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CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name:

Office Sought: **State Legislator**

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: _____

Date:

Please complete, sign and return this form via email in Word format to info@phillynn.org and mail or fax a copy of the signature page to:

Gloria Gilman
121 S Broad St, Suite 1720
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-568-4990
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BACKGROUND- PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR CURRICULUM VITAE AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

1. What, if any, elected or appointed government office(s) have you held, including the one you're seeking?

I am currently serving as the Representative in the General Assembly for PA-184, and am seeking re-election to the same office.

2. If you have previously held a government office:

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

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

I have been working since my inauguration in January 2019 to fight for clean and healthy neighborhood public schools. I introduced legislation to demand emergency funding to remediate lead, mold, and asbestos in our schools to protect our children and all school workers. As the voice of our movement has grown stronger, Governor Wolf is committed to allocating \$1 billion for these repairs in our state budget.

I'm proud to have secured state grant funding to provide new programming for South Philadelphia Public Libraries. These programs will have a focus on health and well-being.

State Representative Chris Rabb and I have co-sponsored a Fair Share Tax Plan to reform our current unfair tax policies which predominantly benefit extreme wealth and corporate profits.

I serve on the Appropriations, Health, and Environmental Resources and Energy Committees.

3. What community or policy issues have you worked on, and in what capacity, outside of government? (Please provide the names of two or three individuals who can provide information about your previous work.)

Working for 10 years as a reporter for WHYY, I met many Philadelphians and Pennsylvanians who are struggling to be heard by their representatives in Harrisburg. I was outraged by the real life challenges I heard from people who are struggling just to afford high quality healthcare, housing, and food. These stories motivated me to run for office.

4. Please provide copies of all your significant campaign materials, including position papers, and information on your campaign strategy, expected funding sources, and endorsements.

Attached you will find a copy of our 2019 campaign finance report, and a PDF of our canvassing literature. We have been endorsed by the Working Families Party, SEIU, Reclaim Philadelphia, Represent PA, EMILYs List, Conservation Voters of PA, and the Public Arts Commission. We anticipate receiving the endorsement of many more organizations as we approach Election Day.

5. What is your plan to win this race?

Our campaign has a strong progressive message, based in supporting poor and working families as well as unions, that resonates with South Philadelphians. We have a first class

field program. In 2020, we gathered 2,191 ballot petition signatures, more than 7x the required number. In my first campaign in 2018, we knocked over 55,000 doors en route to winning 51% of the vote in a 4-candidate race.

We are running a grassroots campaign. We raised \$130,000 in 2019, while declining contributions from companies that profit from fossil fuels, health insurance, pharmaceuticals, and those who would privatize education.

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.

My top priorities focus on education, workers' rights, and climate & economy. I am committed to making sure that our public schools are fully funded and free of toxins such as lead and asbestos. Reducing the class sizes and fairly compensating our teachers and all school workers is also necessary.

I am a strong supporter of growing and strengthening labor unions. We must increase PA's minimum wage to \$15/hour, and champion Fair Workweek legislation to ensure predictable work schedules and pay for workers.

We must invest in clean energy, electrification, efficiency, and climate adaptation — creating permanent union jobs across the city and state. We must also prioritize expanding our public transit systems as part of addressing climate change.

II. Education

1) Do you believe public college, or community college, should be tuition free?

Yes. Education should be a right, not a privilege.

2) What role do you believe standardized tests should play in evaluating teachers, schools and students, if any?

I don't believe that standardized testing is a fair evaluation of the hard work that teachers and students do. I am working to end high stakes testing that forces educators to teach to a test, rather than encourage critical thinking or life skills building.

3) What factors do you believe should be considered in determining *overall levels of school funding in the Commonwealth, and funding per school district?*

I believe we need to have fair and full education funding based on numbers of students and their needs (ex. rates of poverty, numbers of English Language Learners). Education funding needs to go through the Fair Funding formula.

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?

We must increase public oversight of existing charter schools. I support a moratorium on new charters until every neighborhood public school is fully-funded and made safe and healthy.

III. Budget and Taxes

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

The PA Constitution needs to be amended and the Uniformity Clause repealed, as working people and low-income families are hurting from higher taxation rates while corporations are receiving tax breaks.

2) Would you support raising the tax on unearned income as a way to increase state revenue without increasing burdens on working people?

Yes, I would support raising the tax on unearned income, as I have shown with my co-sponsoring of the Fair Share Tax Plan with Rep. Rabb.

3) What changes if any would you support in corporate net income tax levels?

Again, under the Fair Share Tax Plan, we need to hold corporations accountable for the taxes they owe to the state.

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

I will fight for working-class Pennsylvanians on taxes and many other issues. That means prioritizing working and low-income households.

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

Yes, it hurts Pennsylvanians across the state when we allow corporations to abuse this loophole, severely limiting potential state revenue.

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

Yes.

- 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 the elimination, or limiting of the number of times a parcel's KOZ designation can be renewed or extended. I do not support tax breaks to lure or retain businesses when the benefits do not outweigh the cost to our state's residents and taxpayers.

IV. Public Banking

Would you support the creation of a Pennsylvania Public Bank, modeled after [the Bank of North Dakota](#)?

Yes. We are squandering taxpayer dollars by paying Wall Street banks exorbitant debt service fees. A public bank could free us from depending on Wall Street for loans, while providing low-interest loans to Pennsylvanians, and stimulate the success of local and minority-owned businesses who may otherwise not have access to capital.

V. Women's Rights

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

No. I fully support protecting and expanding women's reproductive rights.

- 2) What additional protections should be enacted into law to protect women's health care?**

We need to lower and control the costs of basic reproductive rights for women. We also need to ensure we are protecting ALL women's health care rights, including trans-women.

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

Yes.

- 4) Do you support legislation to protect individuals against sexual assault?**

Yes.

VI. Children and Families

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

Yes. Pennsylvania should require employers to provide paid family leave. Too often working families can move from stable to in debt by losing even a few weeks of income when

caring for a new child. These provisions should not be based on gender, but on parenthood. Leave should be extended to include caring for an elderly or ailing parent.

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

Yes.

VII. Environment

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

I am committed to continuing to work with environmental justice and community groups like Sunrise Movement to organize for the legislative policies we need.

2) Do you support a ban on fracking in whole or part?

Yes, whole.

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

No.

4) The Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce advocates converting Philadelphia into an “energy hub” for oil and natural gas, or the “Houston of the East Coast.” Do you agree or disagree with this vision?

I disagree with this vision.

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

We must fully fund the DEP and state parks. As I’ve described, remediating toxic schools is a primary focus at the moment.

VIII. Criminal Justice

1) Should stop and frisk be limited or outlawed?

It should not be allowed.

2) How would you deal with the problem of mass incarceration of minorities, particularly minority youth?

I will fight to end the school to prison pipeline, work to end the “school to-prison pipeline” and ensure that suspension, expulsion, and incarceration are used as a last resort. We need to end cash bail to reduce pretrial incarceration and prevent the unjustified expansion of oppressive surveillance. We also must refuse coordination with ICE and shut down the Berks Detention Center. It is essential that we treat drug addiction as a public health issue and recognize that the human beings who are struggling are our friends, neighbors and loved ones.

We must take a number of steps to reduce prison populations. I strongly support treating drug addiction as a public health issue and in diverting non-violent drug offenders into treatment programs. I oppose blanket mandatory minimum policies that over-incarcerate people and that remove discretion from the judge to determine how long of a sentence a crime should result in.

3) Should marijuana be legalized for recreational use?

Yes. While PA would generate additional revenue in state taxes from licensed dispensaries, we must ensure opportunity and equity for local and minority-owned dispensaries, and justice for those who were incarcerated for what will now be legal.

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

No, they should not be permitted. For-profit, privately-owned prisons create a system of incentivized incarceration of disproportionately black and brown communities for the financial benefit of the wealthy.

5) Should we ban the box in Pennsylvania?

Yes. Returning citizens face enough challenges in their re-entry to society.

6) Should PA continue to build new prisons?

No. PA should be working to fund rehabilitative facilities and long-term career training programs.

7) Should PA begin to close prisons? Explain.

Yes. PA should be working to close prisons, provide job pathways for displaced workers, and fund rehabilitative facilities and long-term career training programs.

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

Yes.

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

Juveniles should never be tried as adults. Science tells us that juvenile brains are not fully developed as adults'. Children cannot be tried as fully culpable for their misdeeds. They deserve rehabilitative programs that provide stability and support so they have an opportunity to grow into responsible and law-abiding adults.

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?

Intelligent and proactive policing, targeting the people who commit the majority of violent crimes, can build trust in communities hit hard by crime and truly make residents safer.

Additionally, identifying mental health as a public health priority could save lives and reduce crime.

IX. Campaign Finance Reform

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

Yes. PA's non-existent cap on campaign contributions is a threat to democracy. We must lower the barrier for working class people to run for office.

X. Labor

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

We must dedicate ourselves to strengthening existing unions and winning representation for more workers. Right-to-work legislation poses a real threat to the lives of workers. It must be workers who live and work in the center of this struggle, who are prioritized as decision-makers, with the goal of getting members more engaged and willing to take action. This includes attending meetings, striking, and supporting politicians who truly represent their needs. We must expand worker representation and power in sectors with low union density by supporting efforts in industries that haven't been previously organized, including campaigns like Fight for \$15.

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

It's unconscionable that people are making \$7.25/hr right now, which is not enough to afford a two-bedroom apartment anywhere in the entire state. We need to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour, and to establish one fair wage so that waiters and waitresses, for example, can also be certain they will make a minimum of \$15/hr. I co-sponsor this legislation in the State House.

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. Privatizing public sector industries is something I generally oppose, including public-private partnerships.

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?

Workers deserve a living wage regardless of their level of education, or the job they're tasked with doing. It's unconscionable that people are making \$7.25/hr right now, which is not enough to afford a two-bedroom apartment anywhere in the entire state. We need to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour, and to establish one fair wage so that waiters and waitresses, for example, can also be certain they will make a minimum of \$15/hr. I co-sponsored this legislation in the State House.

We need to invest in training programs and structures so we can train thousands of people to make our buildings use less energy, and to use renewable sources of energy. We need to make sure there are career paths for people to follow from those jobs, whether they were coming from school, from unemployment or from incarceration. This work can and should be done in partnership with the unions that work hard to ensure a high-quality job is done, and is done safely.

I have also introduced Fair Work Week legislation, and worked with unions, colleagues, and community groups to push it forward. This legislation would ensure that workers get two weeks notice of their work schedule, and that if last minute shift changes are made (shifts added or removed), they would receive compensation pay. This way, people could have predictable schedules that would allow them to schedule the rest of their lives (childcare, college, doctor's appointments) and have predictable budgets within their household as well.

I have pushed for funding to remediate conditions in our schools, which will create jobs, and for more basic education funding, which would create more jobs for librarians, counselors, teachers, nurses, custodians, cafeteria workers, and other staff.

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. Voters should choose their representatives. Not the other way around. Gerrymandering has long been a threat to democracy.

XII. Public Health

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

Yes, I believe that everyone living in PA should receive healthcare as a right, from the day they are born through old age and death.