



2025 City Controller Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Christy Brady	Campaign Manager's Name: N/A
Campaign Website: www.bradyforcontroller.com	E-mail: christybradyPHL@gmail.com
Phone number: 445-257-7424	Date: March 20, 2025

1. Please describe your professional and educational history and how it prepares you for the position of Controller.

I have over 30 years' experience auditing city government. I began my career as an auditor trainee in the Controller's Office working my way up through the civil service ranks and was a member of the municipal union AFSCME District Council 47 until I promoted out. In 2017, I became the Deputy Controller of Audit where I led a professional staff of auditors who perform financial, performance, and compliance audits for a variety of municipal departments and agencies, as well as render opinions on the Annual Comprehensive Finance Reports and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards of the City and the School District of Philadelphia. I became Acting City Controller in October 2022 and was elected City Controller in November 2023. As City Controller, I manage the day-to-day operations of the City Controller Office, serves on the Board of Pensions,

Gas Commission and Sinking Fund Commission. I graduated from Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science, now known as Jefferson University and holds a degree in accounting.

2. How much money have you raised, and how much do you anticipate raising? What is your plan to win?

I have raised over \$200,000 to date, and I anticipate raising additional funds as I continue to campaign and engage with voters across the city. My plan to win is centered on comprehensive outreach throughout all neighborhoods, ensuring that every resident is informed about my vision for a more transparent and accountable government. I will continue to connect with voters, listen to their concerns, and demonstrate how my leadership will make a positive impact on their daily lives.

3. What endorsements have you obtained and what others do you expect?

I have received the following endorsements: Philadelphia Democratic Party, the 5th Ward and 8th Ward Democratic Committees, Philadelphia Building Trades, and many Pennsylvania State Representatives and Senators. I continue to receive endorsements from labor unions, elected officials, and wards throughout the city on a daily basis.

4. What would you do to increase public access to the City's budget and financial information?

The city's budget is released by the Mayor and City Council and is available online through their offices on multiple platforms. Additionally, the current Mayor holds community town halls across the city to explain the budget, which I regularly attend.

As for the Controller's Office, once I issue an audit report, I will take that report and my staff on a listening tour across the city to explain our findings and recommendations, ensuring that residents understand the impact of our work and encouraging continued engagement from those directly affected by each report.

To further enhance public access, we will issue a press release upon completing each audit and make all reports easily accessible on our

website. Additionally, I launched a monthly newsletter called Municipal Money Matters to bring transparency and accountability to the city's financial affairs and highlight the work our office is doing. We also publish all our reports publicly, share them on social media, and make them available on our website: www.controller.phila.gov.

5. What would you do to insulate yourself from political interference in the performance of the Controller's job?

The role of the City Controller is to promote an honest, effective, and fully accountable city government. Throughout my career, in every position I have held, I have remained committed to following the facts wherever they lead—regardless of political pressure or external influences. I will continue to uphold this principle, ensuring that audits and financial reviews are conducted with integrity, independence, and transparency.

To further insulate the Controller's Office from political interference, I will prioritize data-driven decision-making, adhere strictly to professional auditing standards, and maintain open communication with the public. By keeping our work transparent and engaging with residents directly, we strengthen public trust and reinforce the Controller's role as a truly independent watchdog for the city.

7. How would you rate your previously identified top priorities and your effectiveness in achieving those goals? How have your priorities changed?

Since taking office, my top priorities have centered on improving transparency, increasing accountability, and ensuring the efficient use of taxpayer dollars and I'm proud to say I hit the ground running. Some key accomplishments include:

- Launching a monthly newsletter, Municipal Money Matters, to bring more transparency to the financial workings of the city.
- Collaborating with various city offices, including the City Commissioner's Office, Treasurer's Office, Finance Office, and the Office of Innovation and Technology, to streamline the process to

reduce the time for election day poll workers to get paid from two months to under two weeks.

- Investigating delays in demolishing dangerous properties and holding the city accountable for missteps in gun violence prevention funding.
- Analyzing the distribution of Opioid Settlement Funds, reviewing staffing declines in public safety, and identifying millions of dollars the city is losing due to property tax fraud.
- Conducting a review of the bidding process for contracts awarded under special exemptions and identifying issues in awarding contracts properly and fairly under the Charter, finding over \$15 million in contracts that bypassed public bidding process.

In addition to these accomplishments, I've also focused on fulfilling the Charter-mandated responsibilities of the Controller's Office, including performing the annual review of each city department, rendering opinions on the City's and School District's financial statements, and overseeing key city boards and commissions like the Board of Pensions and Retirement, the Philadelphia Gas Commission, the Sinking Fund Commission, and the Bond Committee.

My priorities have naturally evolved as new challenges and opportunities have emerged. While my core focus on transparency and accountability remains unchanged, I've shifted focus to areas where we can have the most immediate impact, such as improving the efficiency of city operations and tackling fraud and mismanagement. As I continue to review city processes and uncover opportunities for improvement, I will adjust my priorities to ensure we are maximizing the value of taxpayer dollars

8. What are your priority goals for the next four years?

My priority goals for the next four years will focus on enhancing transparency, accountability, and efficiency in city operations. I plan to conduct a performance audit on the city's Rebuild Program, examine OPA, and review the city's contracting process.

9. Would you agree to audit the Treasurer's Department to determine whether there are funds available within various City accounts to capitalize, or provide deposits for, a Philadelphia Public Bank?

The role of the City Controller is to audit all city departments, including the Treasurer's Office, to ensure accountability and transparency in the management of public funds. My office has conducted audits of the Treasurer's Office in the past and will continue to do so as part of our oversight responsibilities.

Any determination regarding the capitalization or deposit of city funds into a Philadelphia Public Bank falls under the authority of the Mayor and City Council.

10. Would you be willing to audit the City Revenue Department's performance in collecting little enforced taxes such as the School District Unearned Income Tax, and the Gross Receipts Tax on non-Philadelphia companies?

As part of our audit of the city's financial statements, we evaluate controls over revenue collection and reporting to ensure that all revenue transactions are properly recorded and accurately reported. This includes assessing whether the City Revenue Department is effectively enforcing and collecting all legally required taxes, including the School District Unearned Income Tax and the Gross Receipts Tax on non-Philadelphia companies. If weaknesses in enforcement are identified, my office will provide recommendations to improve compliance and maximize revenue collection for the benefit of city services and public education.

11. What steps would you take to evaluate City decisions to contract out City services to private for-profit or non-profit agencies and organizations?

Under my leadership, the Controller's Office will rely on its highly skilled audit staff to conduct the charter-mandated audits, as well as performance audits when necessary. Unlike the prior administration, which frequently contracted out audits, I have found this practice to be inefficient and unnecessarily costly.

As part of our audit work, the Controller's Office can review professional services contracts listed in ACIS and compare them to civil service positions to assess how city services are being managed. Additionally, meeting with department leaders to understand staffing levels and

resource allocation can provide insight into whether contracting out services is the most efficient and cost-effective approach.

12. What areas of operation have you identified as the strongest places the City could increase revenues?

Our most recent investigation into the city's Homestead Exemption program revealed that individuals and businesses were improperly receiving the exemption, costing both the city and the School District an estimated \$11.4 million per year.

Other areas I'm reviewing for increasing revenue include the enforcement of penalties related to improper construction practices, particularly where unlicensed or mis-documented workers are involved. Strengthening oversight in this area could ensure that L&I is properly enforcing compliance with city regulations and issuing fines and penalties when necessary. Additionally, ensuring that contractors are using properly documented workers could increase wage tax revenue from individuals currently working under the table.

13. Would your office do a performance audit as well as a financial audit of the Sheriff's Office?

We have performed several audits and investigations of the Sheriff's Office in the past, addressing both financial management and operational issues. This article by the Committee of 70 provides a detailed history of these efforts, dating back over three decades <https://seventy.org/sheriffsoffice>

14. The City Controller sits as a member of the City's Board of Pensions. What steps, if any, would you recommend to improve Fund performance?

The Philadelphia Board of Pensions operates under the Revenue Recognition Policy (RRP), a collaborative effort between city leaders, unions, and the Board, which has significantly improved the fund's long-term outlook. As a result, the pension fund is now projected to reach 80% funding by 2029 and full funding by 2033.

In my role on the Board, I will continue to advocate for responsible financial management and oversight to help ensure that the fund stays on track. Monitoring investment performance, managing risks, and maintaining transparency will be key priorities to protect the retirement security of city employees while safeguarding taxpayer dollars.

15. Do you believe the Pension Fund should engage in socially responsible investing? Or invest in a Philadelphia Public Bank?

During my time serving on the Board, I have observed the Board's commitment to socially responsible investing. The Board is composed of nine members, and while investment decisions are made collectively, I will continue to advocate for policies and investments that support sustainability and contribute to a greener, more inclusive city.

My focus will remain on ensuring that the Pension Fund's investments align with responsible financial strategies that serve the best interests of retirees and taxpayers alike.

16. How, if at all, do you believe the Gas Works can help reduce carbon emissions in the City? Do you have any other ideas for how PGW should be re-imagined? Please explain.

As City Controller, my role places me in the boardroom where I oversee PGW's pension fund. While my primary responsibility is financial oversight, I can advocate for the consideration of investments that support clean energy and align with sustainability goals.

17. How would you target your auditing lens regarding the School District, including but not limited to its practices relating to charter schools?

Several years ago, we conducted an audit of charter schools, focusing on their funding and operations. I plan to revisit this issue to assess the progress made in implementing our recommendations and identify any outstanding areas that need further attention.

In addition, we previously conducted an audit of the conditions within school buildings, which revealed significant challenges. I will direct my audit team to return to the schools to evaluate how federal funding has been allocated and used to address these issues and improve facilities.

This comprehensive approach will ensure that resources are being used effectively and in the best interest of students, staff, and the community.