

PA STATE LEGISLATIVE 2022 QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR PHILLY NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS

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Committee Name: Friends of Isabella Fitzgerald

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CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Isabella Fitzgerald

Office Sought: State Representative – 200th Legislative District

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: Isabella Fitzgerald Date: 2.17.2022

Fax:

Website: izzyworksforyou.com

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

Gloria Gilman: gmgilman@gmail.com

and

Stan Shapiro: shapsj@comcast.net

2022 PA State Legislative Questionnaire

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

1. What if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held? Committee person, Ward Leader & State Representative
2. If you have previously held a government office:
 - a. What are the primary issue areas in which you were involved? Women's health, family & youth, public safety and economic development
 - b. What committees, caucuses or working groups have you served on?
State Government, Children & Youth, Aging & Older Adults, Human Services, Local Government & Urban Affairs, Policy, LGBTQ caucus, PA Legislative Black Caucus, Phila County Delegation, PA Safe Caucus, Women's Health Caucus and Veterans Committee
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
4. Please provide copies of all your significant campaign materials, including position papers, advertisement copy, and flyers.
See attached
5. What, if any, endorsements have you received? What others are you seeking?
Endorsed for the 2022 primary by Bob Brady (Democratic Party Chair), Congressman Dwight Evans (3rd Congressional District), Senator Art Haywood (4th Senatorial District), State Rep Steve Kinsey (201st Legislative District), State Rep Darisha Miller – Parker (198th Legislative District), Councilmember Cherelle Parker (9th District/City Council Majority Leader & 50th Ward Leader), Isaiah Thomas (City Councilmember at large), Pete Lyde (61st Ward Leader), Ryan Boyer (Laborers' District Council of Phila and Vicinity), Sam Staten, Jr. (Business Manager Laborers' Local 332), Mungu Sanchez (Eastern Atlantic Regional Carpenters)
Seeking NOW, PFT, Planned Parenthood and SEIU
6. What is your plan to win this race, including your fundraising goals and strategies.
Fundraising goal is to raise as much money as we need for street operations and get out the vote efforts. Our strategy is to utilize and maximize our talent and

optimize our long history of community engagement, unparalleled constituent service and a proven track record of reinvesting tax dollars into the community.

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

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 say so.

I. OVERALL

What would be your three highest priorities as a legislator? Explain.

- Women's Health
- Public Safety
- Youth/Education

II. Education

- 1) Do you believe public college, or community college, should be tuition free?
Yes
- 2) What role do you believe standardized tests should play in evaluating teachers, schools and students, if any?
I don't think standardized tests are effective – they are not a barometer of what a student knows, nor do they accurately reflect a teacher's ability to educate. This also means that schools cannot be evaluated using standardized tests.
- 3) What factors do you believe should be considered in determining *overall levels* of school funding in the Commonwealth, and funding *per school district*?

Funding s/b equitable and impoverished urban and rural public schools should be given what they need to be on a level playing field.

- 4) Approximately 33% of Philadelphia students are enrolled in charter schools. What is your position on the expansion of charter schools? Should they be given public money via vouchers or similar programs (like ESAs)? What role do you think public schools play in our city?

Charter schools are public schools in the City of Philadelphia. Charter schools should continue under the state funding that is allocated to them from the legislation that created charter schools. They should only be allowed to expand if they have a proven history of success.

Public schools are the building blocks to education.

III. Budget and Taxes

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

We should work to eliminate tax loopholes that allow the wealthy to pay less than their fair share instead of doing this as a Constitutional Amendment. A Constitution Amendment is unlikely to pass in the current environment and legislation is more expedient.

- 2) What changes if any would you support in the corporate net income tax levels?

See this: <https://krc-pbpc.org/issues/corporate-income-taxes/>

I support increasing corporate net income tax as long as it results in economic development ---higher employment, higher tax revenues and more opportunities for Philadelphia residents.

- 3) What changes, if any, would you support in the personal income tax?

None

- 4) Do you support the [Fair Share Tax Plan](#) proposed by the PA Budget and Policy Center, with its emphasis on raising the tax rate on unearned income?

The Fair Share Tax Plan needs more impact studies before I could support or reject it.

- 5) Do you support full elimination of the Delaware loophole?

I would support legislation to get rid of the Delaware loophole, but for years the state lawmakers have gone around and around with this. The only way to change this would be on a federal level.

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

I don't support fracking.

- 7) Do you support the Keystone Opportunity Zone program? Would you introduce legislation to eliminate it, or to limit the number of times a parcel's KOZ designation can be renewed or extended? More generally, do you support tax breaks to lure or retain businesses?

I support economic development and the Keystone Opportunity Zone program falls into that category. If the KOZ designation continues to bring resources to underserved distressed areas—I would not limit them. I support tax breaks to lure or retain businesses.

IV. Public Banking

Would you support the creation of a Pennsylvania Public Bank, modeled after the Bank of North Dakota, and/or the creation of local public banks in PA cities and counties?

I would support the creation of a public bank in PA.

V. Women's Rights

- 1) Do you believe there should be any restrictions on a woman's right to choose? If so, what?

No

- 2) What additional protections should be enacted into law to protect women's health care in light of the pending decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to override or sharply curtail Roe v. Wade?

A Democratic U.S. House and Senate could pass new laws if Roe v. Wade is found unconstitutional.

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

Absolutely YES

VI. Children and Families

- 1) Should the state require businesses to provide paid family leave?

Yes

2) **Should the state provide universal availability of affordable childcare? If yes, how would you achieve this?**

Yes – based on the earnings of the parents, the state should supplement childcare expenses.

VII. Environment

1) Do you support a ban on fracking in whole or part? Explain.

I don't support fracking.

2) Would you support banning the use of single-use plastic bags?

Yes

3) Do you think Philadelphia should be compelled or induced to sell PGW?

No. We need to protect consumers from price increases.

4) What measures would you support to move PA off its reliance on fossil fuels and expand use of renewable energy sources?

I would support the establishment of a commission or panel to study the effects of the Commonwealth's reliance on fossil fuels and how the Commonwealth can move away from its dependence to renewable energy sources that are cleaner and safer.

5) What criteria would you use in making appointments to the P.U.C.?

I would suggest the creation of a bi-partisan caucus in the house and senate that would review relevant criteria of qualified nominees with practical experience in public utility management and/or governance. The recommendations would be made to the governor.

6) What steps would you take to ensure environmental justice in the placement and remediation of structures that pollute?

I am an advocate that corporations be responsible for chemicals that are a by-product of their business. In fact, I've introduced legislation that would require remediation of buildings proposed for day care centers where toxins were used.

7) **What, if any, other measures would you support to preserve or improve our environment? (water issues, park preservation, detoxification of school buildings, etc.)**

I would increase educational awareness of the public about the importance of preserving/improving the environment by educating them on recycling and reusable/bio-degradable products. I would also encourage the development of better systems for the distribution of clean water.

VIII. 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?

As a legislator, I have promoted early intervention in educational resources and opportunities for minority youth. Education and funding for education are the key to keep minority youth from being incarcerated.

3) Should marijuana be fully legalized?

Yes

4) Should privately-owned prisons be permitted in Pennsylvania?

No

5) Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania?

Yes

6) Should PA continue to build new prisons?

No

7) Should PA begin to close prisons? Explain.

In areas where the prison population is declining – those prisons should be closed. In other areas the answer is no.

8) Do you support an end to the death penalty?

Yes

9) When if ever, should a juvenile be tried as an adult?

Never

10) As a general matter, what do you think the state can do to reduce the murder rate in Philadelphia, while maintaining respect for civil liberties and the overall need for decarceration of our city?

Philadelphia should have the right to pass gun legislation. Funding is also needed for job training as well as community and economic development.

IX. Campaign Finance Reform

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

No

X. Labor

1) Would you support legislation to strengthen protection for workers trying to form or join a union?

Yes

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

Yes – workers have to make a living wage. \$15.00 should just be the starting point. It should be tied 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

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 think privatization weakens productivity and takes jobs away.

5) Philadelphia remains the most impoverished major city and about 75% of our residents lack bachelor's degrees. What policies would you implement to ensure that decent, high-paying jobs created here are accessible to the majority of our population, not just the relatively well-educated and already well off?

Community College of Phila, trade schools and union apprenticeships remain the best options for many seeking higher paying jobs.

XI. Reforming Legislative Districts

- 1) Do you support legislation that would (1) form an independent commission, and (2) apply sound methodologies, to draw all congressional, State House, and Senate districts fairly in Pennsylvania?

Yes

XII. Public Health

- 1) Would you support state legislation to create a single-payer system in PA?

Yes

- 2) How would you reduce or eliminate the racial disparities in the provision of health care, in particular the distribution of lifesaving COVID vaccines and medications?

Medical resources and health resources should be more available to everyone especially lower income residents. Ways to resolve this would be to increase the availability of medical facilities, expand health coverage and increase the number of minority health providers in underserved area. Student loan forgiveness for those who work in underserved areas would also help.

XIV. Housing

- 1) How would you deal with the growing affordable housing gap in PA, both in the homeownership and rental markets?

Encourage builders to renovate abandoned buildings/houses that could be used for affordable housing. Also build duplex/tri-plex housing on vacant lots.

- 2) Would you support a mandate requiring landlords to show good cause for evictions?

Landlords should be required to show good cause for evictions.



Isabella Fitzgerald

State Representative 203rd Legislative District

Isabella Fitzgerald's Motto

"Let's Keep Moving Forward"

And Izzy, as she is known affectionately, embodies that spirit to the hilt.

The 40 plus year resident of West Oak Lane and proud member of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church has a passion for advocacy and for her community. She's earned many titles along the way, including:

- Mother, grandmother and concerned neighbor;
- Ward Secretary, Ward Treasurer and Ward Leader
- Founding member and Chairperson of the Northwest Community Coalition for Youth;
- Board and Planning Committee member of Women of Faith and Hope, a breast cancer self-help support organization;
- Public Safety Area Coordinator for the 14th Police District;
- Special Assistant to U. S. Representative Robert A. Brady
- Legislative Assistant for former state Representative, and now Congressman Dwight Evans

In November 2016, she earned a new title-state Representative for the 203rd Legislative District in Northwest Philadelphia.

Determination is what Representative Fitzgerald brings to the office.

When faced with dead-end jobs, she learned career skills.

When she was told that she couldn't get a promotion, she went to night school while raising two children and received her degree.

When drug dealers threatened to take over her neighborhood, she helped organize neighbors to galvanize action against them.

Representative Fitzgerald, not unlike those she represents, has experienced challenges and concerns. At times she and her family have had difficulty making ends meet. Through it all, she has sought the best educational opportunities for her children and grandchildren and strived to secure the best for the community.

Representative Fitzgerald has supported the West Oak Lane community for generations. She is relied on and supported by other leaders in the community, not because she deserves their support, but because she has earned their support.

She is experienced, she is a motivator, she is energetic, she is a fighter and she is a leader.

Representative Fitzgerald's current committee assignments include:

- Children and Youth
- Aging and Older Adults
- State Government
- Local Government
- Urban Affairs
- PennSERVE

Representative Fitzgerald is a fierce advocates for youth safety and women's health issues. Economic Development and education are also issues that she is passionate about.

Simply put, representing the 203rd Legislative District is not a job for her. It is her passion and she will continue to keep the agenda moving forward.

IZZY WORKS FOR YOU

Committee Assignments

State Government
Human Services
Aging & Older Adults

Children & Youth
Women's Health Caucus
Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus

Enacted into Law

- Legislation supporting insurance coverage for additional screening for women with dense breasts whose mammograms have been unable to adequately detect issues

Adopted into agency policy

- Dignity for incarcerated women would require correctional institutions to provide personal feminine products to all female inmates at no cost, regardless of their financial means (this was adopted as a policy by the Dept. of Corrections)

Common Sense Gun Control

- Establishes a 72-hour waiting period for purchases of semi-automatic assault rifles
- Require individuals to specify they have a concealed carry permit on their driver's license and photo identification
- Enforces safe storage of firearms when they are not in use.

Family

- Proposes all-day kindergarten for ages 3–5-year-olds
- Mandates environmental contamination assessment and remediation of sites that propose to house childcare centers in Pennsylvania where those sites have previously used chemicals in the process of doing business

RE-ELECT

**ISABELLA
FITZGERALD**

DEMOCRAT FOR
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

✓ EXPERIENCED

✓ COMPASSIONATE

✓ RESOURCEFUL

✓ RESILENT

✓ DEDICATED

✓ HARD WORKING

IZZY WORKS FOR YOU...

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Paid for by Friends of Isabella Fitzgerald, Fannie Blakey, Treasurer

IZZY WORKS FOR...

FAMILY

- AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE
- FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN
- SENIOR SERVICES & PROGRAMS
- WOMEN'S PROTECTIVE RIGHTS
- CHILDREN'S PROTECTIONS
- SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT

COMMUNITY

- COMMON SENSE GUN REFORM
- ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM
- INFRASTRUCTURE
- PUBLIC SAFETY

OPPORTUNITIES

- MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- COMMERICAL REVITALIZATION
- EMPLOYMENT & JOB TRAINING

...YOU!!!

WE ARE ONE TOGETHER

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