



Mayoral Candidates Respond to The Kids Agenda

How will you, as Mayor, make Philadelphia a great place to raise your family?

HELEN GYM

The COVID-19 pandemic made clear that the most desirable city of the future is the most livable city of the future. When the pandemic hit and shutdown orders were issued, much of the country and our city relocated toward the places that most felt like home – places that were safe, and affordable and where families felt assured that those from the very young to the very senior were cared for. As Mayor, I am focused on livability and affordability as one of the key drivers of growth and our economy.

This means focusing on quality of life services throughout the city – from safe and clean streets to on-time public transit, improved sanitation and public trash cans throughout the city as well as increased fines for illegal dumping particularly in and around construction sites and schools. As a Councilmember, I invested in a Just Services campaign to direct more funds and attention to clean up streets and improve street lighting in dangerous neighborhoods, as well as address blight.

Livability means making sure our public assets are funded, staffed, and open. It's why I am focused on weekend and evening hours at our libraries and recreation centers, and accelerating the timeline and finishing the job on ReBuild to deliver world-class parks in every neighborhood of the city.

CHERELLE PARKER

I am running for Mayor to make Philadelphia a safer, cleaner and greener city with economic opportunity for everyone.

Safer: For the city and business to function, people have to feel safe in their homes, getting to work, dropping their kids off at school, and commuting into the city for work or fun. But currently, there is a sense of lawlessness in our city. That is why, while on City Council, I introduced a comprehensive plan to fill our depleted police ranks and hire an additional 300 foot and bike patrol officers to be present in every neighborhood in our city. Additionally, the plan addresses the root causes of crime, fix the quality of life issues that are pervasive in our city.

Cleaner and greener: We all suffer whenever anyone calls the city we love "filth-adelphia" because the streets and sidewalks aren't clean. People do not want to live, visit, or open a business in a city. That's why while on council, I introduced the PHL Taking Care of Business where we clean in and around commercial corridors by giving people from the neighborhoods a chance by hiring them at \$15/hour and giving them the soft skills they need to enter the workforce and build a career.

Economic Opportunity: From start-up, to building and growing an existing business, to scaling a company to IPO – especially for Black and brown businesses that have not shared equally in the growth of the city – Philadelphia is entirely too complicated a place to do business. That is why I'm going to bring my experience in Harrisburg and City Hall to streamline city government interaction for all businesses. This means moving to a strong customer service model for all city agencies, adding app-based one-stop-solutions for businesses,

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and cutting through the red tape that makes doing business in our city so onerous.

But we also have to lift up our small businesses and entrepreneurs that are the backbone of our city's economy and stabilize our communities. While on City Council, I created a model program in conjunction with the Community College of Philadelphia called Power Up Your Business—a free program that provides business courses geared toward small businesses to help teach the basics of running a business. Power Up Your Business has assisted more than 1,000 small businesses across the City through its free programming. The program has become so successful, it is now the number one feeder for Goldman Sachs' 10k Small Businesses program. As Mayor, I'll be working to scale up these types of programs and create new ones so that Philadelphia is the model for how government can nurture and grow businesses in our city, and how we can partner with our colleges and universities.

REBECCA RHYNHART

As the first mother to serve as the Mayor of Philadelphia, I will listen, learn, and lead. My daughter is in seventh grade in Philadelphia public schools. I share many of your coalition's worries about our kids' well-being. We need a safer, cleaner Philadelphia and a city government that works for all families in every neighborhood. That's my vision for this city.

As Mayor of Philadelphia, I will use my experiences to make our city's services run more efficiently and cost-effectively to achieve this vision. On gun violence, I would declare a citywide emergency activating the city's emergency operation center to coordinate our operating departments' response to focus on the neighborhoods most impacted by the violence urgently. I will make sure that we get more officers on the street meanwhile taking steps to make sure policing is fair, efficient and effective based on the needs of the communities and neighborhoods our officers serve.

My administration will clean up the city within the first 100 days of my term, including removing thousands of abandoned cars. The Rhynhart Administration will develop a citywide housing plan that prioritizes creating new and affordable housing in every neighborhood, working with City Council to leverage the 8,500 city-owned vacant lots and properties to develop this much-needed housing supply for our residents. Finally, I will establish workforce development pathways to help mothers, fathers and caregivers access the skills they need to excel and thrive in family-sustaining jobs.

A Note from The Kids Campaign: Responses are as of March 27, 2023. Warren Bloom Sr., Amen Brown, Jeff Brown, Allan Domb, and David Oh did not respond to the candidate questionnaire. James DeLeon responded late and did not directly respond to each and every question.

RESPONSES AS OF MARCH 27, 2023

