yes. The wealthy should not be able to simply avoid taxes while impoverished people are forced to pay thousands of dollars worth of them. To allow these practices to exist and continue is to be inherently anti-working class, as the ability for corporations to not pay taxes directly leads to a lack of funding for important social services such as Medicare.

- 2) Repeal loopholes and tax subsidies throughout the federal tax code that benefit oil, natural gas, and coal special interests?

The oil, gas, and coal industry are some of the most blatantly harmful industries in the world. In order to prevent further environmental degradation at their hands, we must tax them and ultimately dismantle them and move on to clean, renewable energy sources.

- 3) Ban corporate inversions that masquerade US corporations as foreign corporations to evade corporate taxes?

Yes. Once again, it is unfair for the wealthy to avoid taxes considering the economic plights of working-class people in this country. It is time for the power of corporations to be redistributed to the general public.

- 4) End the carried interest loophole?

Yes. This loophole allows for income to be disguised as capital gains, lowering the tax rate. It is yet another way for the rich to pay less in taxes and exacerbate wealth inequality. I will oppose this and all loopholes allowing for the rich to pay less in taxes.

- 5) Reverse or modify the Trump tax bill's corporate tax cuts, and if so, how?

I would reverse the Trump tax cuts, as they provided more economic benefits to wealthy corporations rather than the working class. I would reverse them through the establishment of a wealth tax, as mentioned earlier.

X. Education

- 1) What is your view of the appropriate role of testing in student and school evaluations?

I believe in the abolition of standardized testing. I greatly admire the Finnish educational system, which emphasizes cooperation, equity, and student health over grades and test scores. Similar to Finland, I think we should eliminate standardized testing in favor of an individualized grading system coupled with equitable and wellness policies such as free school meals and starting school at later hours so that students can get more sleep. We should focus on making sure children are happy and genuinely learning rather than developing anxiety over their test scores and promoting superficial and ineffective teaching styles.

- 2) How, if at all, should the federal government promote equity in school district funding?

The way to promote equity in school funding is by prioritizing low-income, minority communities and ensuring that their students receive proper educational resources. We must also ensure that the public education system is properly funded, which is why I support initiatives to increase Title

I funding from \$14 billion to \$60 billion and IDEA funding from \$13 billion to \$33 billion.

3) Do you support eradicating all student debt?

I do support student debt cancellation. This policy is not only a humanitarian way of combating wealth inequality in this country, but it would completely revitalize our economy as it would give millions of people to live their lives with economic freedom without the burden of crippling debt.

4) What role should charter schools play in school districts and how do you believe the federal government should either promote them, restrict, or otherwise regulate them?

I believe that the government should restrict the creation of charter schools and should focus on uplifting and improving the public school system. Many Charter schools are for-profit and benefit the elites rather than the working-class, as the education system is supposed to do. As someone running in a district that has been plagued by these for-profit charter schools and seen the neglect of public school students, I stand against these institutions.

5) Do you support making public college tuition free? If not, do you have other proposals to reduce the cost of a college education?

I am a staunch supporter of higher education for all. The biggest obstacle to economic growth is systemic obstacles to higher education. If we want to promote economic, racial, gender, and other kinds of equity, we must fight for the unequivocal right to education.

XI. Miscellaneous

1) How, if at all, do you think U.S. trade policy needs to change?

I do not have enough information on U.S. trade policy to answer this question.

2) What measures would you support to reduce youth unemployment, particularly among minorities?

I support Reps. García and Kaptur's Connecting Youth to Jobs Act, which would create living-wage job opportunities for our nation's youth, especially those from marginalized groups. This legislation would also offer \$10 billion in grants to ensure disadvantaged youth can have access

to social services such as healthcare, housing, and education. This is especially important for a city like Philadelphia, which is facing an unemployment crisis of young people aged 16-23 years old who are not in the workforce or attending school. Children are our future, so it is important for the city and our country to provide the tools to help them both succeed and thrive. Through a youth jobs program, we can end the school-to-prison pipeline and build a school-to-opportunity pipeline.

3) How would you reform or repair Social Security?

I would vote to increase funding for Social Security and expand to those 60 and over instead of 65 and over. I would also expand the Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income.

4) How would you prioritize the elements of the President's Build Back Better Plan, and would you vote to pass those elements without the rest?

As I said before, climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. Therefore, in terms of prioritization, I would prioritize the elements of the Build Back Better Act that promote clean energy and environmental justice. This would happen through the creation of jobs in green technology, incentivize and make accessible the use of clean energy for middle-class families, and the creation of a Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator whose projects will largely benefit those in disadvantaged communities. However, I would not vote to pass these elements without the rest of the policies within the Build Back Better Act. I refuse to compromise on my progressiveness and not allow for the passing of healthcare expansion, investments in childcare, funding for public education, immigration reform, and general economic justice.

5) How, if at all, would you change the filibuster?

I would abolish it. The filibuster has served as a significant barrier against progressive change, especially voting rights, and I will not stand to let this policy stand and negatively impact the lives of millions of Americans.

6) How, if at all, would you change the process for certifying the election of Presidents?

I would support initiatives to remove unnecessary steps in the certification process. More specifically, I think that once local officials finish counting votes, the results should go straight to state officials instead of local boards of election. This is completely possible with current election technology, and

would prevent local resistance against the rightful certification of democratically-elected officials, as seen in Wayne County, Michigan after the 2020 general election. The right to vote means nothing if you do not also have the right to ensure your vote is counted.

- 7) Do you believe the Supreme Court should be enlarged, or other measures taken to reverse the ability of the Court to permanently be in the way of progressive legislative policies?

I support Supreme Court expansion. The idea of “court packing” has already been shown to be successful, such as when Franklin Roosevelt threatened to expand the court, leading the current Justices to concede that many New Deal measures were constitutional. The concept of court-packing has scared Republicans into submission and led to progressive policy implementation in the past. If the very thought of Supreme Court expansion could do this, then expansion itself should theoretically do wonders.