



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Less Than Half of Mayoral Candidates Tell Voters What They'll Do for Children

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(April 10, 2023) – Of the 10 Democrats running to be Philadelphia’s 100th mayor, only four took the time to provide voters with specifics on how they will prioritize children and teens and keep them safe – Derek Green, Helen Gym, Cherelle Parker, and Rebecca Rhynhart.

Amen Brown, Jeff Brown, Warren Bloom Sr., Allan Domb all failed to reply to The Kids’ Campaign request for detailed plans on making Philadelphia safe for young people. James DeLeon responded late and with an incomplete response. The Campaign contacted David Oh as well, and he also failed to respond.

Donna Cooper, a Kids’ Campaign representative from Children First, said “We are heartened by the fact that several candidates are taking the issues facing our children seriously. By ignoring the survey, however, the others send a very discouraging message to the parents and children of this city.”

The Kids’ Campaign asked all candidates to sign on to a [12-point pledge](#) and eight of the candidates did so in January. The Campaign then followed up with a questionnaire, asking them to provide details by March 20th on how they would make their pledges a reality. The three candidates who refused to sign the pledge - Amen Brown, Jeff Brown, and Allan Domb – also failed to submit detailed plans.

“In elementary and middle school, we’re taught to ‘tag’ our answers, meaning taking the wording from the teacher’s prompt and inserting it in our response. In high school, we’re taught to engage in discussion with the prompt and use evidence that supports our claims. Candidates that simply ‘tag’ our demands by signing the pledge but refused to complete the questionnaire have missed a critical part of the prompt – the call to action,” said Rebecca Allen, a high school senior and PA Youth Vote Ambassador. “Their work is incomplete and, just as a scorer will not award a passing grade for incomplete work, neither will your constituents as we vote in the upcoming election. Show your work!”

The lack of response from some mayoral candidates comes at a time when children in Philadelphia are facing rising gun violence in their communities while continuing to recover from disruptions caused by the pandemic.

“The candidates’ inaction makes me question if they have the capability to maintain a tremendous city like Philadelphia,” said high school junior Fatoumata Sidibe. “It’s unsettling that candidates are not addressing youth concerns because, despite all of the city’s chaos, Philly cares about its children. This is my first time voting and I’m at a loss for who I want to represent my city because they’re not providing details, which is sad.”

The Kids’ Campaign members are hearing candidates incorporate the Kids’ Campaign 12-point pledge in their stump speeches and in their policy proposals. “It’s clear that The Kids’ Campaign platform is gaining traction

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among the candidates, but we want to hear from every candidate how they will live up to this pledge so that the voters like me cast an informed vote. In doing so, we'll see who really cares about our children," said Maritza Guridy, a Kids' Campaign parent leader.

Parents are leaving Philadelphia, which just reported one of the largest population drops since 1975. "The Kids' Campaign was formed because concerned parents and leaders of youth-serving organizations are seeing how hard it is to give kids a high quality of life in Philadelphia and they're wondering why they should stay when it's easier on their kids elsewhere," said Tyrone Scott, a Kids' Campaign leader from First Up. "Our goal is to give candidates the opportunity to tell voters what they will do to make this city a great place to raise a family and to stop the exodus."

"This is the most important vote of the year," said Makayla Coleman, a high school senior. "Philadelphia needs a mayor who is willing to listen to the cries of Philadelphia's youth and be the leader who will address them. We don't need people who don't show up. So, the question is, "If you don't make the city's youth a priority now, how can I trust you'll do it if you get elected?"

*The Kids Campaign is comprised of more than 80 child-serving groups, ranging from small child care centers to some of the largest nonprofits in Philadelphia. The coalition has doubled in size since its official launch in January 2023 and provides voters with the information they need to make sure the next mayor of Philadelphia prioritizes children's needs in their administration.*

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