 2024 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.

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/2024\_issues

You may complete this questionnaire via [Google Form](https://5thsq.org/2024_questionnaire) or [Word Document](https://www.5thsq.org/2024_questionnaire_word) sent to 5thsq@5thsq.org

Responses to our policy questions will be published on [our website](https://www.5thsq.org/2024_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

# **DEADLINE: Wednesday, February 28th, 2024 at 11:59 PM. Only candidates who answer our questionnaire will be eligible for endorsement.**

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Campaign Contact (Name, Phone & Email Address): *\*will not be published*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 *\*will not be published*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

**For 5th Square's positions on these issues see:** [**https://www.5thsq.org/2024\_issues**](https://www.5thsq.org/2024_issues)

1. Some of Philadelphia’s [most dangerous streets](https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/philadelphia-traffic-fatalities-penndot-20190208.html) for pedestrians and cyclists are PennDOT-owned arterials, many of which are major downtown streets and commercial corridors running through densely-populated parts of Philadelphia.

Will you use your position to support safer urban arterials and reduce traffic deaths?

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

What types of legislative and policy changes are needed to correct this problem at PennDOT?

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1. Parking-protected bike lanes have a row of street parking between vehicle traffic and the bike lane. [HB 1283 is a current bill](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2023&sInd=0&body=H&type=B&bn=1283) that authorizes parking protected bike lanes & pedestrian plazas in Pennsylvania.

Do you support this bill?

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

Comment:

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1. PennDOT has plans to [widen I-95](https://www.inquirer.com/real-estate/i-95-highways-penndot-reconstruction-widening-cities-injustice-mitigate-biden--20240122.html) and expand highway ramps through parts of Philadelphia.

Do you support highway expansions through our city?

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

Why or why not? How will you use your office to advocate for or against such expansions?

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1. Do you support state-enabling legislation for [congestion pricing](https://www.inquirer.com/transportation/congestion-pricing-new-york-philadelphia-traffic-20190402.html), permitting municipalities and regions to institute tolls on cars entering into the most congested areas, and using the funds for improvements to transit, and for infrastructure for walking and bicycling?

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

Comment:

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1. Transportation is the [third-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Pennsylvania](https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/climate/Pages/GHG-Inventory.aspx).

What do you see as the solution to combat these emissions, enhancing mobility and improving safety in your district and Pennsylvania?

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# PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

**For 5th Square's positions on these issues see:** [**https://www.5thsq.org/2024\_issues**](https://www.5thsq.org/2024_issues)

1. The funding shortfall for SEPTA is two-fold -- both Operating and Capital Budgets are in jeopardy.

[Governor Shapiro has a plan](https://www.inquirer.com/transportation/gov-shapiro-proposal-transit-funding-septa-cuts-20240128.html) that needs legislative approval to increase transit funding, addressing the operating budget shortfall.

[HB 1307](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billinfo.cfm?syear=2023&sind=0&body=H&type=B&bn=1307) and [HB 902](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?syear=2023&sind=0&body=H&type=B&bn=902#:~:text=An%20Act%20amending%20Titles%2053,in%20taxation%20for%20public%20transportation) each seek to remedy the capital budget shortfall, allowing local governments to assess new fees or taxes to fund transportation.

Will you support/approve this legislation?

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

Comment:

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1. Do you support building a [subway/metro line for Roosevelt Blvd](https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/roosevelt-boulevard-subway-2024-wish-20231229.html)?

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

If so, what will you do at the Commonwealth level to obtain funding for planning the Roosevelt Blvd Subway? If no, please explain.

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1. SEPTA is undergoing several [strategic initiatives](https://planning.septa.org/initiatives/) to reform the way it currently operates including redesigning its bus network, improving its wayfinding, reimagining regional rail, and modernizing its trolley system.

Do you support these efforts?

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

How will you work to ensure that SEPTA can become more convenient and reliable?

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1. Do you support dedicated bus and trolley lanes and legislation enabling [automated enforcement cameras](https://mobilitylab.org/2018/09/17/automated-bus-lane-enforcement-is-more-effective-than-police-among-other-findings/) to deter other vehicles from using these lanes?

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

Comment:

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1. Personal Travel Habits:
2. 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/2024\_issues**](https://www.5thsq.org/2024_issues)

1. The price of a typical home in Philadelphia is [rising faster](https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/housing-affordability-philadelphia-covid-20211206.html) than the ability of a typical Philadelphian to pay for it.

Do you see a major component of this problem as constrained housing supply due to restrictive zoning laws?

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

If elected, what will you do to make housing, both market-rate and subsidized, more affordable?

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1. Several legislators are seeking to combat the affordable housing crisis by [encouraging a variety of housing types and in-fill development of affordable housing](https://assets.nationbuilder.com/5thsq/pages/3731/attachments/original/1708150819/morning_call_-_Can_PA_solve_the_affordable_housing.pdf?1708150819). [Three recently introduced bills](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20230&cosponId=41694) are aiming to make this possible: [HB 1975](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2023&sInd=0&body=H&type=B&bn=1975), [HB 1976](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2023&sInd=0&body=H&type=B&bn=1976), and [HB 1988](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2023&sInd=0&body=H&type=B&bn=1988).

If elected, would you support these bills as well?

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

Comment:

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1. An [Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)](https://local.aarp.org/news/adus-provide-unique-housing-solution-to-todays-challenges-pa-2021-06-17.html) is a self-contained home with its own kitchen, bathroom and sleeping area on the same lot as the main house. They can be used to keep multi-generational families together, to give homeowners the option to rent part of their property, and to give seniors more options for aging in place.

Do you see permitting ADU construction as an important element in increasing housing supply?

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

What efforts will your office take to ensure seniors can age in place?

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1. Philadelphia sees over 1,000 overdose deaths annually, however Philadelphia City Councilmembers have used their land use authority and councilmanic prerogative to [block safe injection sites](https://whyy.org/articles/philadelphia-city-council-passes-near-total-ban-on-future-safe-consumption-overdose-prevention-sites/) from opening within Philadelphia.

Do you see harm reduction efforts such as safe injection sites as an important element in the battle against addiction deaths?

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

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# CLOSING STATEMENT

Tell us more about what you bring to the table as an ally for urbanist politics in Harrisburg.

What makes you the right person to advance the urbanist movement’s goals politically or substantively at the state level?

How would you build support for pro-urbanist policies among your colleagues from outside our region?

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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.**

Responses to our policy questions will be published on [our website](https://www.5thsq.org/2024_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

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