

Candidate: Ronald Adams **Office sought:** City Council District 4 (D)

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1. Do you believe that the guidelines governing Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) ought to be revised to exclude partisan organizations such as ward committees? Yes

Why/Why not? *I like the power being in the hands of civics who have no connections to politicians.*

2. Do you believe that Land Bank sales should require a City Council vote? No

Why/Why not? *I think the Land Bank should be independent body not influenced my council*

3. Do you support proposals to return the Philadelphia Parking Authority to local control? Yes

Why/Why not? *That revenue needs to be in the hands of the city as does control and enforcement of parking.*

4. Do you believe that Philadelphia ought to derive less of its General Fund revenues from taxing personal and business income? Yes

If so, how would you make up the lost revenue? *Rehab tax abatement, local control over PPA, curb spending.*

5. Do you believe that the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs reform to be more responsive to neighborhood-level concerns? Yes

If yes, what changes would you propose? *How about we either move the hours of meeting the community attends to after work so more people can attend!*

6. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules to provide that no bill may be passed unless its text is posted on the Council website for a stated period of time? Yes

Why/why not? *More transparency. City Council represents the people, the more people involved in the process the better.*

7. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules by granting automatic access to Committee for any bill having a stated number of sponsors as an alternative to the current rule requiring the signature of both the Council President and the Committee chair? Yes

Why/why not? *I believe the more checks and balances, the fairer the process.*

8. Have you ever been an officer or board member in a civic association? No

If so, tell us about your civic service and how it shapes your view of city politics and governance.

Candidate: Ethelind Baylor **Office sought:** City Council At Large (D)

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1. Do you believe that the guidelines governing Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) ought to be revised to exclude partisan organizations such as ward committees? No

Why/Why not? *I would need to understand the problem with the guidelines governing registered RCOs and partisan organizations working together before providing an answer.*

2. Do you believe that Land Bank sales should require a City Council vote? No

Why/Why not? *I think this would end the red tape and lack of transparency you have with the sale of property in the land bank.*

3. Do you support proposals to return the Philadelphia Parking Authority to local control? Yes

Why/Why not?

4. Do you believe that Philadelphia ought to derive less of its General Fund revenues from taxing personal and business income? Yes

If so, how would you make up the lost revenue? *I believe that they should derive less revenue from taxing personal income but still include business income.*

5. Do you believe that the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs reform to be more responsive to neighborhood-level concerns? Yes

If yes, what changes would you propose?

6. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules to provide that no bill may be passed unless its text is posted on the Council website for a stated period of time? Yes

Why/why not? *Yes, I think that there should be more transparency and full disclosure so that people understand what bills are being passed.*

7. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules by granting automatic access to Committee for any bill having a stated number of sponsors as an alternative to the current rule requiring the signature of both the Council President and the Committee chair? Yes

Why/why not? *Transparency.*

8. Have you ever been an officer or board member in a civic association? No

If so, tell us about your civic service and how it shapes your view of city politics and governance.

Candidate: Devon Cade **Office sought:** City Council At Large (D)
Website: <https://www.crowdpac.com/campaigns/387031/devon-cade>
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1. Do you believe that the guidelines governing Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) ought to be revised to exclude partisan organizations such as ward committees? Yes

Why/Why not? *To prevent corruption, it would prevent the currently 10 members are under investigation due to land appropriations and RCOs.*

2. Do you believe that Land Bank sales should require a City Council vote? Yes

Why/Why not? *With*

3. Do you support proposals to return the Philadelphia Parking Authority to local control? Yes

Why/Why not? *I support cutting the Philadelphia Parking Authority power and jurisdiction to just business districts only. The current illegal operations are violation to the 8th amend*

4. Do you believe that Philadelphia ought to derive less of its General Fund revenues from taxing personal and business income? No

If so, how would you make up the lost revenue?

5. Do you believe that the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs reform to be more responsive to neighborhood-level concerns? Yes

If yes, what changes would you propose? *It should reflect neighborhoods*

6. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules to provide that no bill may be passed unless its text is posted on the Council website for a stated period of time? Yes

Why/why not? *To allow the public a chance to review all bills*

7. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules by granting automatic access to Committee for any bill having a stated number of sponsors as an alternative to the current rule requiring the signature of both the Council President and the Committee chair? Yes

Why/why not?

8. Have you ever been an officer or board member in a civic association? No

If so, tell us about your civic service and how it shapes your view of city politics and governance.

Candidate: Justin DiBerardinis **Office sought:** City Council At Large (D)

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1. Do you believe that the guidelines governing Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) ought to be revised to exclude partisan organizations such as ward committees? No

Why/Why not?

2. Do you believe that Land Bank sales should require a City Council vote? No

Why/Why not? *If the landbank requires the same authorization as traditional city land sales, I don't believe it will have the transformational effect on land disposition that I believe we need. A true land bank would have a process independent of City Council.*

3. Do you support proposals to return the Philadelphia Parking Authority to local control? Yes

Why/Why not? *We have been deprived of promised resources from the PPA for too long. It has been a bad deal for Philadelphia, it's schools, and it's citizens. It's time to reassert local control and ensure that the PPA is working in the best interests of the city.*

4. Do you believe that Philadelphia ought to derive less of its General Fund revenues from taxing personal and business income? No

If so, how would you make up the lost revenue? *As property values in the city rise, this transition is already occurring. The growth in city revenues in recent years has been driven by the active real estate market and the growth in values. We are already seeing the strain this is putting on home ownership in the city, and shifting to more reliance on property taxes will exacerbate this problem. I believe we need a major overhaul of our business tax code. I believe it needs to be restructured to support local and small businesses, not suburban and national corporations. We need reform of our business taxes, but I don't support shifting the burden to home owners.*

5. Do you believe that the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs reform to be more responsive to neighborhood-level concerns? Yes

If yes, what changes would you propose? *I believe we would benefit from more localized zoning boards with greater community leadership and a better understanding of the nuances of different communities. I also believe we should have a better zoning code and maps so that less variances are required and issued.*

6. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules to provide that no bill may be passed unless its text is posted on the Council website for a stated period of time? Yes

Why/why not? *Anything that brings more transparency to our legislative process would be a good thing*

7. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules by granting automatic access to Committee for any bill having a stated number of sponsors as an alternative to the current rule requiring the signature of both the Council President and the Committee chair? Yes

Why/why not? *I believe this reform would help us achieve a more democratic and inclusive council*

8. Have you ever been an officer or board member in a civic association? *No*

If so, tell us about your civic service and how it shapes your view of city politics and governance.

Candidate: Allan Domb **Office sought:** City Council At Large (D)

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1. Do you believe that the guidelines governing Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) ought to be revised to exclude partisan organizations such as ward committees? *No*

Why/Why not?

2. Do you believe that Land Bank sales should require a City Council vote? *No*

Why/Why not?

3. Do you support proposals to return the Philadelphia Parking Authority to local control? *Yes*

Why/Why not?

4. Do you believe that Philadelphia ought to derive less of its General Fund revenues from taxing personal and business income? *Yes*

If so, how would you make up the lost revenue?

5. Do you believe that the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs reform to be more responsive to neighborhood-level concerns? *Yes*

If yes, what changes would you propose?

6. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules to provide that no bill may be passed unless its text is posted on the Council website for a stated period of time? *Yes*

Why/why not?

7. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules by granting automatic access to Committee for any bill having a stated number of sponsors as an alternative to the current rule requiring the signature of both the Council President and the Committee chair? *Yes*

Why/why not?

8. Have you ever been an officer or board member in a civic association? *No*

If so, tell us about your civic service and how it shapes your view of city politics and governance.

Candidate: Beth Finn **Office sought:** City Council At Large (D)

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1. Do you believe that the guidelines governing Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) ought to be revised to exclude partisan organizations such as ward committees? Yes

Why/Why not? *Non-partisan resident groups must have greater control in decisions about their own neighborhood development. Allowing partisan organizations, such as ward committees, to be registered as RCOs is a concern because of bias and outsized influence. For any ward that is currently registered as an RCO, the district council member has the option to side with a partisan organization. RCOs are neighborhood based and should be built from people who represent, and care deeply about, the community.*

2. Do you believe that Land Bank sales should require a City Council vote? No

Why/Why not? *There are more than 4,700 vacant lots in Philadelphia. It is crucial that we create a system that is transparent, provides accountability, and creates the most value for the city. Making the city council vote on every land bank sale is not efficient and reinforces the power of councilmanic prerogative, which is why I support the city's recent efforts to streamline the Vacant Property Review Committee. I support an independent, non-partisan body to handle overseeing the Land Bank. The Land Bank's oversight and guidelines are a far better starting point to build a process that can manage & facilitate that many vacant lots.*

3. Do you support proposals to return the Philadelphia Parking Authority to local control? Yes

Why/Why not? *We need to return the PPA to local control. The recent audit of the PPA and the scandals surrounding attempts to prevent the audit from happening by public figures are reason enough to end the corruption happening in that organization and bring control to Philadelphia. The way we begin to overhaul the corruption in PPA is to bring control of this agency back to Philadelphia, work with the city controller's office to make sure that regular audits are happening (with this and other public agencies), and reexamine the current board of directors.*

4. Do you believe that Philadelphia ought to derive less of its General Fund revenues from taxing personal and business income? Yes

If so, how would you make up the lost revenue? *Our tax strategy should be focused on taxing wealth, not workers. One strategy to lower income taxes is to open a Public Bank in Philadelphia, which will help make up for this lost revenue. Currently, we lose hundreds of millions of dollars in fees and interest payments every year to big banks that also use that money to invest in ventures that go directly against our values. A public bank maximizes our limited investment funds by recapturing that money and loaning it to ourselves free from crippling bank fees. A public bank is vital for our city's long-term fiscal health.*

5. Do you believe that the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs reform to be more responsive to neighborhood-level concerns? Yes

If yes, what changes would you propose? *Right now, the Zoning Board of Adjustments makes it easier to appeal a decision than it is for the neighborhood to voice their concerns in the first place. We need to work with our non-partisan, community-based RCOs to make sure that*

residents have the resources and support they need from their community to have their voice heard by the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

6. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules to provide that no bill may be passed unless its text is posted on the Council website for a stated period of time? Yes

Why/why not? *Our city government works for the people. I support good government policies that prioritize transparency, including a public posting of bills for a period of time before a vote.*

7. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules by granting automatic access to Committee for any bill having a stated number of sponsors as an alternative to the current rule requiring the signature of both the Council President and the Committee chair? Yes

Why/why not? *This is a variation on the theme of councilmanic prerogative, which goes against transparency standards and allows one individual to control important decisions. Councilmanic prerogative is closed-door backroom deal-making at the expense of what's best for the city as a whole. We should never allow one or two members of council to have such incredible control over what happens in our city government. Bills with broad support in the form of sponsors should go to committee.*

8. Have you ever been an officer or board member in a civic association? No

If so, tell us about your civic service and how it shapes your view of city politics and governance. *Though I have not been an officer in a civic association, I am a member of my neighborhood association, Society Hill Civic Association. Additionally, I have extensive community involvement in other ways.*

I am a co-founder of the Women's March on Philadelphia. The planning and day of the annual march have provided me with an incredible set of learning opportunities to see the beautiful diversity and heart-breaking disparity that exists in our city and our country.

I am a fierce advocate for the brain tumor community, both as the volunteer co-chair for the Race for Hope Philadelphia, a 5K run and walk that raises close to \$1 million each year for the National Brain Tumor Society and as a lobbyist to Capitol Hill each year to fight for more funding for brain tumor research.

Throughout my career, I've partnered with TechGirlz to mentor middle school girls in STEM because a good paying job, like those in STEM fields, is one of the best ways to break the cycle of poverty.

Candidate: Jamie Gauthier **Office sought:** City Council District 3 (D)
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1. Do you believe that the guidelines governing Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) ought to be revised to exclude partisan organizations such as ward committees? Yes

Why/Why not? *Because organizations charged with making decisions around zoning and development should not be partisan or political actors.*

2. Do you believe that Land Bank sales should require a City Council vote? No

Why/Why not? *Because I believe the current process dramatically slows down the ability of the land bank to process sales of vacant land. The caveat here (for me) would be if the stated ideals of the land bank were not being followed, as far as prioritizing public land for publicly beneficial uses like affordable housing and green community spaces. I think Council needs to have some ability to manage the high-priced development happening all over the city, to ensure we have equitable development.*

3. Do you support proposals to return the Philadelphia Parking Authority to local control? Yes

Why/Why not? *Taking control of the parking authority would, hopefully, allow for more transparency, less patronage, better management of costs, and overall, more revenue directed towards the city and its schools.*

4. Do you believe that Philadelphia ought to derive less of its General Fund revenues from taxing personal and business income? Yes

If so, how would you make up the lost revenue? *I would like Philadelphia to wage less taxes on residents and small businesses. Having a wage tax is extremely unusual for a big city, and it's been demonstrated time and again that it is one of the major factors holding back our city's economic development. I support proposals to reduce wage taxes below 3% and make up for that loss in revenue by increasing commercial property taxes in proportion to pay for it.*

5. Do you believe that the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs reform to be more responsive to neighborhood-level concerns? Yes

If yes, what changes would you propose? *Members that are better trained and less politically-motivated, as well as a lower case-load (too many cases are being even considered for the zoning board to make sound and thorough judgements).*

6. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules to provide that no bill may be passed unless its text is posted on the Council website for a stated period of time? Yes

Why/why not? *Citizens need an adequate opportunity to engage with proposed legislation.*

7. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules by granting automatic access to Committee for any bill having a stated number of sponsors as an alternative to the current rule requiring the signature of both the Council President and the Committee chair? Yes

Why/why not? *I believe this is a more democratic way to operate.*

8. Have you ever been an officer or board member in a civic association? *Yes*

If so, tell us about your civic service and how it shapes your view of city politics and governance. *I was president of Garden Court Community Association for several years, in addition to serving as vice chair of the Crosstown Coalition in recent years. I truly believe in the power of neighborhood civics to engage neighbors, and as a Councilperson I aim to grow their capacity to do so.*

Candidate: Irina Goldstein **Office sought:** City Council At Large (R)

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1. Do you believe that the guidelines governing Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) ought to be revised to exclude partisan organizations such as ward committees? No

Why/Why not? *Ward committees have a legitimate place in neighborhood zoning decisions. This is a free country. We are not going to exclude people from important decisions about how property is used in their neighborhood because they are part of a ward committee.*

2. Do you believe that Land Bank sales should require a City Council vote? Yes

Why/Why not? *This will improve accountability and prevent land in the bank from being sold to political allies.*

3. Do you support proposals to return the Philadelphia Parking Authority to local control? No

Why/Why not? *Money for the school district is a constant object of political football and jockeying. The Parking Authority has come under fire for not giving enough of its money to the school district. But, the school district has enough money. The problem is that the money is not filtering down to the people who need it--that is, the students and the hard-working teachers.*

4. Do you believe that Philadelphia ought to derive less of its General Fund revenues from taxing personal and business income? Yes

If so, how would you make up the lost revenue? *Cutting taxes will grow the economy and expand the tax base. More people will want to move into the city and so expand the tax base.*

5. Do you believe that the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs reform to be more responsive to neighborhood-level concerns? Yes

If yes, what changes would you propose? *We can always benefit from reform. We are concerned about the outcry about gentrification. We want people to feel comfortable with the pace of development in their communities.*

6. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules to provide that no bill may be passed unless its text is posted on the Council website for a stated period of time? Yes

Why/why not? *This sounds like a great idea. We want to be as transparent and democratic as possible.*

7. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules by granting automatic access to Committee for any bill having a stated number of sponsors as an alternative to the current rule requiring the signature of both the Council President and the Committee chair? Yes

Why/why not? *Greater participation and transparency is always better than fast-tracking a bill through only a couple individuals who are trying to grab power.*

8. Have you ever been an officer or board member in a civic association? No

If so, tell us about your civic service and how it shapes your view of city politics and governance.

Candidate: Helen Gym **Office sought:** City Council At Large (D)

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1. Do you believe that the guidelines governing Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) ought to be revised to exclude partisan organizations such as ward committees? Yes

Why/Why not? *I believe that RCOs should be separate from political structures in order to allow for maximum participation and to ensure that ward/RCOs don't become political chokepoints on important community matters. That being said, many communities lack infrastructure and support to maintain a robust RCO that is capable of taking on development and other concerns. That's why I actively supported legislation to provide insurance to RCOs to protect against SLAPPs, and have voted to increase RCO notification of developer proposals.*

2. Do you believe that Land Bank sales should require a City Council vote? No

Why/Why not? *Council should have a role to play in land bank sales but not through a vote. As an active supporter of the concept of the Land Bank, I believe there are many additional reforms that should be geared toward maximizing transparency and making sure properties are being consolidated into the Land Bank. I support including deed restrictions in all dealings. We need to make sure that Land Bank sales are aligned with market value and are fair. Our goal should be encouraging development without displacement and ensuring City and School District revenue is maximized.*

3. Do you support proposals to return the Philadelphia Parking Authority to local control? Yes

Why/Why not? *I have led the fight against the state takeover of the Philadelphia Parking Authority for over a decade, winning more money for our schools and the resignation of former Executive Director Vince Fenerty. The PPA is a public trust - responsible for the funding of our city and our school district, and it should behave and be treated as such. Local control is one way to ensure that locally generated revenue is working towards Philadelphia's interest and not for the political interests of a partisan Harrisburg legislature.*

Please note, though, I support the Law Department's opinion that the recent failed Council bill to return the PPA to local control is unenforceable and puts our City in problematic legal territory. I don't believe in approaching this problem with wild attempts that are easily overturned. In the absence of a pathway of victory for returning the PPA to local control in Harrisburg, I believe we must continue to lambast the PPA for its unchecked growth in executive personnel and their salaries, its lack of transparency, and its failure to deliver for our students.

My focus is, and always will be, on public school funding. Any proposal to change the structure of the Parking Authority must come with a guarantee of increased school funding. In 2007, I led the campaign to force the Parking Authority to start paying its dues to schools. I haven't let up. Today, in concert with the Pay Up PPA Coalition, my work on Council has yielded an all-time high of over \$14m that will go to the School District this year.

4. Do you believe that Philadelphia ought to derive less of its General Fund revenues from taxing personal and business income? No

If so, how would you make up the lost revenue? Personal and business taxes account for over two thirds of city revenue. If there are any changes, I believe in a bottom end exemption for low-income Philadelphians and for small businesses - but not a general reduction across the board.

5. Do you believe that the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs reform to be more responsive to neighborhood-level concerns? Yes

If yes, what changes would you propose? I will qualify my answer to explain that I believe in community planning. Zoning should be fairly predictable and adjusted according to a city's evolution with broad community input. This community input should lead to clear maps where variances are consistent with the overall vision of those maps. I share residents' concerns that ZBA has often acted inconsistent with agreed upon visions for community growth in ways that can feel unaccountable to the public. I would like to ensure that community planning should drive ZBA decisions.

6. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules to provide that no bill may be passed unless its text is posted on the Council website for a stated period of time? Yes

Why/why not? I support maximum legislative transparency. I believe that each and every amended version of a piece of legislation, a plain language legislative summary, all committee testimony, and all corresponding documents, including fiscal impact statements, should be publicly posted as soon as possible.

7. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules by granting automatic access to Committee for any bill having a stated number of sponsors as an alternative to the current rule requiring the signature of both the Council President and the Committee chair? Yes

Why/why not? I believe in democracy.

8. Have you ever been an officer or board member in a civic association? Yes

If so, tell us about your civic service and how it shapes your view of city politics and governance. I had a brief stint as a board member of the Logan Square Civic Association. I also come out of 20 years of organizing in Philadelphia communities. I cut my teeth fighting mayors and developers who would sacrifice communities for taxpayer-funded boondoggles like stadiums, casinos, and for-profit charter schools. This experience is why my politics is about building power outside of city halls with communities who are frequently on the margins of power. My office has worked hard to balance the scales so that the residents and people of this city would have as much voice in City Hall as lobbyists and the politically-connected. My work to reclaim our public schools and invest in school modernization, to reforming the 10 year tax abatement and supporting urban agriculture and green jobs is about our city's future. I look forward to my continued work with Crosstown Coalition to move that forward.

Candidate: Lou Lanni **Office sought:** City Council District 1 (D)

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1. Do you believe that the guidelines governing Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) ought to be revised to exclude partisan organizations such as ward committees? Yes

Why/Why not? *These RCOs are a good idea in concept, but loopholes in the existing regulations have been exploited by some clearly partisan groups. Tightening up the language as to who may run these groups is required to ensure that the special interest, back room types aren't running them should be pursued.*

2. Do you believe that Land Bank sales should require a City Council vote? No

Why/Why not?

3. Do you support proposals to return the Philadelphia Parking Authority to local control? Yes

Why/Why not? *We as a city have allowed this "authority" to circumvent local control of our city parking regulations granted to us as a city of the first class. They make the rules, and enforce them with razor, narrow minded efficiency. It has become nothing less than an unlevied tax that leverages hundreds of millions of dollars, much of it going to the state, from the motorists of this city.*

4. Do you believe that Philadelphia ought to derive less of its General Fund revenues from taxing personal and business income? Yes

If so, how would you make up the lost revenue? *1. Better bang for the dollars we currently collect. 2. Collection of the many hundreds of millions of dollars we are owed by real estate scofflaws and water/sewer scofflaws. 3. Growth of our local economy by attracting businesses back to our city, who in turn will employ residents, who will all be paying the wage tax.*

5. Do you believe that the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs reform to be more responsive to neighborhood-level concerns? Yes

If yes, what changes would you propose? *A greater presence of neighborhood based citizen representation on the board.*

6. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules to provide that no bill may be passed unless its text is posted on the Council website for a stated period of time? Yes

Why/why not? *I'm a huge believer in doing business in the broad light of day. All citizens should have notice regarding what measures are under consideration by their council, and sufficient time should be available to ensure a full dialog prior to any votes.*

7. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules by granting automatic access to Committee for any bill having a stated number of sponsors as an alternative to the current rule requiring the signature of both the Council President and the Committee chair? Yes

Why/why not? *YES - the popular will of the people of Philadelphia should not be second to one or two individuals.*

8. Have you ever been an officer or board member in a civic association? *No*

If so, tell us about your civic service and how it shapes your view of city politics and governance.

Candidate: Drew Murray **Office sought:** City Council At Large (R)

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1. Do you believe that the guidelines governing Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) ought to be revised to exclude partisan organizations such as ward committees? Yes

Why/Why not? *As the current head of an RCO (Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA)), I understand the role that these RCOs take on in the planning and zoning of our communities. If past performance is an indication, partisan organizations do not play an active role in land use and should not be able to act as an RCO.*

2. Do you believe that Land Bank sales should require a City Council vote? Yes

Why/Why not? *This is a challenging question as I do not think there is currently a perfect yes or no answer. I do not believe in the tradition of councilmanic prerogative, but I do believe that district council members should have a say in land use within their district. If there is truly a vote by council, then I believe there should be a vote on Land Bank sales. If the vote is basically done through councilmanic prerogative, then the answer would be no.*

3. Do you support proposals to return the Philadelphia Parking Authority to local control? No

Why/Why not? *There was a reason the State re-inserted its control of the PPA; it had a history of corruption and tremendously failed on its promise to produce added revenue for local schools. Under dual control, wherein the city controls Adjudication Division, corruption has been swept out, only after local politicians were uprooted from control over personnel and the job outsourced to a third party. Local input still remains at the City Council & Board levels, and could be increased, however, today's designed of dual control has the PPA operating at its highest efficiency to date. No need to change this formula, at this point.*

4. Do you believe that Philadelphia ought to derive less of its General Fund revenues from taxing personal and business income? Yes

If so, how would you make up the lost revenue? *The City of Philadelphia needs to become more attractive to business and that needs to happen through an increased pace in the reduction of the wage tax. In addition, the BIRT needs to be revised to at least eliminate the gross revenue tax portion. The gross revenue tax makes starting a new business in the City extremely challenging as they are often getting taxed while working at a net loss. Attracting new businesses to the City will increase the tax base making up for the "lost revenue". In addition, I would like the City to again turn to the Commonwealth in the hope to reconsider the Levy-Sweeney plan where commercial real estate is taxed higher, but the trade off is a lower wage tax. The increased commercial real estate tax will help off-set loss in wage tax revenue. However, in order for the to happen, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania would need to allow a change in the State's uniformity clause.*

5. Do you believe that the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs reform to be more responsive to neighborhood-level concerns? No

If yes, what changes would you propose? *My personal experience as president of an RCO (Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA)) is that the ZBA vote has reflected the vote of*

our RCO in most cases, so I do not believe that reform is needed. However, I believe that all processes should continuously be vetted. If other RCOs have not had the same experience as LSNA, then the practices of the ZBA need to be reviewed and possibly reformed.

6. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules to provide that no bill may be passed unless its text is posted on the Council website for a stated period of time? Yes

Why/why not? I believe text should be provided for a short period of time, but legislation does need to move forward, so the required period should be no longer than a few days or a week.

7. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules by granting automatic access to Committee for any bill having a stated number of sponsors as an alternative to the current rule requiring the signature of both the Council President and the Committee chair? Yes

Why/why not? If a bill has enough support and sponsors, the decision to get to Committee should not only fall in the hands of the Council President and the Committee chair.

8. Have you ever been an officer or board member in a civic association? Yes

If so, tell us about your civic service and how it shapes your view of city politics and governance. *I am currently the president of the Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA). I have been president for the past four years and a board member since 2011. I have also been president of the Friends of Coxe Park since 2011. My presidency has given me a great understanding of land use and the role that civic associations/RCOs play in terms of zoning and land use. I have seen first hand the value of rezoning parcels within our community as LSNA spent a year looking at every single parcel in our community. I understand the vital role RCOs play in influencing the projects that are built in our neighborhood. LSNA has worked very well over the years with developers, the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation and Council President Clarke's office to bring quality development to our neighborhood. The RCO gives the community a needed voice and being president of an RCO for the past four years has shaped my view and reaffirmed my belief that the residents of the City of Philadelphia need a voice in City Hall. The RCO process empowers that voice.*

Candidate: David Oh **Office sought:** City Council At Large (R)

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1. Do you believe that the guidelines governing Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) ought to be revised to exclude partisan organizations such as ward committees? Yes

Why/Why not?

2. Do you believe that Land Bank sales should require a City Council vote? Yes

Why/Why not? *Yes, it is a requirement of the City Charter that all sale of city land be approved by Council.*

3. Do you support proposals to return the Philadelphia Parking Authority to local control? Yes

Why/Why not? *Yes, I have authored bills for the city to take back control of on street parking*

4. Do you believe that Philadelphia ought to derive less of its General Fund revenues from taxing personal and business income? Yes

If so, how would you make up the lost revenue? *I have introduced bills to take back control of on street parking. I would use this revenue to make up the difference.*

5. Do you believe that the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs reform to be more responsive to neighborhood-level concerns? Yes

If yes, what changes would you propose?

6. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules to provide that no bill may be passed unless its text is posted on the Council website for a stated period of time? Yes

Why/why not?

7. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules by granting automatic access to Committee for any bill having a stated number of sponsors as an alternative to the current rule requiring the signature of both the Council President and the Committee chair? Yes

Why/why not?

8. Have you ever been an officer or board member in a civic association? No

If so, tell us about your civic service and how it shapes your view of city politics and governance.

Candidate: Daniel "Duke" Orsino

Office sought: City Council District 1 (R)

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1. Do you believe that the guidelines governing Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) ought to be revised to exclude partisan organizations such as ward committees? Yes

Why/Why not? I believe all RCOs should be nonpartisan to avoid leaning any particular way politically and that Ward Committees should fall under a separate category.

2. Do you believe that Land Bank sales should require a City Council vote? Yes

Why/Why not? This would allow for greater transparency.

3. Do you support proposals to return the Philadelphia Parking Authority to local control? Yes

Why/Why not? There is no reason that the PPA is controlled by any other governing body other than the city. This money belongs in the city coffers, not the state's.

4. Do you believe that Philadelphia ought to derive less of its General Fund revenues from taxing personal and business income? Yes

If so, how would you make up the lost revenue? Yes, to a point. I believe we should tax smaller businesses and startups at a FAR lower rate than we do larger, multinational/national corporations. However, on the whole we do need to find that "Goldilocks zone" (where companies are paying their fair share, but aren't chased out of town). We can make up the revenue difference by ending the tax abatements, with better spending policies, and with stronger penalties for tax dodging.

5. Do you believe that the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs reform to be more responsive to neighborhood-level concerns? Yes

If yes, what changes would you propose? I believe government works best with an individualized approach when it comes to zoning and what people want to permit on not permit in their own neighborhoods.

6. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules to provide that no bill may be passed unless its text is posted on the Council website for a stated period of time? Yes

Why/why not? This would be an important step in greater government transparency.

7. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules by granting automatic access to Committee for any bill having a stated number of sponsors as an alternative to the current rule requiring the signature of both the Council President and the Committee chair? Yes

Why/why not? We are a democracy and the will of the people must be respected.

8. Have you ever been an officer or board member in a civic association? No

If so, tell us about your civic service and how it shapes your view of city politics and governance.

Candidate: Eryn Santamoor **Office sought:** City Council At Large (D)

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1. Do you believe that the guidelines governing Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) ought to be revised to exclude partisan organizations such as ward committees? Yes

Why/Why not? *Decisions regarding land use should be free of political concerns and left to independent experts such as urban planners and civic organizations free of partisan leanings and influence. The future of our neighborhoods should not be unduly shaped by those with political influence. While the political process and the Ward structure is an important vehicle for civic engagement, it is not the correct mechanism for shaping zoning and development in our neighborhoods.*

2. Do you believe that Land Bank sales should require a City Council vote? No

Why/Why not? *The Land Bank was instituted to streamline land disposition and ensure vacant, blighted properties are put back into productive use. Adding another layer to the disposition process, and one that is fraught with politics, is unnecessary and creates a clear mechanism for corruption. District councilmembers should play a role in representing their district's interests by helping to provide neighborhood-level sentiment, but the power to acquire and dispose of city land should be in the hands of truly independent actors - planning and development professionals as well as community members.*

3. Do you support proposals to return the Philadelphia Parking Authority to local control? Yes

Why/Why not? *Philadelphia must exercise control over our own future. As a general principle, I believe in returning local control of our institutions from Harrisburg, including both the Philadelphia Parking Authority and our School District. Local leaders and stakeholders should have a stronger voice in holding the Parking Authority accountable - especially to ensure annual audits are conducted to make sure every dollar owed to the School District of Philadelphia is paid and to reduce any and all unnecessary overhead costs that may limit our school funding stream.*

4. Do you believe that Philadelphia ought to derive less of its General Fund revenues from taxing personal and business income? Yes

If so, how would you make up the lost revenue? *I'm supportive in concept of the "Levy-Sweeney Plan" that would shift our tax structure towards placing a higher burden on commercial properties (which cannot move out of the city to pursue lower tax rates). This approach, while requiring a change to our state constitution's uniformity clause, is promising in that it has broad buy-in, would stabilize and increase local funding, and would help Philadelphia become more competitive by presenting a tax system similar to other large American cities (more reliance on local property taxes).*

5. Do you believe that the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs reform to be more responsive to neighborhood-level concerns? Yes

If yes, what changes would you propose? *First, I would support a comprehensive review - inclusive of both planning experts and community members - of the impact of the 2012 zoning reform process. We need a full understanding of what's working and what needs continued*

reform, especially when it comes to measuring and taking into account community input. However, I would like to see reforms that responsibly reduce the ZBA's caseload so they can more comprehensively review each case and allow for a more thorough deliberative process. I would also like to see further resources provided to RCOs to strengthen their capacity and ability to serve as an effective community voice in the zoning process by broadening their reach into the community. This could look like additional trainings, grant opportunities, and regular, intentional convening and best practice sharing with the goal of identifying points of collaboration.

6. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules to provide that no bill may be passed unless its text is posted on the Council website for a stated period of time? Yes

Why/why not? *Transparency is a critical component of representative democracy. Philadelphians should have ample opportunity to view and provide comment on bills under consideration by Council. If elected, I would also support and work to implement other means of making city government more transparent - from requiring the disclosure of Council's budget to using Philly311 to better communicate and seek feedback from Philadelphians. When I served as a Deputy Managing Director, I ran the PhillyStat program through which City data was shared with the public; that is the type of mindset and approach I would bring to City Council.*

7. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules by granting automatic access to Committee for any bill having a stated number of sponsors as an alternative to the current rule requiring the signature of both the Council President and the Committee chair? Yes

Why/why not? *To be a truly democratic legislative body that is representative of the will of the people, City Council should not place barriers on the ideas discussed and the legislation proposed by duly elected members. Free debate of ideas and a transparent policy making process is the cornerstone of any healthy government institution, and allows the public to hold its elected officials accountable.*

8. Have you ever been an officer or board member in a civic association? No

If so, tell us about your civic service and how it shapes your view of city politics and governance. *While I have not served as an officer or board member of a civic association, I have been active in the community based organizations in my neighborhood of Fairmount (a member of the Fairmount Civic Association, Spring Garden Association, and the Center City Residents Association). Additionally, I have spent the last year and a half as I run for City Council attending civic association and community development corporation meetings in every section of Philadelphia to hear the concerns and issues of residents throughout the city. I have gained insight into the frustrations of our residents - largely related to basic city services and process in the political sphere. It reinforces my belief that we can and should continue to raise expectations by providing best-in-class services and establish more transparent processes in our management of this city. I believe my campaign's Action Plan (found on my website at www.erynforcouncil.com) reflects what I've learned and how I would help drive change. As a Councilwoman, I would commit to continuing to regularly attend such meetings - as I believe it is a critical part of public service to show up, listen and learn, and craft policy in partnership with those most affected by the issues at hand.*

Candidate: Al Taubenberger **Office sought:** City Council At Large (R)

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Tel: 215-806-0238

1. Do you believe that the guidelines governing Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) ought to be revised to exclude partisan organizations such as ward committees? Yes

Why/Why not? Yes because RCOs are already being abused. They are supposed to be independent groups comprised of neighbors who live within a few blocks of proposed development sites. The involvement of partisan organizations such as ward committees serve.

2. Do you believe that Land Bank sales should require a City Council vote? Yes

Why/Why not? Yes, City land is scarce and incredibly valuable. It's sale and use should be subject to Council approval to ensure fairness, transparency and the best use of the land parcel.

3. Do you support proposals to return the Philadelphia Parking Authority to local control? No

Why/Why not? I cannot answer this question due to a conflict of interest, given my position as a Board Member of the Philadelphia Parking Authority.

4. Do you believe that Philadelphia ought to derive less of its General Fund revenues from taxing personal and business income? Yes

If so, how would you make up the lost revenue? I am generally opposed to Philadelphia's high taxes, especially personal and business income taxes. More can and should be done to increase current revenue streams and expend more energy on under-leveraged revenue sources, especially international trade agreements. I also believe we as a government can do more to tighten our fiscal belts to reduce overhead and duplication to save money, reducing the need to raise taxes. I am also open to reducing the number of years of the current 10 year tax abatement on new development in order to derive additional city revenues.

5. Do you believe that the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs reform to be more responsive to neighborhood-level concerns? Yes

If yes, what changes would you propose? That a citizen advisory council be established to work with the ZBA and act as a conduit for our citizens complaints and suggestions regarding the ZBA's policies.

6. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules to provide that no bill may be passed unless its text is posted on the Council website for a stated period of time? Yes

Why/why not? The more transparency in city government, the better.

7. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules by granting automatic access to Committee for any bill having a stated number of sponsors as an alternative to the current rule requiring the signature of both the Council President and the Committee chair? No

Why/why not? The current system appears to be working fine. I see no reason to alter it.

8. Have you ever been an officer or board member in a civic association? Yes

If so, tell us about your civic service and how it shapes your view of city politics and governance. *I served on the Fox Chase Neighbors Association and Town Watch Committees. Those experiences gave me a greater appreciation for the vital role private citizens can and should play in their local government.*

Candidate: Lauren Vidas **Office sought:** City Council District 2 (D)
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1. Do you believe that the guidelines governing Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) ought to be revised to exclude partisan organizations such as ward committees? Yes

Why/Why not? *Yes - given the already overt political nature of our zoning process because of Councilmanic Prerogative, I think it is important that RCO's be non-partisan organizations. RCO's should serve as the voice of the community, regardless of political affiliation.*

2. Do you believe that Land Bank sales should require a City Council vote? No

Why/Why not? *Unfortunately, it is my understanding that Pennsylvania law requires land disposition to be approved by City Council. However, if we are able to remove that requirement, I would support that removal. City Council action is already required to move land into the Land Bank. This is the time when City Council should have its input into deciding how the land should be used, whether as Affordable Housing, Market Rate or Urban Garden. My concern with requiring a second Council vote is that it gives the Councilmember de facto veto power over a specific developer.*

3. Do you support proposals to return the Philadelphia Parking Authority to local control? Yes

Why/Why not? *The Parking Authority has long been a haven for republican patronage and government waste. It is unacceptable that an organization which rakes in over \$250 million annually only turns a small portion of that over to the School District. We should absolutely fight to take back the PPA to ensure our schools are getting the maximum resources to which they are entitled.*

4. Do you believe that Philadelphia ought to derive less of its General Fund revenues from taxing personal and business income? Yes

If so, how would you make up the lost revenue? *Yes. I am supportive of the proposal to modify the Uniformity Clause of the PA Constitution to allow the City of Philadelphia to have a higher Commercial Property tax rate. The proceeds from this increased rate would then be used to lower our wage and business tax rates to ensure that no hole would be opened up in the budget. Alternatively, I support the restart of wage and business tax reductions that were started in the Rendell administration and continued through the Street and Nutter administrations. As the City continues to take in surpluses, we should invest a portion of that surplus back into these reductions as recommended by multiple Tax Reform Commissions.*

5. Do you believe that the Zoning Board of Adjustment needs reform to be more responsive to neighborhood-level concerns? Yes

If yes, what changes would you propose? *I would propose changing the make-up and appointment of the ZBA. Right now, ZBA members are appointed by the Mayor with no requirements regarding their qualifications to serve. I would propose a ZBA that mandates a diverse range of professional skill sets such as architect, land use attorney and engineer. I would also propose having representatives with neighborhood RCO experience serve.*

6. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules to provide that no bill may be passed unless its text is posted on the Council website for a stated period of time? Yes

Why/why not? City Council should strive for more transparency and inclusion in its self-governance. To this end, I would support requiring City Council to present its budget publicly as part of the annual budget process. Finally, if elected I would push City Council to change the time of its weekly stated meeting to the evenings so that more members of the public could attend and participate without having to take off from work.

7. Do you believe that City Council ought to revise its rules by granting automatic access to Committee for any bill having a stated number of sponsors as an alternative to the current rule requiring the signature of both the Council President and the Committee chair? Yes

Why/why not? I believe that every bill introduced should have an opportunity to receive a public hearing. By not allowing bills to get a public hearing, Council leadership is interfering with independently elected officials ability to serve.

8. Have you ever been an officer or board member in a civic association? Yes

If so, tell us about your civic service and how it shapes your view of city politics and governance. *I served as Chair of SOSNA, as well as Co-Chair of our zoning committee. I have experienced the frustration that comes after pouring hours into neighborhood meetings on a project to solicit community input and feedback to have the ZBA completely ignore the community. I have also learned how important it is to give people a venue and opportunity to be heard. As zoning chair, I strived to ensure that every resident had a chance to say his or her piece regarding the project and that developers met with neighbors to work out issues. It taught me the importance of hearing all sides and the skills needed to facilitate compromise.*