 2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

5th Square is Philadelphia's urbanist political action committee. Our mission is to achieve a more accessible, sustainable, and equitable Philadelphia for all residents through better mobility, public space, and planning policies.

The following questionnaire is a mix of yes/no questions and short answers. For yes/no questions, if you want to elaborate on your response, you may use the comment box in each section. Please refer us to any work you have done on these topics in your answers, if applicable. If you have any questions or would like clarification, please email us at 5thsq@5thsq.org

For 5th Square's positions on these issues see:<https://www.5thsq.org/2023_issues>

You may complete this questionnaire via [Google Form](https://www.5thsq.org/2023_questionnaire) or [Word document](https://www.5thsq.org/2023_questionnaire_word) sent to 5thsq@5thsq.org

Responses to our policy questions will be published on [our website](https://www.5thsq.org/2023_election_center) -- we will not publish contact info and financial data. If you would like us to include a photo with your response, please email it to us at 5thsq@5thsq.org

We invite all candidates who completed our questionnaire to our Candidate Meet & Greet Events:

* [Thursday, March 2nd at 6:30 PM, at Buffalo Billiards in Old City](https://www.5thsq.org/March_2023_old_city)
* [Thursday, March 9th at 6:30 PM, at Attic Brewing in Germantown](https://www.5thsq.org/March_2023_attic)

**DEADLINE: Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023 at 11:59 PM. Only candidates who answer our questionnaire will be eligible for endorsement.**

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# INTRODUCTION

What is your name as it will appear on the ballot?

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What office are you seeking?

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Campaign Committee Name & Address:

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Campaign Website Address:

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Campaign Contact (Name, Phone & Email Address): *\*will not be published*

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What is your fundraising goal for your campaign? How much have you raised so far, and what is your cash-on-hand? *\*will not be published*

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Candidate Introduction:

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# ROADWAY SAFETY

**For 5th Square's positions on these issues see:** [**https://www.5thsq.org/2023\_issues**](https://www.5thsq.org/2023_issues)

**Short Response:**

1. a) Will you commit to reducing Philadelphia’s annual traffic deaths in half by 2026?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b) Do you support redesigning Philadelphia's most dangerous roadways if this means eliminating travel lanes for automobiles and parking spaces?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c) Daylighting is a pedestrian safety measure achieved by replacing curb parking spaces near an intersection with flexible posts, planters, or bollards – increasing visibility for pedestrians and drivers. Do you support daylighting more intersections in Philadelphia if this means removing parking spaces?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Will you support a ballot measure to establish a PHL Department of Transportation, combining the transportation division of the Streets Department with the Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability (oTIS)?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. After two terms in office, the Kenney Administration will have built 30 miles of protected bicycle lanes. Will you support an expansion of Philadelphia’s network of protected bicycle lanes by an additional 30 miles by 2028?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. a) The pilot speed camera program on Roosevelt Blvd has changed driver behavior, improved safety, and saved lives. Do you support making the speed cameras on Roosevelt Blvd permanent?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b) Do you support expanding speed camera enforcement to more high-crash corridors across Philadelphia?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Use this space if you’d like to elaborate on any of the above short response questions:

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**Long Response:**

1. Despite the city taking a Vision Zero pledge to reduce traffic deaths to zero by 2030, more than 120 people died on city streets in 2022. What will you do to significantly lower the rates of traffic deaths in Philadelphia?

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1. Many curb cuts, crosswalks, bus stops, and sidewalks across Philadelphia are routinely blocked by illegally-parked vehicles. How will you address this specific problem?

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1. What is your plan to ensure the city’s sidewalks are safe and usable for all pedestrians, including people with disabilities and families with strollers?

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# PUBLIC SPACE

**For 5th Square's positions on these issues see:** [**https://www.5thsq.org/2023\_issues**](https://www.5thsq.org/2023_issues)

**Short Response:**

1. Will you support an expansion of the current municipal street sweeping program, even if it means non-compliant motorists may receive parking violations or have their vehicles towed?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you support easing regulations on outdoor dining streeteries and facilitating more parklets and pedestrian plazas even if this means eliminating space for parking?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Use this space if you’d like to elaborate on any of the above short response questions:

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**Long Response:**

1. Place-based interventions like greening vacant lots, repairing abandoned homes, and planting street trees in Philadelphia is linked to a reduction in violent crime, a decrease in illegal dumping, and lower rates of depression among residents. How will your office work to accomplish these place-based interventions in historically-disinvested neighborhoods?

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1. Philadelphia’s public spaces suffer from two main types of improper waste disposal: littering and illegal dumping. For decades, the City’s reduction and removal efforts have been woefully inadequate. What would you do to solve this issue?

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1. The city has struggled to staff and adequately fund city services, which has resulted in reduced hours at libraries, pools, and recreation centers. How would you ensure consistent and convenient hours for these facilities?

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# TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

**For 5th Square's positions on these issues see:** [**https://www.5thsq.org/2023\_issues**](https://www.5thsq.org/2023_issues)

**Short Response:**

1. Do you support the City of Philadelphia enrolling all municipal employees into the SEPTA Key Advantage program?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you support the City establishing a fare discount program for low-income riders?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you support congestion pricing - a toll for vehicles entering Center City and University City during peak travel times - with funding used for improving public transportation?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you support increasing the cost of monthly residential parking permits and using the funds for improving public transportation?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. a) Do you support expanding bus-only lanes throughout Philadelphia, even if this means removing a lane of travel for personal vehicles or parking?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b) Do you support using camera technology to enforce bus-only lanes and bus stops by ticketing violators?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Will you advocate for increasing local transit funding to SEPTA?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you support a subway/metro line for Roosevelt Blvd?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The City of Denver launched a popular e-bike rebate program in an effort to reduce vehicle miles traveled. The rebate program offered $1,200 for income-qualified residents and $400 for everyone else for e-bike purchases. Do you support a similar program here in Philadelphia?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you support micro-mobility initiatives such as scooter share programs for Philadelphia?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Use this space if you’d like to elaborate on any of the above short response questions:

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**Long Response:**

1. What are your ideas for combating Philadelphia’s problem with traffic congestion?

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1. What are your solutions to ensure SEPTA rebuilds its ridership post-pandemic?

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**Personal Travel Habits:**

1. How often do you ride a bicycle for transportation in the city?

[ ] Never [ ] Yearly [ ] Monthly [ ] Weekly [ ] Daily

1. How often do you ride public transportation in the city?

[ ] Never [ ] Yearly [ ] Monthly [ ] Weekly [ ] Daily

1. How often do you travel by car in the city?

[ ] Never [ ] Yearly [ ] Monthly [ ] Weekly [ ] Daily

1. Will you commit to taking public transportation at least one week of each year while in office?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How do you typically commute to work? Describe your experience traveling in Philadelphia and what you would do to improve it.

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# HOUSING & LAND USE

**For 5th Square's positions on these issues see:** [**https://www.5thsq.org/2023\_issues**](https://www.5thsq.org/2023_issues)

**Short Response:**

1. Do you support eliminating minimum parking requirements for all of Philadelphia’s zoning categories?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Will you veto or vote against downzoning overlays?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you support legalizing Single-Room Occupancy dwellings (SROs) in all multifamily and commercial zoning districts across Philadelphia?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Will you support designating Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) overlays city-wide, allowing increased commercial and residential zoning density near all rail transit stations in Philadelphia?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Should our city government encourage the growth of Philadelphia’s population back to 2 million residents?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Should our zoning allow for denser housing in high-income, high-amenity neighborhoods to accommodate more residents?

[ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Use this space if you’d like to elaborate on any of the above short response questions:

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**Long Response:**

1. The affordability crisis hits renters harder than owners. Philadelphia Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) estimates the city needs about 70,000 affordable rental units to meet demand. How will you address this affordable housing shortage?

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1. Record low housing supply has pushed up home prices, closing off the possibility of home ownership to many first-time homebuyers. The median home value in the Philadelphia metropolitan area has reached $320,000, increasing $100,000 from 5 years ago. How can we keep neighborhoods affordable and sustainable as Philadelphia sees more growth and development?

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1. Philadelphia faces some serious headwinds from more residents and businesses considering leaving the city for the suburbs, more than at any point in the last two decades. What do you think must happen to ensure the region’s economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic comes out in urban-Philadelphia’s favor?

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# CLOSING STATEMENT

Tell us more about what you bring to the table as an ally for urbanist politics in City Hall. Why should 5th Square endorse you over other candidates running for your position? What makes you the right person to advance the urbanist movement’s goals politically at the local level?

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**Thank you for taking the time to answer our questionnaire! Our membership is excited to learn more about your candidacy and work with you to build a more sustainable and equitable city for all Philadelphians.**

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