

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE



INTRODUCTION

Name: Cindy Bass

Seeking The Office Of: Council Member--8th District

Political Party Affiliation: Democrat

Campaign Website and/or Facebook page: <http://www.cindybass.com/>

YES OR NO

For each question below please indicate whether you agree or disagree. You may comment to elaborate on your response. (optional)

VISION ZERO

Do you support funding a Vision Zero approach for pedestrian & cycling safety citywide?

- YES
 NO

I have sponsored Resolution No. 141049 to hold hearings on this.

Would you support enhancing penalties for aggressive, distracted and reckless driving, including speeding and DUI, in order to reduce road safety deaths and injuries?

- YES
 NO

Candidate, please initial each page and sign last page.

The 5th Square PAC

Should the Philadelphia Police Department do more to enforce existing traffic laws?

- YES
 NO

Do you support the use of traffic calming devices, such as curb bump-outs, chicanes, speed bumps or garden medians?

- YES
 NO

Would you find room in the budget for additional Streets Department traffic calming devices?

- YES But funding should also be shared with the State.
 NO

TRAFFIC PLANNING

Do you support giving buses priority over private cars on city streets?

- YES
 NO

Do you support the installation of 30-minute loading zones on all blocks with high residential density and/or commercial activity?

- YES but only with community support.
 NO

Mayor Nutter created MOTU (Mayor's Office of Transportation and Utilities) in his first administration. Do you support continuing the overall mission of MOTU in the next 4 years?

- YES
 NO This is the prerogative of whomever is the next Mayor.

The 5th Square PAC

Do you support restricting commercial deliveries to late night and early morning hours, and banning the largest trucks from residential neighborhoods absent compliance with special permit and insurance requirements?

- YES
 NO

but needs appropriate input from community residents.

Philadelphia used to repave streets every 9 years. It now repaves every 15 years. Overall, the city has a 900 mile backlog of streets needing to be repaved. Do you support doubling the funding levels for Streets Department's paving budget by fiscal year 2017?

- YES
 NO

Do you believe that universities, colleges and large non-profits should be encouraged to subsidize the cost of public transit for students, staff, administration, etc.?

- YES
 NO

I believe that they do this for Pitt students.

OPEN DATA

Should the City Revenue Department release as much of its records as legally possible for independent analysis and overall transparency?

- YES
 NO

Should the city make all data concerning street use, street conditions and traffic crash investigations available in a timely, digital format to the public?

- YES
 NO

BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Protected bike lanes on JFK and Market were piloted and found to be minimally disruptive to drivers in 2011. Will you support funding the installation of these protected bike lanes if elected?

- YES
 NO

Do you believe that bike-friendly infrastructure is economically beneficial to a community's commercial corridors & cities at large?

- YES
 NO

ZONING & LAND USE

Do you support raising millage rates on the land portion of the property tax, and lowering millage rates on improvements to the structure?

- YES
 NO

because it encourages development and penalizes vacancy and blight.

Do you support revising the zoning code to remove minimum accessory parking requirements?

- YES
 NO

but I would want to hear from community residents.

PUBLIC SPACE PLANNING

Would you support pedestrianization of street space that may currently be used for parking or vehicle transit?

- YES
 NO

I would want to hear from community residents.

The 5th Square PAC

Is regularly scheduled street sweeping of Philadelphia's streets more important than preserving the convenience of residents who prefer not moving their vehicles?

- YES
 NO

I would hope that both could be accommodated.

The current cost for an annual parking permit for car owners to store their private vehicle on public streets is \$35. Do you think this price point should be revisited?

- YES
 NO

I think there should be hearings on this issue.

OPEN RESPONSE

For each question below please answer using the provided space. Detail is appreciated.

VISION ZERO

What is an appropriate legal speed limit on a neighborhood street in Philadelphia? On an arterial street? What are some policies and/or physical alterations that can be implemented to help ensure drivers obey speed limits and other traffic laws?

I support safer streets for everyone. That's why I sponsored a resolution to hold comprehensive hearings on this issue.

ZONING & LAND USE

What kinds of zoning and land use policies can best help our neighborhood commercial corridors and small businesses?

Land use that would discourage vacant properties and support community input. Outside developers should not be able to manipulate the Zoning Code to circumvent neighborhood residents desires.

PARKS & GREENSPACES

Do you support increasing funding for Parks & Recreation throughout the city as a means to improving public health and the economy? If so, how would you better fund our parks? If not, why not?

As Chair of the Council Committee on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, I am a strong proponent of all initiatives that preserve and expand our parks--not only for our residents but for tourists as well.

STREET TREES

At 16% of total land area, Philadelphia has one of the lowest tree canopy percentages among large U.S. cities. Comparable cities exceed 30%. Do you believe Philly needs to increase this percentage? If so, how? Please be specific about how you would fund this.

I have held hearings on the maintenance of street and park trees and will continue to advocate for more trees throughout our city. I have recently advocated for funding at the budget hearings.

PUBLIC SPACE

What is your position about vehicles parked on the City Hall apron/sidewalk?

I think it has lessened. I believe the Mayor has control over this.

BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE

What is your position in regards to creating an integrated protected bike lane network throughout the city of Philadelphia? Are there areas in the city that you believe should be addressed first?

I am supportive in general. As to where it should be addressed first, I would need to see specific proposals.

TRASH & LITTER

Philadelphia provides municipal trash service to residences, but businesses are left to contract with private vendors, resulting in multiple large dumpsters in the public realm (e.g., alleyways). Do you think the City should change this current trash collection strategy? If so, how?

I support composting and have sponsored a resolution about curbside compost collection. We had an extensive hearing last Fall and I am continuing to work on ways to include or increase organics recycling in Philadelphia. I have also co-sponsored a bill (which was passed) to incentivize commercial entities to compost more.

TRAFFIC PLANNING

Should City Council be the approving body for traffic alterations to Philadelphia's citywide street network, e.g. removal of a traffic lane, turning lane, parking lane, etc.? Or should this be determined by the Streets Department, MOTU, PennDOT and other street-related agencies?

This can be done by City Council but needs the input of our traffic engineers.

BLOG INVITATION

We invite you as a candidate for political office to reach out to the voters of Philadelphia by speaking to them directly. We will host your thoughts on one of the following 9 topics below if you so choose. Please choose one topic and detail 3-5 policy changes you would make to achieve this goal.

1. Reducing the number of motor-vehicle crashes and conflicts among street users with appropriate infrastructure or roadway design changes, automated traffic law enforcement, or street- or neighborhood-specific changes in traffic rules
2. Ensuring thorough investigation of, and appropriate consequences for, drivers who commit traffic offenses that result in injury or death
3. Encouraging Philadelphians to use public transit, walk or bicycle within the city, instead of driving
4. Repurposing street space to better meet transportation needs (please specify particular streets)
5. Making land assessments accurate, and keeping them accurate
6. Increasing the amount of public space for non-transportation use, such as plazas and street closure programs (e.g., open streets and play streets.)
7. Expanding the on-street bike network in the most heavily-biked areas
8. Investing in walking and biking infrastructure outside of Center City
9. Getting our most popular bus and trolley lines out of congested mixed traffic

Candidate Signature:

Cindy Bass

THE 5th SQUARE