



**Vote For Homes • c/o Project HOME**  
1515 Fairmount Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19130  
Phone: 215-232-7272 • Fax: 215-232-7277  
www.voteforhomes.org

### About Us:

The Vote For Homes coalition is a nonpartisan advocacy effort focused on the issues of affordable housing, living-wage jobs, and quality services in Philadelphia. Vote For Homes is building on the success of 16 years of election organizing. Since 1999, our 60 member groups have registered more than 16,000 voters, convened four candidates' forums, hosted more than 100 voter education events, and mobilized thousands to vote. Vote For Homes is guided by the principle that everyone deserves a place to call home, and seeks to accomplish the following goals:

- Raise issues of affordable housing, living-wage jobs, and quality services in local and statewide elections
- Empower people who are living on low-incomes, including those who are homeless, living with disabilities, or ex-offenders, to become involved in the electoral process
- Protect and ensure the voting rights of all citizens, particularly those who are frequently disenfranchised

### Vote For Homes Members:

AchieveAbility • ActionAIDS • ACTION United • Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Omicron Lambda Chapter • Arch Street United Methodist Church • Asociación de Puertorriqueños en Marcha • Back on My Feet • Bethesda Project • Broad Street Ministry • CATCH • Calcutta House • Catholic Social Services • Catholic Social Services St. John's Hospice • Church of the Advocate • Civic House, University of Pennsylvania • Coalition Ingenua • Depaul USA • Dignity Housing • Disabled in Action • Drueding Center Project Rainbow • Episcopal Community Services • Ex-Offenders Association of PA • Family Shelter Support Team • Friends Rehabilitation Program, Inc. • Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia • HELP Philadelphia • Homeless Advocacy Project • Horizon House • Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania • Impact Services Corporation • Interfaith Advocates • League of Women Voters of Philadelphia • Liberty Resources, Inc. • LIFT Philadelphia • Lutheran Settlement House • Mental Health Association of Southeastern PA • Mercy Hospice • Mercy Vocational High School • My Place Germantown • New Kensington CDC • PathWaysPA • Pathways to Housing PA • Pennsylvania Prison Society • People's Emergency Center • PHMC Nurse Family Partnership • Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations • Philadelphia Beauty Showcase National Historic Museum • Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development (PHENND) • Philadelphia Senior Center • Prevention Point Philadelphia • PRO-ACT (Pennsylvania Recovery Organization Achieving Community Together) • Project HOME • Public Health Management Corporation • Ready, Willing & Able • Resources for Human Development • SELF Inc. • SHARE • Tenant Union Representative Network • The Salvation Army • The Time is Now to Make a Change • Travelers Aid Society Philadelphia • Unity Fellowship of Christ Church Philadelphia • United Communities Southeast Philadelphia • United Way Southeastern Pennsylvania • The Welcome Church • Women Against Abuse • Women of Hope-Lombard • Women of Hope-Vine • Women's Community Revitalization Project • Women's Law Project - WomenVote PA • WOMEN'S WAY • X-Offenders for Community Empowerment • Young Involved Philadelphia. List current as of 4/16/2015. JOIN US! [www.voteforhomes.org](http://www.voteforhomes.org) or email [jenninemiller@projecthome.org](mailto:jenninemiller@projecthome.org)

*If you see someone who is homeless and needs assistance, call the Philadelphia Homeless Outreach Hotline at 215-232-1984*

*To get involved in advocacy efforts to end homelessness in Philadelphia, contact Jennine Miller, Project HOME, at 215-232-7272, ext. 3042, or [jenninemiller@projecthome.org](mailto:jenninemiller@projecthome.org)*



# Philadelphia Mayoral Primary Election: Voter Guide 2015

### On the May 19, 2015 Ballot

- Mayor (Candidates' Plans to End Homelessness Inside!)
- City Council
- City Commissioner
- Register of Wills
- Sheriff
- Philadelphia Municipal Court
- Pennsylvania Supreme Court
- Pennsylvania Superior Court
- Commonwealth Court
- Court of Common Pleas

**Make Your Voice**

**Heard: Vote!**

**Tuesday, May 19, 2015  
from 7 am - 8 pm**



## Get to Know the Candidates!

### ***As Mayor, what is your plan to end and prevent homelessness in Philadelphia?***

Philadelphia's mayoral candidates were asked to provide a photograph, a link to their website, and a 150-word response to the question above. Their responses on the following pages have not been edited except for length and are presented alphabetically. Additional information can be found at [www.voteforhomes.org](http://www.voteforhomes.org).



#### **Lynne Abraham (Democrat)**

[www.lynneabraham.com](http://www.lynneabraham.com)

Lynne would address homelessness by providing increased housing and shelter. For example, she would increase operating budgets for the Office of Supportive Housing and the Office of Housing and Community Development. She would also provide tax incentives for the new construction and maintenance of new affordable housing opportunities in our City.

A root cause for homelessness is poverty. To reduce poverty, Lynne would create jobs in our City by attracting employers to our City. Additionally, poverty can be reduced by supporting development of a well-educated workforce. Lynne would lead an innovative and aggressive "back-to-work program" to focus on education, training and business development for the hard-hit segments of our population. As part of this, Lynne would

also work to integrate the formerly incarcerated into our workforce.

Finally, Lynne would expand mental health and drug treatment services, helping prevent downward cycles, including homelessness, which can result from lack of available treatment ...\*



#### **Melissa Murray Bailey (Republican)**

[www.mmb2015.com](http://www.mmb2015.com)

Housing isn't a luxury, it's a necessity. Unfortunately, City Hall doesn't have the resources to provide a home for everyone who needs one – even if we spent every budget dollar on housing. However, as Mayor, I will provide the leadership and vision that every Philadelphian must have a roof over their head and a bed to sleep on. I will bring together the non-profit community under this common goal and form public-private partnerships to make real progress in this area. I will report on the progress in each State of the City address so that I am personally accountable. Prevention is the first step. I will lead efforts to attract more entry level jobs into the city in areas like the service industry, agriculture and manufacturing. High schools need to be focused on transitioning students to the workforce and measured on how many of their students have a job or ...\*



#### **Nelson Diaz (Democrat)**

[www.nelsondiazformayor.com](http://www.nelsondiazformayor.com)

Our goal as a City has to be to tackle the root causes of homelessness and provide our citizens with the tools they need to get off the streets permanently. Much of our homeless population suffers from health or mental health issues, or problems with addiction or drug abuse, that often go untreated. It's more humane and more cost-effective to treat them and get them housing rather than letting them deteriorate without treatment on the streets.

Many other chronically homeless people lack education or access to employment. Many returning citizens who have completed a jail sentence come back to our City with nowhere to stay and no way to get a job so they can rent an apartment of their own. We need to make sure our jails are rehabilitating inmates, and working aggressively to prevent recidivism. I'd be proactive across city government to tackle these root causes of homelessness.

\* Response exceeded 150 words.

[www.kenney2015.com](http://www.kenney2015.com)

#### **James F. Kenney (Democrat)**

Homelessness is a byproduct of larger issues affecting Philadelphia, including poverty, lack of job opportunities, and a poor-performing education system. I will address these issues through a multifaceted approach. First, I will provide access to quality pre-K to every three and four year old in Philadelphia, allowing a generation of young people to get the educational basis they need. Secondly, I will develop community schools that provide social services to kids and families who need extra assistance. Third, I will double the Housing Trust Fund to allow for the building and renovating of more affordable housing units across the City. This will include units for transitional housing for families on the verge of homelessness. Finally, I will invest in neighborhood commercial corridors to grow the local economy and create more jobs that pay a living wage. Through this holistic approach, we can alleviate poverty in Philadelphia during my first time.



[www.dougoliver2015.com](http://www.dougoliver2015.com)

#### **Doug Oliver (Democrat)**

Our first defense against homelessness is addressing the multi-faceted needs of those already afflicted by this epidemic. The recently overhauled Mayor's Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity has made great strides in connecting homeless Philadelphians with social services, but there is still ample room for growth, particularly around access to mental health services.

But we also must see to it that our citizens are never faced with the prospects of homelessness. This requires an investment in affordable housing and a commitment to growing sustainable living wages—both of which are attainable through smart economic development. Additionally, we must invest in services for populations that are particularly afflicted by the issue, including the re-entry community and our military veterans. As Mayor, I'll be an independent voice that will put our communities before special interests, and make Philadelphia a city where everyone is at home.



No response was received from T. Milton Street Sr. (Democrat) by the submission deadline.

[www.anthonyhwilliams.com](http://www.anthonyhwilliams.com)

#### **Anthony H. Williams (Democrat)**

Ending homelessness will require an aggressive focus on prevention, and integration of city services. As Mayor, I will use data to target the areas in which homeless families originate, and increase support for the Housing Trust Fund to provide foreclosure prevention and rental assistance services for low-income families in those areas. I will pledge to end homelessness - starting with veterans – by strengthening joint partnerships with federal, state, and regional governments like the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness and implementing national best practices. I will work to increase affordable housing units in Philadelphia, and above all, focus on neighborhood-based economic growth that provides jobs for residents in communities hardest hit by poverty.



### **Voting In Pennsylvania**

- Registration Deadline: **Monday, April 20 2015**
- Registered voters, must be at least 18 years of age on or before the day of the Primary Election
- You can vote if you are registered and have been released from jail or prison, even if convicted of a felony or on probation or parole
- If registered, you can vote while in jail, awaiting trial, or serving time for a misdemeanor
- Registered **first time** voters only need one of the following forms of ID for their first time voting at a new polling site: Valid PA driver's/ non-driver's license, voter ID card, passport, federal government ID card, student ID, firearm permit, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or government check.
- To find your polling place, visit [www.pavoterservices.state.pa.us](http://www.pavoterservices.state.pa.us) or call 215-686-1591.
- To find out where you vote or report any problems voting: 1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)

