

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE



GENERAL

Name: **Allan Domb**

Office sought and political party affiliation: **City Council At-Large, Democratic Party**

Campaign website and/or Facebook page: **www.votedomb.com, facebook.com/votedomb**

Current neighborhood and total years of residence in Philadelphia: **Rittenhouse Square, 43 years**

Age: **63**

Children (if so, what schools did/do they attend?): **Daniel Domb, NYU Stern School of Business '04**

PROFESSIONAL

Education (college/grad school/certificate; degree & year earned in each):

**American University, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (1977)
Temple University, Real Estate Certification**

Current occupation:

At-Large City Councilman, real estate broker

Previous occupations:

Phelps Time Lock Services (1972 - 1982)

CIVIC

Previous/current elected position held and years served (if any):

At-Large City Councilman (2016-present)

Leadership positions in civic or community groups:

President, Greater Philadelphia Association of Realtors (1990, 2013-2015)

QUALIFICATIONS

In your opinion, what are the core responsibilities of the office you are seeking?

The core responsibility of a member of City Council is to help make the day-to-day lives of Philadelphians as good as possible. This means holding City Hall and government accountable to residents and taxpayers, making a good public education available to all, and ensuring equal opportunities exist for every citizen. It also means enacting legislation that helps us today and helps the children and grandchildren of tomorrow.

How are you uniquely qualified to meet those responsibilities?

For over forty years, I have called Philadelphia my home. Over the course of my career, I have been a businessman and civic leader, and I have years of experience working with the city government to make the lives of Philadelphians better. My business and civic leadership expertise has given me the ability to get things done from Day One on City Council. In my first term, I sponsored and payed for financial literacy and computer coding courses in our public schools to prepare students for life outside of the classroom. I brought these same courses to our State Road facilities to give re-entering citizens opportunities to get ahead. I passed legislation to make the use of City finances more transparent and to give City Council more oversight of spending decisions, and I have also worked to expand access to the Earned Income Tax Credit so that more Philadelphians can put money back in their pockets.

For each statement below please indicate, where applicable, whether you agree or disagree, and comment to elaborate on your response. You can agree in whole or part. Do not feel limited to the available comment space; we want to hear your thoughts.

GOVERNANCE

City Council has considered legislation that would institute a three-term limit for Council members. Should Council approve this or similar legislation, thereby putting the question of term limits for the office of City Council before the voters of Philadelphia?

- Y
- N

Yes. I introduced this legislation because I believe that having fresh faces and voices on City Council will speed up progress and make things better for everyone in Philadelphia. Our city's voters should have the opportunity to make their voices heard by putting this question on the ballot.

City Council's convention of councilmanic prerogative allows public land use decisions to be made by a single elected official. What is the optimal role for City Council members in the land disposition process? *For District candidates: What will be your office's process for making decisions about the sale of publicly-owned land?*

During the land disposition process, I believe that it's important for members of City Council to treat each neighborhood and their citizens with respect. Each neighborhood has a different history and character, and they should be treated as such.

Philadelphia has made some important strides to remove politics and favoritism from the property assessment process; however, recent reporting has shown that the City still has significant work to do. How do you believe the property assessment process should work? And what role, if any, should Council play in this process?

Our city has a portfolio of real estate valued at \$170 billion, and we need more expertise to manage this portfolio. We need to better train our current staff and hire outside appraisers who are skilled in residential and commercial real estate to assist us.

Philadelphia's government includes three independently-elected row offices: The City Commissioners, the Sheriff, and the Register of Wills; a fourth office, the Clerk of Quarter Sessions, was abolished in 2010. Are Philadelphians best served by the functions of these offices being administered by elected officials?

- Y
- N

No. This creates unneeded bureaucracy in these positions and makes these elected offices more political in nature than would be ideal.

In 2021, City Council will draw and adopt a new District Council map. Council members will have data from the 2020 Census for this purpose. How do you define “fair maps”? And how will your office work to ensure that the Council map adopted during your term is fair, according to that definition?

Fair maps are ones that maximize the abilities of voters to have their voices made equal in the democratic process. My office and I will study the 2020 Census data thoroughly to make sure that new districts keep communities together, properly reflect different areas of the city, and protect equal access for all citizens participating in elections.

EDUCATION

City Council has several direct levers of influence with regards to the School District, including its position in the budget process and its "advice and consent" authority over School Board appointments. How would you articulate Council's role in education? And what single policy objective would you prioritize to improve educational outcomes?

City Council has a duty to the children of Philadelphia. In particular, City Council's role is to do everything in its power to ensure that our schools and their programs are properly funded and that every student has the resources necessary to succeed. One policy objective I would prioritize would be making high-quality pre-K available to every child in Philadelphia. This would help set up our city's children to succeed and give them the edge they need to thrive in our schools.

Recently, I introduced a resolution to make financial literacy, technology (including computer coding), and entrepreneurship courses mandatory in all Philadelphia public schools. This resolution also includes a measure to allow students to work one day a week in a job. I am currently working with state elected officials to try to make this a reality.

FISCAL STABILITY

The Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority, or PICA, sunsets in 2023 when its bonds are repaid. Would you advocate for the extension of PICA or the creation of a different independent fiscal oversight agency, such as a city budget office? If so, what form should the new oversight agency take?

- Y
- N

I would support an extension for the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority when its bonds are repaid in 2023.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Since 2009, the 25 largest cities in the US have averaged 2.3% annual job growth, while Philadelphia averaged only 1.4%. What is your vision for economic development that would significantly increase job growth? And how would you preserve affordability as the city experiences growth in jobs and population?

I believe that economic development can be most improved by encouraging entrepreneurship and business ownership in Philadelphia. According to a Pew report published a few years ago, only 2.4% of business owners in Philadelphia are African American. We can help Philadelphia reach its economic potential by putting more power back in the hands of its citizens, particularly when it comes to African American business ownership. Additionally, I will look forward to working with my colleagues to develop reliable fair housing plans for the city and continue my efforts to collect delinquent property taxes from out-of-town landlords so that we can avoid levying new taxes and keep Philadelphia affordable.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Philadelphia is the only major American city without regular, citywide municipal street sweeping. Additionally, numerous studies have demonstrated that Philadelphians are deeply concerned about short dumping and litter. As a Councilmember, how would you address this persistent quality of life issue?

I would support an initiative to create a municipal street sweeping program that has been needed for too long.

VISION

You are running for a four year term in City Council. What do you hope to accomplish during these four years?

It'll take some big ideas to get Philadelphia moving in the right direction, but I've spent my life accomplishing big things, and it's been an honor to put that experience to work for the people of our city during my first term on City Council. In a second term, I will look to build on this work by focusing on a few things in particular.

Making financial literacy, computer coding, and entrepreneurship courses mandatory in all Philadelphia public schools will be a priority— I recently introduced a bill to make this a reality, as well as to allow high school students to work one day a week in a job. Ensuring that anyone in our prison system seeking re-entry has access to financial literacy and computer coding courses will be crucial to making sure that re-entering citizens have a competitive edge on the job market. Making high-quality pre-K available to every child in Philadelphia will set our youngest citizens up to succeed in the classroom. Continuing my work to collect delinquent property taxes from out-of-town landlords will bring tax dollars back to Philadelphia where they belong. Expanding access to the Earned Income Tax Credit will put more money back in the pockets of Philadelphians and hopefully lift a number of our citizens out of poverty.

Additionally, I will continue my work to hold our city government accountable. I hope to find a way to pass the term limits legislation that I introduced and to make sure that independent research is available to Council and City Hall when making important financial decisions.