



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: Cindy Bass

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Office Sought: City Council, 8th 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:

Do you support a City moratorium on charter schools? *

	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

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

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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Yes, absolutely needs to be modified

Comments on your vision for the 10 year tax abatement:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Critical

Comments:

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 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?

My vision for public education in Philadelphia is one that truly supports our students and teachers, by providing the funds required to do so. We cannot expect better results without direct investments in the PSD. My vision for schools also includes a significant investment in families and in particular, those facing key challenges such as poverty, interaction with DHS, other special needs services including mental health treatment, etc., to make families whole. Children cannot concentrate in school when they leave from and return to traumatic and or violent households. I have done significant work to promote an equity agenda including holding town hall style meetings to discuss the transition from SRC to a school board and other related issues to level the playing field for our students under the new governing body (I was the only member of City Council to do so). I have visit every school in my district, meeting and touring with parents and principals to address their concerns and find innovative ways to provide resources, such as sponsors for events and school needs. As a public school graduate (Parkway Program, 1985), I know the rich experiences I had and will always be a strong supporter of our children and those that educate them.

What are other legislative issues of top priority for you?

My top legislative priorities include immediately ending the 10 year tax abatement to add additional funds to the PSD's treasury, and ending the chaotic Community Umbrella Agency (CUA) system used by DHS to care for our most vulnerable children - which could have a dramatic impact on the educational outcome for these youth (I'm the Chair of Health and Human Services for City Council). I also have a significant amount of legislation directed towards blight and quality of life issues, which affects how children can feel about themselves, their environment and their future. Thus, these issues have a huge impact on their outlook - positive or negative.

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 am honored to have been endorsed previously by the PFT, and would be honored to have that support again. I would like to work closer as we address school needs and deficiencies, to find remedies by thinking unconventionally, but that does not mean giving anyone a pass on providing the level of funding needed to support the PFT and their students. We also should work closer to identify failing charter schools and develop legislation to hold them accountable for wasted tax dollars.

This form was created inside of Philadelphia Federation of Teachers.

Google Forms