



## **PFT Candidate Questionnaire**

The following information was submitted to the PFT by the following candidate running for office in the May 2019 Primary Election



**Candidate Name:** Curtis Jones

**Party Affiliation:** Democrat

**Office Sought:** City Council, 4th District (incumbent)

## Legislative Priorities

PFT Members have recently participated in a survey of their legislative priorities. We used the survey to formulate our legislative agenda for 2019. Please respond to areas of concern for PFT members, and comment on your experience/abilities addressing some of top issues.

On a 1-5 scale (5 being the most important), how important are the following issues to you as a candidate? In the comments, please identify any/all legislative solutions that you believe would address the issue. 

### Investment in School Facilities Funding \*

How significant do you believe the \$5B in deferred maintenance for school facilities is? How central of a part of your candidacy/position in office will this issue be?

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Strongly agree and commit

### Comments on Facilities Funding:

I attended the initial press conference with school officials, the PFT, and City Council at Lankenau School. Making sure staff and students conduct the educational process in a safe and esthetically pleasing environment is essential to future outcomes for students in our city.

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### Do you support a City moratorium on charter schools? \*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree and commit

## Comment on city wide ability to implement increased charter oversight and/or ability to implement a charter school moratorium:

All of my children attended traditional public schools. My grandchildren attend a mix of traditional and charter public schools. I am for, and support, with my tax vote, public education.

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## Are you in favor of modifying the 10 year tax abatement? \*

	1	2	3	4	5	
No, should stay as is	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Yes, absolutely needs to be modified

## Comments on your vision for the 10 year tax abatement:

There are still neighborhoods that could probably still benefit from the tax abatement, but not all of them.

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## Are you in favor of modifying the corporate tax structure so that wealthier businesses and individuals increase their contributions? \*

	1	2	3	4	5	
No, should stay as is	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Yes, absolutely needs to be modified

## Comments on your vision for taxes:

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How important is it for you to find ways to reduce class size? \*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Critical

Comments:

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How important is it for you to find ways to increase support personnel? \*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Critical

Comments:

Many children come to school with two book bags. One with their books for the day and the other with their issues from home. We need to do whatever we can to increase support personnel and help all of our kids.

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How important is it for you to improve access to services for students with special needs? \*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Critical

Comments:

I have two grandchildren with special needs.

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How important is it for you to improve access to services for students who are English Language Learners? \*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Critical

Comments:

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How important is it for you to increase access to school counselors? \*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Critical

Comments:

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How important is it for you to increase access to certified school nurses? \*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Critical

Comments:

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How important is it for you to increase access to social services in schools?

\*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Critical

Comments:

I was an early supporter of Rebuild and remain a staunch supporter and believe the increase in the number of community schools has been beneficial to our students.

How important is it for you to increase access to funding for CTE programs in schools? \*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Critical

Comments:

Randolph is in the 4th District, along with Dobbins, which is two blocks outside the 4th District. Having toured these two schools, statistically they have higher graduation rates, less climate control issues, decreased truancy rates, and most importantly, a sense of purpose upon graduation, with a clear vision of the future.

How important is it for you to increase the number of African American teachers and educators of color in our schools? \*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Critical

**Comments:**

Some of the best teachers I have had were as diverse as our city.

White, black, female, male— I just want good teachers. I do realize that children should be able to see their reflection in the eyes of the teachers that educate them, and that self imaging is important.

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How important is it for you to protect the rights of workers to collectively bargain and for educators to have a fair contract? \*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Critical

**Comments:**

How important is it for you to expand the Community Schools model in Philadelphia? \*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Critical

**Comments:**

What is your vision for public education in Philadelphia, and how have you worked (either currently in office or your current position) to promote an equity agenda in Philadelphia's schools?

- I have been a consistent vote for adequate resources to educate our children. Secondly, I have visited, on several occasions, every school in my district, public, parochial, private and charter. Most millennial parents will make their decision on where they live based on where their child will be educated.

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What are other legislative issues of top priority for you?

Criminal justice reform, the school to prison pipeline, historic preservation and zoning reform.

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Is there anything else you would like to share with PFT members about your candidacy? What are ways you see yourself working with the PFT in office? Are there other items on our platform that you believe will be significant in your work?

I have an open door policy and a sincere interest in understanding and addressing issues facing the membership from school climate to fair contracting. Curtis Jones, Jr. has been supportive of the PFT's interest.

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This form was created inside of Philadelphia Federation of Teachers.

Google Forms