

## AFSCME DISTRICT COUNCIL 47

### 2019 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

(Register of Wills)

#### CANDIDATE INFORMATION

##### Candidate Personal Contact Information (Fields marked with asterisks are required)

Name: John Sabatina  
Registration Address: 1743 Emerson St 19152  
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Home Phone: n/a  
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##### Campaign Contact Information

Full Name of Campaign Committee: Friends of John Sabatina  
HQ Address: 1743 Emerson St 19152  
Campaign Manager Name: 1776 Strategies: Joe Driscoll, Principal. Mike Midzak, Operations Coordinator.  
Campaign Manager E-Mail: [joe@1776strategies.com](mailto:joe@1776strategies.com) [mike@1776strategies.com](mailto:mike@1776strategies.com)  
Phone: 215-488-7794

##### Candidacy Information

What office are you seeking? Register of Wills

Are you the incumbent? \* Yes **No** If yes, year first elected:

With which party are you registered? Democrat

Please list union leaders you seek input from when developing your agenda:

Gary Masino, Lou Agre, Wayne Miller, John McNesby

Who are your opponents?

Tracey Gordon, Liz Lowe, others to be determined

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If there is not sufficient space to respond to the following questions, please attach additional sheets to the questionnaire.

1. Why do you want to be Register of Wills and what do you view as the most important function of the Register of Wills Office?

I am running to be Register of Wills because I have decades of estate law experience and believe that I can make a meaningful impact in the office. The role of the Register of Wills Office is to facilitate an efficient and effective probate process: this includes organizing and preserving records and providing guidance to those who are capable of handling filings themselves. The Register of Wills **must** know how to deal with problematic estates, and I'm the only candidate with experience handling estates in general. If elected, I will strive hard to improve the effectiveness and accessibility of the office while also making sure it runs with integrity and transparency.

2. What changes have you made/would you make in the Register of Wills Office and what would you leave the same?

As a candidate for Register of Wills, my aim is to make changes that will improve the office's effectiveness in serving constituents. This will involve enhancing customer service, modernizing technologies to streamline operations, and investing in new software and hardware. Instituting a digitization and preservation process so that records can be immediately searched and located is a top priority. However, I also recognize the importance of maintaining certain aspects of the Register of Wills Office that should remain unchanged, such as its commitment to upholding the probate process and providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all members of the community. My plan is to build on the strengths of this office while introducing necessary changes that ensure it can more efficiently serve and better meet the needs of the public.

**(Register of Wills)**

3. The Register of Wills Office has a large posting of patronage jobs. How would you view changes in staffing?

My priority for any changes in staffing at the Register of Wills Office is to ensure that it functions efficiently and effectively in serving the public. Each person should be evaluated based on their ability to meet the needs of the office and provide quality customer service. When making changes, I am committed to preserving institutional knowledge and experience while also guaranteeing that staff are qualified and competent enough to carry out their responsibilities. Above all, I am dedicated to making sure that the Register of Wills Office is staffed with people who take their roles seriously and are passionate about providing exemplary service.

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4. What role do you believe the Register of Wills should play toward interacting with the public? What programs have you implemented/would you implement?

I believe that the Register of Wills should be an accessible and supportive resource to serve the public. To fulfill this role, I would implement a range of measures to ensure that everyone can easily access services offered by the office. This would include establishing an online portal, maintaining community outreach programs, and establishing a strong community presence to provide timely updates on laws and procedures related to the probate process. Additionally, I would ensure that staff members are knowledgeable and compassionate in order to provide excellent customer service for those seeking assistance from the office during times of difficulty and distress.

5. What changes have you made/will you make to validate and dispute charges on wills?

Charges are statutory throughout the Commonwealth. I would explain where and how these charges come about and give copies of required payments that explain every charge. I would strengthen relationships with legal aid organizations where we can refer people who cannot afford to pay.