



Connect with your Neighbors.....Change the World

2020 Legislative Questionnaire

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CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

Candidate Name: Marisa Shaaban

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: 02/13/2020

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
(fax) 215-925-3748

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?

Committee person, Ward 5 – Division 11

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?

N/A

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.)

In 2019, I was one of 13 people appointed by the Philadelphia School Board of Education to the Parent and Community Advisory Council to help amplify the voices of parents and community members. In addition, I serve on the Fund Our Facilities Coalition, a group of elected leaders, labor organizations and others dedicated to securing funds to make school buildings safe and healthy for all students in Philadelphia. I also serve on City Year's Women's Leadership Committee, which unites women to support the service of City Year AmeriCorps members in Philadelphia schools while also inspiring women's empowerment.

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

My campaign website <https://www.marisa4pa.com> has my bio and information on issues.

5. What is your plan to win this race.

My plan to win this race is to knock on as many doors as I possibly can in the 182nd district; to meet with and hear from as many constituents from every corner of this district; to attend community events and neighborhood group meetings; and build a grassroots campaign to ignite the change that I and many others that I've spoken to already, want to see happen in this district.

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.

The top three issues that I care most about are funding public education, healthcare access for all, and affordable and efficient public transportation. During my first few months in office I would focus on these three issues, especially securing funding to fix unsafe and unhealthy school buildings as quickly as possible. I would also create a robust constituent services program, including mobile offices, to foster an environment where residents of the 182nd District always feel heard and represented in Harrisburg.

II. Education

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

Yes, I believe that everyone should have the opportunity to attend college without going into debt.

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

Standardized tests should not play any role in evaluating teachers, schools and students. There are many other factors that should be taken into consideration when evaluating student and teacher success including the biased nature of these tests, individual student progress, school progress and graduation rates.

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

Increased investment in our public schools. Simply redistributing the state's basic education fund through the Fair Funding Formula is not enough to fully fund all students, particularly those living in poverty, English language learners and students with other needs.

- 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?

I am a public school advocate. I believe that every child, regardless of zip code, deserves a fair chance to succeed. Public schools should be seen as the center of the community --a welcoming place offering resources beyond the academic day/year for students, their families and the community. I believe that there should be a moratorium on any new charter school funding and that charter schools should be held to the same set standards as public schools. However, we should continue to support established charter schools that are high-performing and are serving communities where there is a clear need. I do not support tax-credits for private school education.

III. Budget and Taxes

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

Yes, I support an amendment to permit progressive taxation.

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

Yes

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

Before addressing tax issues I would need to get a thorough understanding of any proposed changes and their implications for all of my constituents.

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

Before addressing tax issues I would need to get a thorough understanding of any proposed changes and their implications for all of my constituents.

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

Yes.

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

I support a severance tax on 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?

Before addressing the Keystone Opportunity Zone programs, I would need to get a thorough understanding of how this program has impacted my district and the implications for all of my constituents.

IV. Public Banking

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

As it stands, Pennsylvania offers a variety of bank and credit union services; before committing to the creation of a Pennsylvania Public Bank, I would need to research similar models in other states to determine the feasibility in Pennsylvania.

V. Women's Rights

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

No. Never. And I will always fight to protect a woman's right to choose.

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

I would work to eliminate restrictions on access to abortion and the 24-hour waiting period for those seeking an abortion. I committed to working on healthcare inequities when it comes to prenatal and postpartum care, and to lowering the shockingly high rates of maternal mortality in this city.

- 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. With no exceptions.

VI. Children and Families

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

Yes, I believe businesses that meet certain revenue criteria should be required to pay for family leave.

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

Yes. The state should provide affordable child care based on a family's ability to pay and capped at a certain percentage determined by income.

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?

We should work towards a complete transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources through support of a Green New Deal.

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

I support a ban on fracking because I believe that the harmful environmental implications and safety concerns outweigh the benefits. Of course such a ban would have tremendous implications for workers in our state, and the transition would not be quick or simple. We'd need to invest more in clean energy research and development. And I would support solutions such as job retraining, education and other assistance for oil and gas workers.

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. I think we should work to convert Philadelphia into a "clean energy hub" by utilizing renewable energy sources.

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

Prioritize passing legislation to fund the abatement of asbestos, lead and mold from our every one of our city's toxic schools; access to efficient and reliable transportation including free passes for riders under the age of 18 and eliminating the transfer fee; and passing a Green New Deal for PA.

VIII. Criminal Justice

1) Should stop and frisk be limited or outlawed?

Outlawed.

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

Youth all across this city need opportunity to invest their time and energy into things that matter, so I would be committed to establishing after-school

programs and community centers dedicated to keeping our youth off the streets and focused on their safety and future. I would also support legislation that

3) Should marijuana be legalized for recreational use?

Yes, for adults ages 21 and over.

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.

Yes, we should continue to work towards closing prisons and reducing the prison population through criminal justice reform.

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

Yes.

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

Never should a juvenile be tried as an adult.

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?

Gun violence is a public health crisis. I'm horrified by Philadelphia's gun violence epidemic, the recent spike in gun violence, and the irreparable harm it inflicts on our families and communities. I support a multifaceted

approach that tackles the issue from both a public safety and public health perspective. Common-sense gun safety reform will be a top priority for me in Harrisburg. I support universal background checks for every gun sale and transfer, reporting requirements for lost or stolen firearms, and a ban on military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Gun manufacturers and dealers should not be shielded from liability. In absence of statewide legislation, Philadelphia should be allowed to make our own gun laws to protect our innocent children and families. I would also advocate for more support for gun violence survivors.

IX. Campaign Finance Reform

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

Yes. The current situation makes the process unattainable to candidates who do not have access to an abundance of resources.

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?

The minimum wage should be \$15/hour and indexed 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?

I think there should be a state-wide increase of \$15/hour, but I think that if this is not possible, that Philadelphia should be able to raise the minimum wage locally to account for the cost of living in this region.

- 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.

- 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?

I agree that the current system does not work for the majority of our residents. We need to address a myriad of issues such as deep poverty, hunger, economic inequality and the racial and gender wage gap to begin to work toward a better quality of life for all Pennsylvanians. I would start with ensuring that our public schools are fully funded; that a 2-year or 4-year college education is accessible and affordable for everyone who wants to attend. Alternatively, there needs to be greater access and emphasis on trade schools and technical training to ensure that those who do not want to pursue an academic track have the opportunity to a decent, high-paying job. A job with a minimum wage that starts at \$15/hour and includes benefits such as healthcare and paid family leave.

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 and yes.

XII. Public Health

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

Yes, I support a single-payer system in PA because I believe that everyone should have access to healthcare to cover them when they are sick or injured. I think it is also imperative that mental health and substance abuse are covered under this system.

