

1Hood Power 2024 Attorney General Questionnaire

\* Indicates required question



1. Email \*

joe@joekhan.com

2.

Please upload your bio and resume'. Files  
submitted:

Campaign Contact Information

3.

Candidate Name \* Joe Khan

4.

Office candidate is seeking \* Attorney General

5.

Campaign Contact Person \* Jonathan Miller, Campaign Manager

6.

Campaign Email \* jonathan@joekhan.com

Campaign Website [www.joekhan.com](http://www.joekhan.com)

Campaign Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/JoeKhanforPA>

Campaign Twitter <https://twitter.com/JoeKhanEsq>

Campaign Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/joekhan252/>

Campaign Tik Tok

Campaign Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/@JoeKhanforPennsylvania>

Other Social Media

Background Info & Questions

14. Please list all public service positions held over your career including unpaid public service.

County Solicitor, Bucks County Law Department

Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office (Corruption, Tax & Civil Rights Unit)

Assistant District Attorney, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office (Family Violence and Sexual Assault Unit)

Board President, Smith Memorial Playground & Playhouse (which has been providing safe, inclusive play for Philadelphia area-children for more than a century)

Board President, LEAD PA (promotes progressive leadership across Pennsylvania)

Board Chair and Co-founder, Second Generation (supports political candidates from underrepresented immigrant communities across Pennsylvania )

Director, SouthEast Asian Mutual Assistance Association Coalition (provides services to immigrants, refugees and other underserved communities)

Democratic Committeeperson, Philadelphia's 21st Ward

Vestry Member, Trinity Memorial Church

I also served as a "kitchen cabinet" advisor for various insurgent political candidates, including Senator Nikil Saval, Representative Tarik Khan (my brother) and Representative Joe Hohenstein

15. Please describe the general background of your public service during your professional career.

For 23 years, I have navigated the intersection of the law and politics in order to improve people's lives. I have built the kinds of coalitions that the Attorney General must assemble because I lead with the right vision and values as well as an understanding of political and practical realities that can often frustrate change.

Most recently, I served as the County Solicitor in Bucks County, where I was confirmed by a unanimous and bipartisan vote of the Bucks County Commissioners. I am proud of the recognition that I received for my service, including the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Government Lawyer of the Year Award and the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania's Outstanding Solicitor Award. The long list of our reforms and accomplishments includes fair chance and equal pay hiring policies, creating a pardons and expungement unit in the Public Defenders Office, a bill of rights for car buyers, becoming the first county to sue Big Tech for targeting our kids, suing companies who polluted our water, and stopping Donald Trump from throwing out our votes. With each of these initiatives, I not only ensured that our legal and practical strategy was sound, I helped ensure that we had bipartisan support for all of them. By finding ways to earn the support of the Republican elected officials, we ensured that arguably "progressive" changes were enacted without public opposition and implemented in ways that will stand the test of time. I am also proud that Bucks County is the largest county in Pennsylvania to receive a full share of its potential payout from Big Pharma companies who agreed to pay millions for their role in the opioid epidemic. Because I understood not only the legal issues but also the political realities necessary to secure the sign-off of other political leaders, the people in our County will have millions more in resources to help address our crisis of addiction.

I had a similar approach during my 16 years as a prosecutor, building coalitions to address challenges such as gun violence in a holistic and comprehensive way. And my experience in politics has only strengthened my ability to get things done. When I served as the first Board President of LEAD PA, I built meaningful relationships with leaders and stakeholders across Pennsylvania. My work as a Democratic committeeperson in Philadelphia building bridges between veteran members who valued tradition and newer members helped elect my brother Tarik as Pennsylvania's first Pakistani-American legislator (and among the first two South Asians to serve in the PA House). As a County Solicitor, I not only built political relationships with Bucks County, but I forged strong bonds with solicitors and commissioners across Pennsylvania.

16. Please describe your accomplishments in promoting the concept of equity for all people.

Throughout my 24 year legal career, summarized above, I have viewed my mission through a lens of promoting diversity, inclusion and equity. I will highlight during my recent tenure as Bucks County Solicitor three accomplishments that I'm particularly proud of: 1) authoring Bucks County's fair chance ("ban the box") and equal pay hiring policies, 2) creating a pardons and expungement unit in the Public Defender's Office, and 3) creating the first county law department to become Mansfield-certified for DEI best practices.

17. Please describe any particular qualification you possess which was developed either through your career or in your community that would enhance your ability in the office you seek.

Over the course of my legal career, I have developed substantial experience as a criminal and civil prosecutor while also gaining experience defending both civil and criminal actions. Aside from my criminal experience, I have worked closely with the Attorney General's Office on numerous projects including election litigation, consumer protection, and trusts and estates issues. And I have extensive leadership experience, particularly with respect to recruiting, managing and leading attorneys in the public interest.

I have the strongest prosecution experience of any candidate in the field. Over 16 years as a prosecutor - first as a Philadelphia Assistant District Attorney and then as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, I criminally prosecuted a wide variety of offenses, including sexual assault, political corruption, and economic crimes. While I built complex cases by working with excellent police officers, I also prosecuted bad cops and promoted best practices for rooting out corrupt police officers while I served as a federal prosecutor. When I became Bucks County Solicitor, I leveraged my credibility and experience as a former prosecutor to create a Pardon and Expungement Unit, enact a ban the box hiring policy, and increase funding for the Public Defender's Office (which I oversaw administratively).

I also have the strongest experience in civil justice, consumer advocacy and defending democracy. As both a private sector attorney and county solicitor, I brought major claims against corporations that harmed Pennsylvania communities, including the Big Pharma companies who fueled an opioid crisis, the Big Tech companies who fueled a youth mental health crisis, and the PFAS manufacturers who polluted our water with forever chemicals. While overseeing Bucks County's Consumer Protection Director, I helped enact reforms such as Pennsylvania's first used car Lemon Law. And as County Solicitor, I have taken unprecedented steps to protect our fundamental rights when they came under attack, including the right to abortion, the right to a clean environment, and the right to vote.

18. Please describe any particular qualification you possess which was developed either through your career or in your community that would enhance your ability to serve in government.

My lifetime of engaging with immigrant communities will also enhance my return to government service. As the son of a Pakistani immigrant, I have a lifelong commitment to improving linguistic and cultural accessibility for New Americans and others for whom English is not a first language. Most recently, this has been reflected in my service on the Governor's Advisory Commission for Asian Pacific American Affairs (where we promoted language access for Pennsylvania voters from immigrant communities), my work creating Bucks County's New Americans Advisory Commission, and ensuring that Bucks County's consumer protection department was hearing the concerns of Latin/Hispanic consumers. We are all better off when we ensure that all voices in our communities are heard, and we proved that point in Bucks County when we showed up to hear the concerns in Spanish-speaking communities about exploitation by used car

dealers. To address those concerns, I authored Pennsylvania's first-ever used car Lemon Law, which passed with bi-partisan support in Bucks County, ensuring that all consumers here now have a bill of rights when they buy a used car. As Attorney General, I will continue to lead by example on language access, which is important for accessing basic government services as well as voting access and educational resources. And through the power of my office, I will be proactive in ensuring that each County complies with the language minority provisions of the Voting Rights Act as well as any other laws requiring the Commonwealth to expand language access programming.

19. Please list all endorsements you have received \*

I have been endorsed by Impact (the national organization which supports South Asian American candidates), the Bucks County Democratic Committee, and the Philadelphia Metal Trades Council (which represents Philly Shipyard workers). I am honored to have received support from a broad and diverse coalition of elected officials from across the Commonwealth. In the state legislature, I have been endorsed by Senator, Katie Muth, Senator Steve Santarsiero, Senator Nikil Saval, Representative Tim Brennan, Representative Melissa Cerrato, Representative Ismail Smith-Wade-EI, Representative Paul Friel, Representative Matt Gergley, Representative Roni Green, Representative Joe Hohenstein, Representative Mary Isaacson, Representative Tarik Khan, Representative Brian Munroe, Representative Christopher Pielli, Representative Mark Rossi, Representative Peter Schweyer, and Representative Joshua Siegel. Additionally, I have received the endorsement of dozens of local elected officials across Pennsylvania (including every Democrat on the Central Bucks School Board, which we took back from the Moms for Liberty last year), numerous former elected officials, A full list of our public endorsements can be found at <https://www.joekhan.com/endorsements>.

three priorities?

20. If elected, what are your top

Aside from ensuring that the Attorney General's Office promotes public safety in all 67 counties, we will have three immediate priorities on Day One.

First, we will need to protect Pennsylvanians from attacks on our rights, including reproductive rights and the right to vote which will be under assault by a battery of legal challenges by election deniers in January 2025.

Second, we will create Pennsylvania's first-ever Housing Justice Unit to ensure that the Attorney General's Office is doing its part to address the housing crisis we currently face. After the general election, I plan to convene a transition team with stakeholders, including Senator Nikil Saval and his staff, who will advise me on the formation of this unit so that we can hit the ground running on Day One. There's no time to waste. Third, we will reimagine the Environmental Crimes Unit as an Environmental Justice Unit to ensure that we are thinking more broadly about all of the ways we can use the awesome power of our office to protect the health and safety of all Pennsylvanians – even what requires taking other governmental entities to court. Pennsylvania's Environmental Rights Amendment is a superpower for an Attorney General who knows how to use it, and I don't want to waste any time getting to work to save our planet.

Questionnaire

Please answer the questions below to the best of your ability. Please select **no opinion** if you believe your position prevents you from answering a question. Comments are provided **only IF** you would like to expand on your multiple choice answers.

21.

1. Do you feel the government has done its job of making our region

\*

more equitable?

*Mark only one oval.*

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

22.

2. What is within the government's ability to make our region more equitable, and what in your view, is its role?

There are innumerable ways that government can make our Commonwealth more equitable, but a good place for the Attorney General to start is environmental justice. I believe that Pennsylvania's environmental rights amendment gives our Attorney General the power to address a wide range of environmental dangers, which is why I think it's time to think more broadly than prosecuting environmental crimes and to take on the broader issue of environmental justice. Whether that's taking on developers when they are at odds with the community or our own Department of Environmental Protection when it fails to do its job, I will be an Attorney General who is unafraid to use the power of my office to fight for a cleaner and healthier environment. Too often, community voices are neglected when decisions are made that impact the environments in which they live. I will be a champion for these communities as Attorney General.

23.

3. Do you believe the government has a role to play to address our region's longstanding racial, gender and sexual identity inequities? *Mark only one oval.*

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

24.

4. What is that role? What specific policy decisions could help address these inequities?

The most powerful arm of government in our public school system. That's why Moms for Liberty extremists took over our school board in the Central Bucks School District and immediately started attacking DEI initiatives, removing protections for the marginalized, and banning books. And that's exactly why fellow parents and I worked so hard to beat them at the ballot box last year. I am a proud K-12 graduate of the Philadelphia public school system, where I attended Central High School – the most diverse public high school in the country. The lessons that I learned at Central have informed my entire life's work on addressing inequities. And every child deserves to receive the kind of education that I got.

25. Should the Attorney General's office focus on addressing the root causes of the racial and other inequities within the Pennsylvania region?

*Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

26.

6. How do you feel you may do this for Pennsylvania and the people you represent?

There's a lot to do here, but part of where I want to start is using the Attorney General's Office to address issues like development, building safety, and food access, where people of color are disproportionately impacted with outcomes like childhood asthma, lead poisoning and malnourishment. I am proud to have done my part to help build a pre-school in Philadelphia's Strawberry Mansion neighborhood to address the shortage of quality pre-K for our kids, and as AG I want to do more to bridge those gaps. Our government isn't doing enough for our kids. But because the Pennsylvania constitution provides some of the strongest environmental and education rights of any state in the country, I can be an Attorney General who brings transformational change to help those who need a champion in their state government.

27.

7. Do you support efforts to increase the minimum wage? \* *Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

28.

8. Do you support efforts to legalize cannabis in PA? \* *Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

29.

Comments

30.

9. Do you support the expungement of records related to cannabis sale, possession, and or/usage with or without legalization? *Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion



Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

31.

Comments \*

I will leverage my credibility as a career prosecutor to not only advocate for legalizing cannabis but also to support pardons that address the unequal enforcement of marijuana laws.

32.

10. Do you believe that if local governments are unwilling or unable to investigate officer involved shootings or use of force incidents, the Attorney General should intervene?

*Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

33. 11. Do you support a pathway for immunity for those with cannabis related conditions and an inclusion of such individuals in the emerging cannabis industry? Why? Why Not?

I'm a little unclear about what's being asked here, but if you're asking whether people should be barred from the cannabis industry on the basis of having a cannabis-related conviction on their record, the answer is no. As Pennsylvania moves towards a fully legal cannabis industry, it should provide a pathway for persons to participate without being disqualified by a previous cannabis conviction.

34.

12. Should the Commonwealth pass new laws to protect voting rights in light of new challenges against the recently passed ACT 77? *Mark only one oval.*

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

35.

13. What, if any, is the biggest threat to voting rights in Pennsylvania? \*

The biggest threat to voting rights in Pennsylvania is election deniers taking over county governments. As Attorney General, I will be ready to take these people to court to force them to do their jobs.

In 2020, as Bucks County Solicitor I served on the front lines protecting the right to vote when it came under attack – first when “Judicial Watch” tried to purge voters from our rolls, then when Republican House Speaker Mike Turzai fought our efforts to count mail-in ballots, and then again when Donald Trump and his goons tried to steal the election through bogus claims of election fraud. Attorney General Shapiro’s office provided a firewall against all of these attacks, and the Republicans now want that firewall gone. I’m not going to let that happen.

In a sense, it was relatively easy in 2020, when winning election challenges only required us to beat back absurd legal theories concocted by the likes of Rudy Giuliani. Since then, however, the forces opposed to democracy have organized and infiltrated local governments, and to defend democracy again we need to get this right on Day One.

36.

14. Do you support the creation or continuation of universal health programs, such as Medicare for All?

*Mark only one oval.*

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

37.

15. If you answered yes, do you believe this should be permanent or a stepping stone to single payer healthcare?

I'm open-minded about this and would based my opinion based on the data. I'm really focused on outcomes - what matters to me is that everyone has access to quality healthcare. Whatever system provides that is the system we should pursue.

38.

16. Should the government require local law enforcement agencies to ban chokeholds and no knock style raids in order to receive assistance?

*Mark only one oval.*

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

39.

Comments

I agree with local law enforcement agencies that have banned all chokeholds. No-knock style raids are an extreme technique that should be reserved for extreme cases with strict oversight to eliminate the risks we have read about in too many tragic headlines. For example, the Biden administration has issued new guidelines on the use of no-knock raids for federal agents which place strict restrictions on their use, requiring substantial justification and supervisory approval. If local police are abusing this tactic, they should not be subsidized by the state and federal government.

40.

17. Do you believe the affordable, fair housing crisis includes having the government address issues with zoning, rent control, and eviction alternatives?

*Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

41.

18. What do you believe the solutions to the housing and eviction crisis should be?

There is no easy solution, but I am prepared to do my part. After the general election, I plan to convene a transition team with stakeholders, including Senator Saval and his staff, who will advise me on the formation of a Housing Justice Unit so that we can hit the ground running on Day One. Pennsylvania's first-ever Housing Justice Unit would use the Attorney General's Office's available tools (like civil complaints, consumer protection actions, and criminal prosecutions) to address the housing crisis, which takes different forms through Pennsylvania's diverse communities. Urban areas need an Attorney General to stop predatory landlords from exploiting tenants, to prevent unfair evictions, and to abate lead contamination that endangers children. Suburban areas need the AG to take on overseas investors who prevent families from obtaining attainable housing by treating housing as another commodity instead of a human right. And rural areas need an AG who will address the power imbalance between mobile home areas and those who own the land on which their homes are located. These issues are complicated, interrelated, and require a holistic approach to solve. And there's no time to waste.

42.

19. Should Pennsylvania end qualified immunity for government

\*

officials, including law enforcement agents, in civil actions alleging deprivation of rights?

*Mark only one oval.*

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

43.

44.

20. Should Pennsylvania pass legislation requiring the Commonwealth to focus on the ability to release net-zero carbon emissions into the atmosphere by the year 2050?

*Mark only one oval.*

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

45.

Comments

46.

21. Do you believe business entities who consolidate industries are depriving Pennsylvanians of competitive options?

*Mark only one oval.*

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree  
No Opinion  
Somewhat Disagree  
Disagree  
Strongly Disagree

47.

Comments

I plan to be a national leader in using antitrust enforcement to stop anti-competitive behavior – not only when it cheats consumers, who deserve fair prices for quality goods and services, but also when it cheats workers who deserve fair pay and quality working conditions. Nongovernmental actors in Pennsylvania such as SEIU Healthcare are doing groundbreaking work in this arena, and we should have an Attorney General who takes a leadership role in this kind of litigation. While Pennsylvania has lagged behind the rest of the country due to our lack of an antitrust law, there is still untapped opportunity to bring claims under federal law while demonstrating the need for our legislature to write an antitrust law that specifically contemplates workers' rights as a core priority.

Having said that, some consolidation is good for Pennsylvanians; I think we should be able to buy wine at the grocery store. Having an antitrust watchdog in the Attorney General's Office is our best opportunity to protect consumers and workers from the excesses of unbridled corporate greed.

48.

22. Do you believe the Attorney General's office has a responsibility to reduce the prison populations by deferring to community placement options when feasible to do so such as the plea and diversion process?

*Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

49.

Comments

23. Do you believe the law supports investment into business 50. education and sustainability into

underserved and underrepresented communities ?

*Mark only one oval.*

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

51.

Comments

I'm not certain what specific policies or proposals this might be referring to, but as a general matter I certainly agree that the law allows support for underserved and underrepresented communities, through direct investment and education to make businesses more sustainable.

52.

24. Should the ICE detention facilities in the United States be subject to greater oversight?

*Mark only one oval.*

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

53.

Comments

54.

25. Should the Commonwealth work within its power to ensure access to banking for locally regulated cannabis businesses?

*Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

55.

Comments

56.

26. Do you believe there should be any new gun legislation to combat the health epidemic of mass shootings and gun violence? *Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

57.

Comments

Yes, and I have used my office to advocate for the right of cities like Pittsburgh and Philadelphia to enact their own laws to address gun violence.



58.

27. Do you support a path to citizenship for “dreamers”? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

59.

Comments

60.

28. Do you understand how predatory lending impacts communities whether it is student loans or credit card companies?

*Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

61.  
Comments

62.  
29. Do you understand the differences between human trafficking, sex work, and the adult entertainment industry?

*Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

63.  
Comments \*

64.  
30. Do you promote diversion of people with mental illness from the criminal justice system, and to increase access to community mental health services?

*Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

65.

Comments

Thousands of families, including my own, struggle with mental illness, and increasing access to community mental health services is a priority for me. That's why I will use our consumer protection laws to take on insurance companies that make it more difficult to receive mental health care than physical health care. But we should never go down the slippery slope of denying the agency and humanity of Pennsylvanians who live with mental illness, and must distinguish between those cases which are appropriate for diversion and those which are not.

66.

31. Do you believe the Commonwealth has a role to play in reducing the maternal and infant mortality rates for the Black community in Pennsylvania?

*Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

67.

Comments

68.

32. According to the FBI, White Supremacy is on the offensive both in government and in our socio-political rhetoric. What can be done to protect communities of color, LGBTQ folk, Women, Immigrants and other at risk communities from this very real threat?

With white supremacists actively trying to infiltrate police departments across Pennsylvania, we need a strong AG who will root these people out of police departments. I have an unmatched record of working well with good police officers while holding bad cops accountable. I've prosecuted and proactively investigated police officers and will use the power of the Attorney General's Office to root out police corruption, especially where local DAs have failed to hold them accountable.

Throughout my career prosecuting hate crimes, sexual assault, and domestic violence, I fought for LGBTQ+ people who were targeted because of who they were. As Attorney General, I will continue to be a champion for these communities not only in the criminal justice system but in all areas where the Attorney General can seek justice. Rejecting anti-trans policies in other states and challenging anti-trans discrimination within our Commonwealth is the bare minimum that we can do here in Pennsylvania. And I would welcome any declaration by our governor or legislature that would support my resistance to subpoenas or extradition requests from states that are targeting trans people who come to Pennsylvania.

As a career prosecutor, I fought hard to balance the scales of justice as an advocate for vulnerable communities such as immigrants who were targeted for hate crimes, victims of human trafficking, or fearful of interactions with law enforcement - often because of their fear of deportation. As a County Solicitor and advocate for the AAPI community, I stood against the xenophobic policies of the Trump administration while also enacting a positive agenda of eliminating barriers to justice created by language inaccessibility and cultural insensitivity. As Attorney General, I will continue to be an ally of immigrant communities and protect them from the threats they are uniquely vulnerable to - including white supremacy.

69.

33. How do you define community safety? How can your position work to keep the community safe?

I believe that the Attorney General needs to keep our communities safe from crime, corruption and attacks on our rights.

While public safety is an urgent threat that requires strong and bold leadership, protecting us from crime does not mean solving every problem with handcuffs. It means bring smart and value-based strategies that address immediate risks to our safety while investing in long-term strategies that address root causes

of crime. For example as a federal prosecutor, I did much more than use the power of arrest and prosecution as part of our strategy for reducing gun violence in Southwest Philadelphia. We were strategic in our focus – in most cases, interrupting escalating patterns of retaliatory violence – and provided pathways to redemption which helped us break up gun trafficking rings and close unsolved homicides. We invested time and resources to work with community stakeholders in supporting returning citizens with job opportunities, mentorship and positive incentives that empowered them to become productive members of society. And when I became Bucks County Solicitor, I leveraged my credibility as a prosecutor to create a Pardons & Expungements Unit in our Public Defenders’ Office to further reduce barriers for those seeking employment and a fair shot at a second chance. All of this is part of a broader vision of safety that recognizes that we are safer when we invest in each others’ success.

As detailed throughout this questionnaire, communities also need to be kept safe from corruption – not only corruption by government officials like the politicians and police officers I have prosecuted but also corruption corporate like the Big Pharma and Big Tech corporations I have taken on. And most immediately, the Attorney General must keep us safe from attacks on our rights, including reproductive, voting, and environmental rights. As Bucks County Solicitor, I went to the courts to protect these rights, and would continue this mission as Attorney General.

70.

34. How do you plan to stay updated with changes in auditing and accounting practices, regulations and industry trends?

The key to staying updated on issues like this is having a top-notch staff managing my office, and I have a demonstrated ability to create strong, dynamic and diverse teams. Most recently, the law department that we built in Bucks County was not only exceptional for the outcomes we delivered, it was highly diverse and inclusive, becoming a model for the entire country when it received Mansfield certification. Excellence and diversity go hand in hand.

71.

35. Do you support expansive ballot access to include drop boxes, ballots translated into multiple languages, and extended voting opportunities on the weekends?

*Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

72.

Comments

73.

36. Do you believe the process to reinstate the right to vote for returning citizens (those returning from government detainment) should be streamlined and automated to inform participant upon release?

*Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

74.

Comments

75.

37. What can you do to improve the quality of life of the average Black 22 year old in your district?

Of all the dangers that I plan to protect Pennsylvanians from, the dangers that seem most pronounced for the quality of life for 22 year old Black Pennsylvanians are the threats to their right to vote, their right to fair policing, and their right to a clean environment. MAGA Republicans want to throw out their votes, white supremacists want to target them by infiltrating police departments, and corporations want to pursue profit without regard to their health and well being. As described above, I am running for Attorney General to continue my fight for justice in all of these areas.

76.

38. Why should voters trust you to operate differently? How will you ensure transparency if elected?

Nearly every major news article about the Attorney General's race talks about the office being a springboard to higher office. But I have no interest in becoming Governor, Senator or any other "higher office" – this is the job that I want. I have spent 24 years figuring out how to use my skills and experience to help others, because that's how I was raised. I'm the person who

can not only win this office but use it in transformational ways to help others. My coalition of endorsements is diverse and unique, comprised of officials who don't always agree on issues or endorsements but have rallied behind me as the person they trust to do the right thing. That's not a coincidence— my entire life has been about bringing people together.

I think the most pressing transparency issue we face in our justice system right now is the misuse of the grand jury process to paper over police misconduct. As Attorney General, I plan to lead a cultural change in how police misconduct is investigated and reviewed and how prosecutors maintain a healthy relationship with police departments while ensuring that there is accountability for police misconduct.

77.

39. Do you believe art is a vital resource for education, tourism,

violence intervention, and cultural competency ?

*Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

78.

Comments

79.

40. Do you believe in the fundamental right to free speech even when offensive includes students and cultural organizations?

*Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

\*

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

80.

Comments

I strongly believe in free speech, but as a former hate crimes prosecutor I know that words can cross the line into harassment, often on the basis of a person's identity. I have the judgment and experience to tell the difference between the two and I have the values to assure all Pennsylvanians that they will be protected from hate crimes.

81.

41. How do you define governmental transparency?

Transparency in the Attorney General's Office requires a balance between the public's right to know how their taxpayer dollars are being spent with the need to conduct investigations in secret for the sake of the integrity of the case as well as the privacy rights of individuals who may be the subjects or targets of criminal or civil investigations. Having the public's trust is the only way to manage this balance effectively. Part of earning that trust requires promoting best practices like open file discovery, which was my policy throughout my career as a prosecutor. And, as stated elsewhere in this questionnaire, I think it's essential to put an end to the abuse of the grand jury process to cover up police misconduct.

82. 42. Comments

83 . 43. What does reproductive justice mean to you?

As Attorney General, reproductive justice will mean protecting the reproductive rights of Pennsylvanians. My legal career was inspired by my mother, an ER nurse who told me haunting stories of women she cared for, including those who died because they lacked access to safe abortion care. I believe the Pennsylvania constitution protects reproductive rights – which extend to those who are seeking abortions while visiting our Commonwealth – and it will be my sworn duty as Attorney General to defend and enforce those rights. I didn't flinch when I was targeted for being the only county solicitor in Pennsylvania to defend access to the abortion bill. And I'll fight outside "tracking" efforts as well as any new legislative restrictions on our constitutional rights.

84.

44. The medical result of pregnancy decision should not result in a criminal arrest or prosecution of the individual or their doctor. *Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion



Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

85.

Comments

86.

45. Do you support reparations for the descendants of those who were enslaved or denied governmental services based upon their racial classification?

*Mark only one oval.*

**Strongly Agree**

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

87.

Comments

I'm not clear on what the specifics would look like, but America still needs to account for its legacy of slavery and Jim Crow.

88.

46. Do you support an end to lifetime parole in Pennsylvania? \* *Mark only one oval.*

Strongly Agree

Agree

**Somewhat Agree**

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

89.

Comments

There are many instances where people have received life sentences that were not commensurate with their role in the crime and also instances where lifetime parole (or even lengthy parole) is unnecessary and unfair.

90.

46. Do you support a restoration of gun rights to those who have

completed their sentence of incarceration and who have not committed a violent act within a minimum 10 year time period following their release?

\*

*Mark only one oval.*

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

91.

Comments

We are facing a gun violence epidemic right now, and I don't think that expanding access to guns is part of the solution.

92.

47. Do you support protections from discrimination that would allow members of the LGBTQIA+ community protection from eviction, employment opportunities, and medical discrimination?

*Mark only one oval.*

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

93.

Comments

The LGBTQIA+ community deserves protection from discrimination because they are perpetually the targets of hate. I am a veteran hate crimes prosecutor who has advocated for the LGBTQIA+ community throughout my career. The most recent example of my advocacy hit close to home, when my friends, neighbors and fellow parents ousted the "Moms for Liberty" extremists who had taken over our kids' schools in the Central Bucks School District. After getting elected, these individuals unleashed an extreme and regressive agenda which included banning books and policies targeting and marginalizing trans students. On a grassroots level, I was part of a community of politically active parents in the Central Bucks School District. Together, we raised resources and supported candidates running to take back our schools from right-wing extremists. We were successful in ousting these officials and the slate which we helped elect immediately announced the rollback of the policies that unfairly and inappropriately targeted LGBTQIA+ students and literature.

During this fight, extremists targeted the Rainbow Room at the Salem Church in my neighborhood in an effort to intimidate kids who deserve a space safe. I joined dozens of my neighbors in a counter-protest to show solidarity with our LGBTQIA+ youth and their families. I immediately came under attack by Moms for Liberty and their extremist allies, who slandered me with hateful rhetoric. Neither I nor my allies flinched. To the contrary, I received strong encouragement from LGBTQIA+ elected leaders such as Rep. Izzy Smith-Wade-El, who stated "Joe will protect the rights of marginalized communities. I'm in Joe's corner because he's the AG we all need."

94.

48. Pennsylvania has one of the largest aging populations in the

\*

country. Do you believe our government can do more to improve the conditions of the facilities and the overall quality of life for our seniors ?

*Mark only one oval.*

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

95.

Comments

96.

49. How do you define disability justice and how have you worked in the past to uphold its principles?

Disability justice starts with enforcing anti-discrimination laws, but it also requires proactive inclusion of this community. For myself, my vision for a diverse office has always included welcoming and supporting workers with disabilities. Beyond my own workforce, I would bring new energy to the Attorney General's commitment to ensuring enforcement and compliance with federal and state civil rights laws. My credibility as a prosecutor and civil litigator will deter bad actors from discriminating against people with disabilities without fear of the consequences.

After the general election, my brother (Rep. Tarik Khan, who is a lifelong advocate for disability rights) will be one of the stakeholders who will help me convene a Disability Rights Advisory Council to help inform the work of my office, to ensure that people with disabilities have a direct voice and to help coordinate enforcement efforts amongst various government agencies and departments. The Council will advise my office on emerging issues and help prioritize cases for my review. The Council would also aid in identifying loopholes or weak points in existing law. As Attorney General, I would work to strengthen protections either through influencing the legislative process or proactively through the courts.

For example, based on my expansive view of Pennsylvania's constitutional right to an education, I will use the authority of my office to protect students with intellectual disabilities. Groups like the Education Law Center and the Public Interest Law Center have done heroic work in enforcing our students' educational rights. It is time for an Attorney General to be a leader in these fights.

97.

50. How have you worked in the past to engage youth, particularly those who have been considered at risk?

Engaging and protecting at-risk youth has always been a priority of mine. When I was in college I tutored youth in the city of Chester, and when I was in law school I tutored students in the Washington Park section of Chicago. After law school, I prosecuted child abuse cases in the District Attorney's Office. Then, at the U.S. Attorney's Office, we reduced gun violence by identifying young people who were at high risk of shooting others or being shot and intervening to keep everyone safe. As Bucks County Solicitor, I reformed legal

services for our Children & Youth Social Services Agency and on their behalf sued TikTok, Snapchat, and other social media giants for targeting our kids. And I served as the board president of Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse, which provides safe and inclusive play space for Philadelphia youth, and helped them build and open a preschool.

98.

51. Artists, cultural spaces, and artist practitioners provide a vital

\*

partnership and resources to government agencies.

*Mark only one oval.*

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

99.

Comments

Thank You

Thank you so much for applying. We appreciate your commitment to public service and working to ensure the people of the Commonwealth are well represented.