

Responses from City Commissioner Candidates				
	Anthony Clark (D)	Joseph Duda (R)	Al Schmidt (R)	Stephanie Singer (D)
	Has not responded	Has not responded		
1. Enlarge the Buffer Zone Between Voters and Aggressive Campaigners by More than 30 Feet			<p>Oppose</p> <p>Increasing the buffer zone from 10 feet to 30 feet doesn't at all address the issue of voter harassment. The problem is that the current zone restricting electioneering isn't always enforced, and that campaigners occasionally obstruct voters from entering the polling place to vote.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>This would infringe on the ability of candidates to get their messages to voters, and there are better ways to address improper electioneering and harassment.</p>



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<p>2. Update the City Commissioners' "Guide For Election Officers in Philadelphia County" to Include the Ban on Improper Electioneering</p>			<p>Support</p> <p>Often times, polling place officials are unaware of the rules and allow electioneering to occur within the current zone, or even inside the polling place itself. Updating the Guide would help solve this and other similar problems.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>At a minimum, Judges of Election should be trained on polling place electioneering rules and appropriate responses to improprieties. This reform furthers the goal of poll worker education.</p>
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<p>3. Require Polling Place Officials to Strictly Enforce the Ban on Improper Electioneering by Candidates or Campaigners</p>			<p>Support</p> <p>See answer to question #1</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>The City Commissioners Office should establish and make public procedures for reporting of and response to allegations of misconduct. The Commissioners should work with law enforcement (e.g., the police or the District Attorney) to make enforcement swifter. The Commissioners Office should track response times and resolutions of complaints to keep the process functioning smoothly and effectively.</p>
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<p>4. Bar Polling Place Officials who Electioneer from Serving on an Election Board</p>			<p>Oppose</p> <p>Unless a vacancy exists, Judges of Elections, Majority Inspectors, and Minority Inspectors are elected positions, so it is doubtful that they could – or should – be barred from serving on an Election Board. Stricter enforcement, and better training, is the answer.</p>	<p>Oppose as stated</p> <p>Judges and Inspectors of Election are elected by their constituents, so this is a form of disenfranchisement.</p>
<p>5. Advocate for Reforming the Election Code to Make it Easier to Fill Election Board Positions in Philadelphia by Relaxing the Requirement that all Polling Place Officials Must Reside in the Election District</p> <p>NOTE: Actual changes to the Election Code can only be made by the General Assembly.</p>			<p>Oppose</p> <p>All parties, including the major party, are struggling to recruit enough Election Board workers, but relaxing the residency requirement would be a mistake. The polling place is, and should be, run by residents of the local community. Better recruitment and compensation is the solution.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>I believe that increased political engagement and some concerted recruiting will make it possible to find three electors from each division willing to serve as Judge and Inspectors of Election.</p>



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6. Maintain a Public Database within the City Commissioners' Office of Individuals who have Served on Previous Election Boards to Take the Selection of Election Board members out of the Hands of Political Ward Leaders and Committeepeople to the Greatest Extent Possible			<p>Support as stated below</p> <p>The more public information is made available to the public the better. It isn't so much a matter of taking recruitment "out of the hands" of anyone. It's a matter of involving others in the recruitment process as well. The City Commissioners should build partnerships with non-profits and other to help fill vacancies on the Election Boards.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Currently the most active groups recruiting poll workers are the party ward committees, that is, ward leaders and committeepeople. The City Commissioners Office should expand the recruitment of polling place officials both with its own resources and by facilitating recruitment work of other groups that care about elections, such as the Committee of Seventy and the League of Women Voters.</p>
7. Partner with the School District of Philadelphia and Non-Public High Schools to Recruit Exemplary Seniors to Serve as Clerks or Machine Inspectors, as Permitted by the Pennsylvania Election Code			<p>Support</p> <p>See answer to Question #6.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>See answer to Question #6.</p>



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8. Follow up with Individuals who Indicate on New Voter Registration Forms that they are Interested in Serving as Poll Workers on Election Day			<p>Support</p> <p>See answer to Question #6.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>See answer to Question #6.</p>
9. Establish Mandatory In-Person Training Sessions for all New Polling Place Officials – and Establish Penalties for those who Fail to Attend			<p>Support as stated below.</p> <p>I support this, but only if training is made more easily available to new polling place officials. Online training, such as Continuing Legal Education (CLEs) for attorneys for example, has proven to be effective. Offering online training, in addition to conventional in-person training, would help overcome the burden and inconvenience involved for some.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>While I support the goals of improving poll worker education and enforcing proper behavior, I do not support this because it does not allow for different learning styles.</p>



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10. Mandate Web-based Video Training Sessions for Repeat Polling Place Officials – and Establish Penalties for those who Fail to Log On to Participate			<p>Support as stated below</p> <p>I support this, but only if web-based (online) training is offered as an additional method of training to conventional training. It isn't realistic to expect everyone who is elected or appointed to serve on an Election Board to have access to the internet.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>While I support the goals of improving poll worker education and enforcing proper behavior, I do not support this because not all Philadelphia poll workers have easy access to the web.</p>
11. Replace the Current, Densely Worded and Difficult to Read "Guide for Election Officers in Philadelphia County" with an Easy-to-Use, Well-Indexed Manual which Contains Real-Life Examples of Problems Encountered on Election Day and Make the Manual Publicly Available on the City Commissioners' Website			<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>At a minimum, Judges of Election should be trained on polling place electioneering rules and appropriate responses to improprieties. This reform furthers the goal of poll worker education.</p>



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12. Endorse a More “Customer-Oriented” Culture that Treats all Individuals who Come in Contact with the City Commissioners and Staff with Dignity and Respect			Support	Support
13. Provide Greater Public Access to, and Participation in, Meetings Conducted by the City Commissioners – Including Publicizing Meeting Agendas, Making Minutes Available Online and Holding Some Meetings During Evening Hours and in Neighborhoods Throughout the City so that Citizens can Share their Voting Experiences			Support The more transparent and accessible these meetings are the better.	Support



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14. Provide Timely and Complete Transcripts of any Hearings Held by the City Commissioners on the Commissioners' Website			Support	Support
15. Pending a Complete Overhaul of the City Commissioners' Website, Create a More Informative, User-Friendly and Aesthetically Appealing Website that Includes, Among Other Things, Election-Related Alerts (e.g., Broken Machines on Election Day), Press Releases, Maps of Election Districts and Links to Candidate Campaign Finance Reports			Support I support this, but would prefer a complete overhaul of the City Commissioners' website.	Support



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16. Review the Website of Election Offices in Other Major Cities so that Philadelphia Can Take Advantage of “Best Practices” in Voter Outreach			<p>Support</p> <p>The Commissioners’ Office should always be in search of “best practices” to save taxpayer dollars, and continuously improve the delivery of services.</p>	<p>Support</p>
17. Increase Efforts by the City Commissioners’ Office to Increase Voter Turnout, Including, But Not Limited to, Public Service Announcements, Working with City Schools and Youth Organizations to Promote Voter Registration Among Young Eligible Voters and Partnering with Non-Partisan Groups to Assist in a Citywide Effort to Generate Greater Voter Participation			<p>Support</p> <p>The City Commissioners’ goal should always be to encourage as much civic participation in the election process as possible.</p>	<p>Support</p>



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18. Provide Voter Training – in English and Spanish as a minimum – on the City Commissioners’ Website to Demystify the Voting Experience			Support	Support
19. Give up my Position as a Ward Leader During my Tenure as a City Commissioner			Support If elected, I will not serve as a ward leader or as a leader of a political party during my tenure as City Commissioner.	Support



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