

AFSCME DISTRICT COUNCIL 47
2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
(City Council District and City Council-At-Large)

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

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

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Candidacy Information

What office are you seeking? *

If you are running for a district seat, in which district are you running? *

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

With which party are you registered? Democratic

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

Throughout my campaign, I have been seeking input informally from a variety of union leaders in the public sector and healthcare unions, as well as the building trades. I will continue to build my team of union leaders who can help to inform my legislative agenda.

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Who are your opponents?

Nina Ahmad Jalon Alexander Christopher Gladstone Booth Sherrie Cohen Abu Edwards Ogbonna 'Paul' Hagins Terrill 'Ya Fav Trashman' Haigler Amanda McIlmurray Will Mega Daniel Orsino Katherine Gilmore Richardson Michelle Prettyman Eryn Santamoor Curtis Segers Isaiah Thomas Donavan West

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

CAMPAIGN

1. Briefly describe your campaign's path to victory. What issues will you be emphasizing throughout your campaign and why?

I started my career as an activist and housing organizer. I was on the frontlines in the fight for economic justice, demanding access to affordable housing in Kensington and organizing to provide social services during the early years of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Later, I went to law school to begin a career of legal advocacy. I spent a decade at Community Legal Services, where I fought for thousands of low-income families to remain in safe, affordable, quality housing when they were facing eviction. Then I transitioned to lead the city's civil rights and housing enforcement agencies, where I oversaw initiatives to strengthen our anti-discrimination laws and to peacefully resolve community conflicts. During my 12-year tenure, I helped transform the agencies, along with a fantastic staff that included 28 DC 47 and 3 DC 33 members, into national models for government and community engagement, social justice, and equitable opportunity. I've proven in my career that I know how to deliver the kind of lasting, community-led change that makes our city stronger and more equitable. I'm now ready to take the next step to fight for justice as an elected member of city council. I'll do everything in my power to use the office to make the city work for all of us.

Philadelphia is facing significant challenges right now. I'm running for City Council at-large because I know that with the right leadership, we can overcome these challenges. We need someone with vision, a proven track record, and strong relationships, to get things done. I believe every person in our city deserves the best we have to offer. It's out there for us if we do the work, and I've spent my entire career doing the work. It's why we need to elect new leaders like me who will be able to get to work - with and for - all of our communities on day one. I have a clear path to victory, and I am running a strong campaign that is garnering serious support and resources to communicate directly with voters across the City. I would be honored to have the support of AFSCME District Council 47.

My campaign centers on creating a better Philadelphia. I have spent my entire career fighting for justice and equity for Philadelphia's most vulnerable residents. I believe I am uniquely qualified to help solve our most pressing issues like the lingering effects of the pandemic, deepening poverty, a worsening housing crisis, a broken education system, and unrelenting gun violence. We need someone with vision, a proven track record, and strong relationships, to get things done. I'm running for City Council at-large because I know we can overcome these challenges. On the campaign trail, I will emphasize and champion the following issues: 1) Prioritize community solutions to gun violence by utilizing proven methods from other jurisdictions that focus on targeted positive interventions; scaling up community policing and de-escalation training;

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encouraging positive police-community relations; 2) Increase investments in neighborhoods, including public school facilities, rec centers, libraries, and community spaces; with a particular focus on historically dis- or underinvested neighborhoods; and 3) Improve affordable housing opportunities and sustainably refurbish existing stock.

I am running a strong campaign and will have the backing and resources to communicate directly in a targeted fashion with voters across the City. I am a coalition-builder, and I am seeking to garner support from a diverse and cross-section of groups, stakeholders and elected officials. Our campaign's outreach strategy will focus on direct voter contact in several forms – including face-to-face canvassing and Election Day street operations, paid digital and mail. Everything we do will be targeted and intentional. My campaign team has modeled targeted divisions and wards where we believe we can pull the most votes, and our outreach efforts will, in part, follow those models. That said, I intend to represent all Philadelphians and will work hard to do outreach to the entire City. Finally, I want to use our campaign to build a diverse coalition of stakeholders that we will utilize for policy issues when I get into office.

PHILADELPHIA ECONOMY

2. Do you support raising the Living Wage requirement of employers that do business with the city from its current rate? What would your approach be to promoting a Living Wage requirement for employers not covered by the Living Wage Ordinance?

Yes. Our current minimum wage in PA — \$7.25 – is unconscionable and is not a living wage for anyone, especially for those living in Philadelphia who grapple with a higher cost of living, rising housing costs and more. I support raising the Living Wage requirement of employers doing business with the City, and I support the 2018 ordinance which increased the minimum wage for city employees, contractors and subcontractors and tied it to the CPI from July 1, 2023 onward. As a Councilmember, I would strongly advocate for an increase in the statewide minimum wage and would advocate for local employers to pay a living wage using all means within my power.

3. The City requires companies with 10 or more employees to provide paid sick leave. Many states and cities have similar laws with no exemptions. Would you support updating the legislation to put it in line with what other states and cities have passed?

Yes, this should be extended to all workers. I would engage in dialogue with small businesses and constituents when crafting this legislation to ensure we are considering the impacts this could have on very small businesses – especially those owned by people of color.

PENSION/RETIREMENT SYSTEM

4. What is your position on the current cap on annual contribution in the defined benefit plan by employees in the stacked hybrid plan of the Municipal Employee Pension system? Should the cap be indexed to include automatic increases tied to salary increases?

This is an issue that should be subject to collective bargaining. This issue exemplifies the power of unions that protect their members in the short and long term.

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EDUCATION/SCHOOL BOARD

5. What qualities and experience would you look for in appointees to the School Board? What standards should School Board appointees use to evaluate current or proposed privatization measures (e.g., charter schools)?

Ultimately, the School Board must be a true oversight board that holds the district leadership accountable. Our educators and faculty deserve support and benefits that reflect the essential work they do as stewards of our children's futures. As the parent of a public school student, I am especially interested in the appointment of thoughtful, talented and diverse members of our City to the School Board. This would include a variety of appointees from all neighborhoods of the city, with representation for all races, sex, gender identity and socioeconomic status. I believe parents of public school students should have representation on the board. Finally, I believe that our School Board should be made of Philadelphians who believe in our public school system over charter schools.

I am against privatizing our schools. We must provide our educators and faculty with the funding and resources they need to succeed, and there have been too many instances in which our City has failed to provide these resources and instead gave in to privatization without a thorough and transparent vetting. Privatizing our schools also puts the union at significant risk. The goal of school board appointees should not be to privatize the school district; they should support the staff and schools. Any proposed privatization measures must be rooted in transparency with significant time for community input.

6. How would you work to support acquiring fair State funding for the Philadelphia School District? What experience and relationships do you have working with entities in Harrisburg that would help accomplish that?

Every child in Philadelphia – regardless of their background, race, or zip code – should have access to a great education in a safe public school facility. There's no question that the current state of Philadelphia Public Schools is largely due to the deliberate underfunding and disinvestment by the state legislature. I have been following and supporting the Fair Funding lawsuit, and hope we ultimately receive a ruling that will lead to more equitable funding. But there is also a crisis of faith in the District leadership stretching across the last decade, and families have felt discounted and left in the dark for too long. It's vital that school communities feel seen, and are treated like partners in shaping the future of the District. Throughout my career, I have developed strong relationships with members of both chambers of the Legislature and will leverage those relationships to push for increased funding for Philadelphia's public schools.

CITY SERVICES

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7. What are your priorities for funding City and Court services? How would you ensure that these services are provided equitably throughout the city?

Currently the City of Philadelphia is in a staffing crisis, we have far too many vacancies in our city and courts. Our ability to provide adequate and timely services and our staff is stretched far too thin. The delivery of City services relies on people, our greatest asset, and we must increase staffing to succeed. I would prioritize investments in City services that positively affect neighborhoods, including public school facilities, rec centers, libraries, and community spaces with a particular focus on historically dis-or underinvested neighborhoods. I believe basic quality of life services such as trash pick up and street cleaning should receive funding to support guaranteed weekly service in every neighborhood.

Regarding Court services, I would focus on increasing funding to the Probation Office which is understaffed and overworked, resulting in an alarmingly high rate of probation recidivism, some of the worst in the state. Increasing funding to the courts is a matter of equity - thousands of families each year are involved in both civil and criminal courts, from family court to landlord-tenant to criminal court. Greater funding and services leads to increased efficiency, resulting in family reunification, stable housing, and quicker connection to diversion and addiction programs, to name a few. All of these outcomes lead to maintaining strong families and strong neighborhoods.

I believe the City should properly monitor distribution of these services to ensure equity throughout Philadelphia. I would work closely with the Controller's Office to create an equity index that does exactly this.

8. What level of services should the city support to fully fund and fully staff our Library and Parks and Recreation systems? Please explain your position and how you believe those systems can be funded.

Our libraries, parks, and rec centers should be open and accessible to Philadelphians 7 days a week. Our facilities should be staffed to provide much-needed programming and access to our young people. We need to provide updated facilities and programming for the communities they serve, including focusing on activities for teenagers. We can partner with businesses and the trade unions who can provide, and underwrite, programming for teens that will engage them and potentially connect them to skilled employment opportunities. I believe funding could be found through PILOTs for some of our City's largest non-taxpaying entities as well as through further reforms to the abatement.

9. How would you address staffing shortages throughout departments, including those that are a result of unfilled positions? What initiatives would you put in place to help hire and retain current City / Court workers?

The City needs a permanent HR Director to oversee the hiring, training, and management of the City workforce. We must modernize our recruitment and retention efforts including streamlining

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our hiring and promotion practices, which are currently cumbersome and inflexible. Philadelphia is a world class city and we already have extremely talented workers, we must build on this and create an environment in City government that attracts this talent. I support removing barriers to employment and promotion, such as eliminating the requirement of a 4-year college degree.

10. What is your position on the privatization of City services?

I am against the privatization of City services. Repeatedly, municipalities and other government entities have privatized critical services or outsourced them to consulting firms at significant cost to residents in terms of reduced quality and taxpayer loss.

ENVIRONMENT

11. What steps do you want the city to take to address climate change and to shift away from fossil fuels toward renewable energy sources? Do you support the City amending its investment portfolio to divest from fossil fuel companies?

We know the climate crisis is already here — and so Philadelphia must respond with urgency. The city saw it when Hurricane Ida flooded 676 in September of 2021, and when 100+ Philadelphia schools were forced to close due to extreme temperatures in June of 2022. To me, our response starts with a municipal Green New Deal — that covers everything from reenvisioning the future of PGW, to investing in our legacy transit network to make it a reliable and affordable option for every family, to tapping into strong union labor to retrofit our schools and ensure the climate crisis doesn't cost our kids hours in school, to ensuring every community has access to green space. Few issues are as transparently intersectional as environmental justice: supporting public safety, education, accessibility, and so much more.

The burdens of this crisis don't fall on every community evenly, and that's why I'm committed to advancing environmental justice through Council. We're a city where environmental racism is baked into our city from decades of discriminatory policies, especially historic redlining, forcing harmful industrial projects to heavily concentrate within communities of color and low-income neighborhoods. I'd proudly support the Community Health Act introduced in February 2022, taking on environmental racism by mapping environmental justice communities in this city, looking at pollution in context, and empowering the city to better protect the communities who have borne the brunt of environmental racism for decades.

We must divest from fossil fuel companies as soon as we can without harming communities that are getting back on their feet after the pandemic's economic impacts. I support the City's current commitment to decarbonize by 2050, but as a member of Council I'd push for a more truncated timeline to achieve neutrality by 2035. I support our municipal government working with organized labor to find opportunities to create union jobs while revamping our City's energy grid. Unions and organized labor should be the engine for our transition to a carbon neutral future. These union jobs must include a diverse workforce, and I support efforts to continue to diversify all unions in Philadelphia, including the Building Trades. I also support using my office to interface with the largest actors in the city contributing to climate change – such as PGW which currently accounts for almost 1/3 of the City's carbon emissions – and create policy solutions that will give them an attainable off-ramp to neutrality.

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We also need to make SEPTA the 21st Century public transit service it can be. That means working with state leaders on funding solutions and interfacing with constituents to make SEPTA more rider-friendly. Reducing or eliminating SEPTA fares in Philadelphia could be part of this solution. I would also ensure my office is in frequent contact with the City's newly created Chief Resilience Officer to communicate challenges and opportunities that elected officials hear via feedback from constituents

TAXES

12. What measures would you support to make sure that wealthy non-profits pay their fair share to support City and Court services?

As a Councilmember, I will be an active supporter of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTS) campaign, which demands that wealthy non-profits in the city pay their property taxes.

13. Would you support any changes to the city's property tax abatement program? If not, please explain why. If so, please explain how?

We need to holistically look at our tax structure, but I would propose further reforms to the 10-year tax abatement. Ultimately, I think the tax abatement should be ended. In the meantime, I would support additional reductions to the length and amount of the abatement.

14. How would you reform city taxes to increase revenue? What is your position on the Net Income and Gross Receipts Tax and on the Wealth Tax legislation? If you have other ideas to increase revenue, please explain them.

Again, I would suggest further reforms to the abatement. I support a wealth tax; unfortunately, our state constitution, through the uniformity clause, prevents us from taxing only the wealthy. As we look for creative ways around this constitutional limitation, we need to ensure that we do not inadvertently tax low-income, mostly Black and brown people, who are trying to build wealth. Overall, the City needs to holistically look at our tax structure to make sure our tax burden is handled equitably, so people who can afford the least, carry the least burden.

PHILADELPHIA HOUSING

15. Do you support increasing revenue for the Housing Trust Fund to help residents avoid displacement in communities currently facing development pressure?

Yes, we must increase revenue for the Housing Trust Fund for new affordable and low-income housing, the preservation and repairs of existing homes and homelessness prevention.

16. As a city elected official, what steps will you take to ensure local government plays a proactive role in expanding permanent affordable and workforce housing in Philadelphia?

Philadelphia is facing a housing crisis and has been for decades. I have spent my professional career working to keep low-income people in safe, affordable, and quality housing. Affordable

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rental housing and homeownership are out of reach for most Philadelphians. The deepest roots of our housing crisis - unaffordability, displacement, concentrations of poverty, and segregation - are decades-old policies of redlining and other government-sponsored discrimination that extracted wealth and opportunities from Philadelphia's communities of color, starting with the African-American community. In order to reverse the effects of these racist policies, Council must work to intentionally reinvest in neighborhoods that have faced disinvestment, or neglect. All neighborhoods in our city must be safe and have equal access to good public schools, transportation, fresh food and city services, but the city must ensure that when neighborhoods change – or gentrify - and property values rise, long-term and low-income residents, many of whom are Black and brown, can remain in their neighborhood and reap the benefits of that positive change. Our goal in Philadelphia must be to build stronger, stable neighborhoods and include allowing all Philadelphians to enjoy the benefits of adding resources to a community.

Philadelphia also must create more affordable rental housing. I would focus city funding on “low-income” housing for our lowest income residents and work with various entities to create more “moderate-income” housing (as defined by HUD guidelines). I also would advocate for HUD to redefine Philadelphia county, to include only the city, and not include the suburban counties to accurately calculate our Area Median Income (AMI), and make more housing accessible to more low-income people. I am in favor of permanent rental assistance to expand on the already approved funds from Council allocated over the next two years. Finally, I support policies that would enable more proactive code enforcement to take on illegal landlords and substandard rentals.

Philadelphia also is a city of many low-income homeowners, and often the most affordable housing option is the home they are in. Council needs to expand programs that allow people to remain in their homes from targeted property tax relief, increased access to subsidized home repair programs, to support for the foreclosure diversion and tangled titles programs. We also need to expand our first time homebuyer assistance grants to make the homeowner dream accessible to more Philadelphians.

17. Do you support extending good cause eviction protections to all residential leases? Do you support rent control measures to protect Philadelphia tenants?

Yes. and I do support a variety of measures that will lead to rent stabilization, especially as a component of a program that includes owner-incentives, such as homestead-like property tax exemptions. We must ensure that rent limits do not create incentives for owners to sell their properties, thereby limiting the availability of rental units, or increasing overall rents. We also must maintain our pool of small landlords in Philadelphia as a protection against larger corporate entities.

There are many ways to help stabilize rents, such as implementing homestead-like policies, including expanding the LOOP real estate tax program to include owners who agree to stabilize their rents. I also would ensure the city does extensive research and outreach to neighbors in areas that will face gentrification, to ensure long-term homeowners know the real value of their homes, know their rights, and are protected against predatory purchasers. Finally, I would help to organize the community so that when the neighborhood starts to change, we help to strengthen

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the community, avoid or ease inter-group conflicts, and ensure long-term residents have a voice.

PHILADELPHIA RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

18. Do you support revising the Memo of Understanding between the Philadelphia Police Department and Philadelphia School District to close the school to prison pipeline? If yes, explain how you would accomplish this. If no, please explain why?

Yes, we must do everything in our power to close the school to prison pipeline. I would support revising the Memo of Understanding. We must divert as many cases as possible away from the criminal justice system and into social services programs for help (Of note, the consequences of an arrest to immigrant and refugee students who are not US citizens - and may not even know their immigration status - is significant). We should remove school police officers and replace them with personnel who are trained in a variety of areas including mental health and trauma counseling, social work and racial justice. I believe this shift could begin with a pilot program in some high schools and expand after we saw successful outcomes. We must teach and utilize conflict resolution and deescalation techniques in classrooms and throughout schools every day. Once we build that framework, we can address most situations with mediation, peer counseling and restorative justice practices. We can create safe climates in schools by being intentional, consistent, and providing positive behavioral support.

19. Do you support additional funding for programs that are alternatives to incarceration for drug addiction, mental health treatment, and other issues? If yes, how would you measure the effectiveness of those programs? If no, please explain.

Yes. I would measure the effectiveness of these programs through evidence-based audits, frequent consultations with experts and community stakeholders within Council, and by directly and frequently visiting centers and affected neighborhoods to see the impacts with my own eyes. The criminal justice system in Philly remains – in many aspects – unjust and unfair. We need more investments and emphasis on retraining police officers, increasing non-police diversions, such as utilizing mental health professionals, and community policing, with an emphasis on increasing police-community relations. With Philadelphia’s increase in violent crime, we need holistic solutions. We cannot go back to implementing programs such as unconstitutional stop and frisks. We need to expand our diversion programs and mid-level placements. Our prisons have some of the worst mortality rates among municipalities in the nation. The conditions in prisons are not only dangerous to both prisoners and workers, but also cost taxpayer dollars due to these issues.

20. What community policing initiatives do you support or propose? Please explain.

The city needs to implement true community policing, with an emphasis on increasing police-community relations. Philadelphia also needs shorter probation tails and to increase post-release counseling for jobs, housing, and other supportive services. This would have multiple benefits, including giving former imprisoned people the opportunity to work. Investing and expanding re-entry programs like the Guild, currently managed by Mural Arts, will serve to both reduce recidivism and increase public safety for all. As the executive director of the PCHR, I was proud to work on the multiple versions of Philadelphia’s Fair Chance Hiring law, that bars employers from denying jobs to ex-offenders, except under certain circumstances. The PCHR was

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charged with enforcing this essential law that gives people a second chance.

Expanding police oversight will result in greater accountability. At the PCHR, I worked closely with the former Police Advisory Commission (PAC), and served on the Police Community Oversight Board (PCOB) that recommended changes and held the police department accountable to reforms. This work helped to transform the PAC into the new independent Citizens Police Oversight Commission (CPOC), which has significantly more investigative and enforcement authority, including the ability to initiate complaints against the PPD.

We cannot go back to implementing programs such as unconstitutional stop and frisks. Stop and Frisk has been proven ineffective at reducing criminal behavior or promoting public safety, resulting in finding guns in less than 1% of stops. Philadelphians made their opinion on this clear in the 2020 ballot question, when 83% of voters supported eliminating this unconstitutional practice within our city. The 2021 federal court order eliminating the practice for minor offenses is a great step in the right direction of protecting people's rights and dignity. Investing in jobs, education, and community-led, trauma informed programs will help to reverse our current trend of violent crime.

21. What funding and staffing proposals would you support to enhance probation and parole services for Philadelphians under supervised release?

Probation and parole staff are overworked due to a significant staff shortage. This leads to unfortunate outcomes, including a high probation recidivism rate, and a revolving door at prisons. Probation officers with heavy caseloads don't have the bandwidth to help offenders with behavioral changes and too often instead are forced to give violations on technicalities. All of this leads to more mass incarceration in our city. I would support a paradigm shift to focusing more on City-led community-based programs that lift up treatment and rehabilitation, and work with Harrisburg and my colleagues in City Hall to bolster funding for more Probation and parole staff.

22. What funding and staffing proposals would you support for the Department of Prisons to ensure incarcerated citizens are best prepared for return to the community from incarceration or from alternative detention programs?

I would support more funding and staffing for programs that focus on rehabilitation, treatment, and readiness for life outside of prison. This would include job readiness resume support, job counseling, interview techniques and creating employment opportunities via training. It would also include funding mental health and drug and alcohol treatment services, as well as rehabilitation services to prepare for life after their sentence. Finally, it would include housing support, so people can begin to rebuild their lives.

23. What steps do you believe the City can take to reduce the availability of guns in Philadelphia?

First, I would work with Harrisburg as an elected official in the City to push for further reforms to our statewide gun laws. (Philadelphia is currently preempted by state law to enact our own gun legislation). Philadelphia must have more authority to mandate its own gun laws. Recent attempts at this have been appealed and are pending at the PA Supreme Court – including requiring owners to report lost or stolen guns in 24 hours. I also support community policing efforts and further

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police training to help officers gain community support to identify illegal guns and bad actors in neighborhoods. Finally, we must continue to hold the gun shops accountable to abide by all federal, state and local laws.

24. Do you have any plans regarding programs that support and protect victims of crime and other affected members of the community?

Victims of crime and gun violence should not be ignored by our government systems. In addition to providing constituent services, my office would have an open door policy for victims of crime who feel they have not been served adequately in our justice system. I support continuing to fully and adequately fund the Victim Services office of the DA's office.

PHILADELPHIA CORPORATE POWER

25. Do you support publicly financed campaigns for all City elected offices? If no, please explain.

Yes, because this creates a more fair democratic process and helps lessen the impact of mega donors, the wealthy getting elected and dark money, however I have concerns about funding and decreasing voting - several studies have shown publicly financed elections are generally unpopular.

26. Do you support legislation that enables the City to recover subsidies from corporations or other businesses that fail to provide jobs or other benefits to city residents as a condition of the subsidies? Please explain.

Yes. Large corporations and businesses that do business in the City and receive subsidies from the City should be held accountable if they fail to make good on what conditions are attached to the subsidies. I will work with the City's Law Department and the City Controller to hold them accountable.

RESIDENCY ISSUE

27. What is your position on City and Court employees having the option to live outside the city? Please explain.

I believe that City and Court employees must live within but we must also be flexible with timing - especially with the current staffing crisis across departments. There should be flexibility on the front end of hiring (e.g., looser requirements on time lived in the City prior to and upon taking the job). Also many people moved outside of the city during COVID. We should actively recruit and incentivize to bring people back and rebuild our city. I would be in favor of reverting to the previous policy that people must move to the city within six months of employment.

28. Are there any other issues you'd like to mention about which we have not asked you in this questionnaire?

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I've spent my entire career fighting for social justice and equity for Philadelphia's most vulnerable communities. From 1998-2008, I worked as an attorney at Community Legal Services helping thousands of low-income renters in Philadelphia avoid eviction from their affordable housing. I was a member of UAW, Local 2320, the National Organization of Legal Services Workers (NOLSW). From 2008-2020, I served as the director of both the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations (PCHR) and the Fair Housing Commission (FHC), the city's civil rights and housing enforcement agencies.

During my 12-year tenure, I helped transform the agencies, along with a fantastic staff that included 28 DC 47 and 3 DC 33 members, into national models for government and community engagement, social justice, and equitable opportunity. Working with City Council, I led initiatives to overhaul and expand the city's Fair Practices Ordinance and Fair Housing Ordinance, adding civil rights protections including wage equity, fair chance hiring for people with criminal records, reasonable accommodations for pregnant and breastfeeding women, and good cause eviction safeguards, among others. I also oversaw efforts to strengthen existing laws to create added protections for marginalized populations, including the LGBTQ+ community. I also oversaw community relations initiatives to combat hate and bias and to bring communities together, to prevent conflict and promote understanding.

Based on my experience, I know I can deliver the kind of lasting, community-led change that gives everyone the opportunity to thrive. Philadelphia is an incredible city, and we have so much potential to be the best. But, I look around and see what most of us here in Philadelphia see – our city government isn't working for us. And it's holding us back. I believe for Philly to solve our most pressing issues like the lingering effects of the pandemic, deepening poverty, a worsening housing crisis, a broken education system, and unrelenting gun violence, we need someone with vision, a proven track record, and strong relationships, to get things done. I'm running for City Council at-large because I know we can overcome these challenges. I believe every person in our city deserves the best we have to offer. It's out there for us if we do the work, and I've spent my entire career doing the work.

Finally, if elected, I would be the first openly LGBTQ+ member of City Council. My wife and I are proud parents of a Philadelphia public school student. I believe at this moment it is important that LGBTQ+ Philadelphians have a vocal leader from within the community who has the track record and relationships within the community to give voice to our unique issues on Council.

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