



## Mayoral Candidates Respond to The Kids Agenda

### How will you, as Mayor, make sure youth has a voice in all levels of city government?

#### HELEN GYM

When I was first elected to the City Council nearly eight years ago, one of the very first steps that my office took was planning and facilitating community listening sessions with School District of Philadelphia students. During these sessions, I heard from students who felt unheard and wanted a city government that worked with and for them – not against them. They spoke about experiencing dirty, crumbling school buildings with bugs and asbestos and no access to clean water and healthy foods. It was out of these listening sessions that some of my most critical legislation was born – getting clean water hydration stations with filters on every floor of every school in the district.

As Mayor, I will continue to engage youth in legislative decisions and build out a governing structure that includes regular listening sessions with children and students from across the city of Philadelphia. Young Philadelphians deserve to be heard and we must engage them to build a city where they want to work and live for not just the next 5 years, but for the next 50 years. That is how we will build a stronger and better Philadelphia.

#### CHERELLE PARKER

I will be an active, hands-on Mayor.

My plan for establishing Mayor's Councils in every council district across the city will empower the community by establishing a direct line of communication with the Mayor's Office to engage on issues ranging from crime reduction and addressing quality of life issues, to the types of businesses that locate in the neighborhood.

Resources and quality of life for our young people are important to the long-term success of our city. Consequently, each community council would include voices of Philadelphia's youth and youth advocates at the decision making table. They would also have an established rapport with the Mayor's Philadelphia Youth Commission. This will allow us to cultivate and nurture an appreciation for civic engagement and proactive community involvement in the next generation.

#### REBECCA RHYNHART

As the former Controller of Philadelphia, I led by collecting input from stakeholders and community members to get a clear picture of the problems we face, build consensus on a vision for moving forward and make recommendations to the mayor's office for improvements. Kids and teens must have a say in what happens in the public spaces that serve them, including schools, recreation centers and libraries. Every city agency solicits feedback from those they serve, and feedback must be analyzed so it may inform decision-making. Under a Rynhart Administration, we will be hands-on with each department in the city – I expect departments to report to me about how they can efficiently and effectively serve the needs of all Philadelphians.

**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.