Q: Why are you running? What do you hope to accomplish if elected?
A: I am running for mayor because Philadelphia is in crisis. We have a community safety crisis, a poverty and jobs crisis, an education crisis and a crisis of affordable housing. But most importantly, we have a crisis of leadership in the mayor's office.

I believe I have a unique set of skills which I developed during my career as a business leader, community leader and elected official. In fact, I am the only candidate for mayor who has both significant experience in the private sector and served in government office. I am also the only candidate who successfully built a business from the ground up, creating hundreds of good jobs. As a member of City Council, I focused on helping working families keep more of their salaries and support neighborhood business. I donated my entire salary as a member of City Council to our schools and education programs and refused perks and a pension. Throughout my career, I have focused on getting results.

I believe the experience I gained and lessons I learned will help me prioritize Philadelphia's greatest needs, build a team capable and prepared to carry out actionable plans, work with stakeholders and members of Council, and hold the government accountable for results.

Of course, it's not just that I have a unique set of skills and experience, I have a unique vision as well.

I believe the best way, if not the only way, to address Philadelphia’s significant challenges is by focusing on what is most important, not making promises and commitments that no candidate could ever keep. My priorities
will be taking violent criminals off our streets and rebuilding a broken community safety infrastructure to restore trust between our police and the community, getting more people working at better paying jobs, increasing access to affordable and safe housing, and making sure every child can learn. And of course, fixing our roads, picking up the garbage and replacing streetlights.

Q: Why is getting the endorsement of Make the Road Action important to you?
A: As I did in my winning campaigns for City Council, I will be campaigning in every neighborhood and for every vote. I believe my path to victory runs through identifying and securing the support of voters in every demographic who believe as I do that Philadelphia is in a crisis and we need new, committed leadership to make necessary change. I believe I have a chance of winning the support of everyone in the city who agrees that Philadelphia is headed on the wrong track and can – and must – make immediate and fundamental changes to Philadelphia’s priorities and operations to improve the city for future generations.

With a large field – at this moment, there are at least ten (10) candidates – it is likely that some candidates will base their campaigns on narrow appeals to specific constituency groups, hoping to maximize support among that group. I do not believe only communicating with specific audiences will create a broad base of support for the next mayor to make the difficult decisions the next mayor will have to make.

That is why I would like to win Make the Road Action’s support – because I will campaign for and with every community, just as I will govern in partnership with every community.

Q: How do you plan on using our endorsement? Will you publicize our endorsement, for example?
A: Yes, if I win the support of Make the Road Action PA I hope to partner with it to communicate directly with voters, engage them in this year’s election and bring them out to the polls. I will proudly tout the support of Make the Road Action PA if I win it.
Q: What thoughts do you have about how to best increase civic and political engagement and empowerment for low-income people and people of color?

A: I am proud to be the only candidate for mayor who has released a detailed plan to reform our government and elections to make them more accessible and inclusive. I hope you are able to review my plan, which can be found on my website, www.votedomb.com.

In my plan, I wrote, “[E]lections must also be inclusive, accurate and transparent. Fair elections are critical because the voice of the people is the foundation of democracy. Election systems too often bend toward political favorites and incumbents, setting too high a bar for first time candidates to win office. Additionally, underrepresented or disadvantaged communities face barriers to meaningful participation. That must change.”

To make the needed change, I believe the city needs to:
- Impose term limits for all city elected offices, opening up opportunities for political outsiders and non-represented communities.
- Create an independent redistricting commission to ensure that those in power are not able to draw districts to protect their own position and prevent others from having opportunity.
- Rotate order of candidates on ballot, so lucky doesn't determine victory.
- Expand mandatory training for candidates and committees so that every candidate can know what is required to be successful and compliant.

Q: Do you commit to support efforts that 1) expand voting rights 2) require language translation service at all polling places and 3) expand systemic efforts to increase voter registration?

A: Yes. I am proud to be the only candidate for mayor who has released a detailed plan to reform our government and elections to make them more accessible and inclusive. I hope you are able to review my plan, which can be found on my website, www.votedomb.com.

In my plan, I stated that “As a first and required step, we must ensure that Philadelphia has the resources necessary to run secure, inclusive and accurate elections. As mayor, Allan will support a doubling of funding for Philadelphia’s election system, with monies dedicated to election security measures, civic education, enhancing voter turnout and securing election day poll workers.”
To answer specifically, yes, I will support efforts to expand voting rights, require language translation service at all polling places and expand systemic efforts to increase voter registration.

Q: **What are you going to do to protect the immigrant community, including those without documentation?**

A: Embedded in this question are two issues: the physical safety of immigrants, who too often are targeted for violence and harassment, and how best to protect the immigrant community from threats to their ability to remain in Philadelphia and build a life for them and their loved ones.

In my community safety paper (which you can read on my website at [www.votedomb.com](http://www.votedomb.com)), I committed to expanding programs to protect against violence based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, documentation and gender identity. As mayor, I will increase funding for education, prevention and to identify, capture and prosecute anyone who commits a hate crime. I will also move quickly to increase funding for programs to increase education efforts so that every city employee treats every citizen with respect and for grants to organizations that work with. I will work with community organizations that face threats of hate crimes and ensure that Philadelphia police provide appropriate protections for synagogues, mosques, LGBTQ+ venues and other places that may be targeted by extremists.

The second issue in your question is about how to ensure that immigrants, whether undocumented or not, are protected and able to build strong, full lives. We should be a city that welcomes people and helps them build strong futures. We are a nation of immigrants and we are stronger because of that. I think, as much as we are able, we need to bring people who are without a legal basis into our system. It is the best way to ensure that people aren't exploited, that workers are paying their taxes for the services they receive, and that anyone who employs someone who isn't here through a legal process isn't skimping public and worker safety laws. As mayor, I will build protections for people and their pathways.
Q: The current state of hyper-partisan rhetoric on the border and on interior immigration enforcement undermines community safety. CBP and ICE are also notoriously non-transparent agencies with virtually no public accountability. If elected, do you commit to supporting efforts (and voting, if/when it comes up in a vote) to: 1) Decline to cooperate with ICE efforts to work with local law enforcement 2) Bar ICE agents from entering or patrolling local public and government buildings and 3) commit to providing sanctuary for ICE targets in public and government buildings?

A: Although the mayor has no control over the operations of CBP or ICE, I support legal immigration and I do not think local law enforcement, or city officials, should be engaged in helping identify people who are here without documentation and are not suspected of committing a crime.

I think, as much as we are able, we need to bring people who are without a legal basis into our system. It is the best way to ensure that people aren't exploited, that workers are paying their taxes for the services they receive, and that anyone who employs someone who isn't here through a legal process, isn't skimping public and worker safety laws.

But to be clear: there is a difference between someone who is without documentation and wants to integrate into our community and what happens to someone who has broken our laws after they arrived here. I believe that someone who has broken our laws and isn't here with a legal basis, shouldn't be allowed to stay when they are done serving their sentence or if they are convicted of a felony. They lost that right. If you want to come here, you have to obey our laws and we will work with relevant authorities as needed.

We should be a city that welcomes people and helps and protects those in need. We are a nation of immigrants and we are stronger because that -- just as we are a nation of laws.

Q: Undocumented people are locked out of many areas of public life simply for trying to make a better life for their families. Do you commit to support and vote for efforts to 1) create a municipal ID that is available for all people 2) Drivers Licenses for all 3) provide public resources and services to all people, regardless of immigration status?
1) Yes. I support legal immigration and believe we need to bring people who are without a legal basis into our system. It is the best way to ensure that people aren't exploited, that workers are paying their taxes for the services they receive, and that anyone who employs someone who isn't here through a legal process, isn't skimping public and worker safety laws.

2) The mayor has no control over the issuance or criteria for a license.

3) No. I support legal immigration and believe we need to bring people who are without a legal basis into our system. It is the best way to ensure that people aren't exploited, that workers are paying their taxes for the services they receive, and that anyone who employs someone who isn't here through a legal process, isn't skimping public and worker safety laws.

Q: Will you fight to make your city/county a Sanctuary city/county?
A: No. I support legal immigration and I do not think local law enforcement, or city officials, should be engaged in any way in helping identify people who are here without documentation.

I think, as much as we are able, we need to bring people who are without a legal basis into our system. It is the best way to ensure that people aren't exploited, that workers are paying their taxes for the services they receive, and that anyone who employs someone who isn't here through a legal process, isn't skimping public and worker safety laws.

We should be a city that welcomes people and helps and protects those in need. We are a nation of immigrants and we are stronger because that -- just as we are a nation of laws.

Q: How will you combat gun violence with community centered solutions that aim toward restorative justice?
A: I am proud to have released the most comprehensive community safety plan in this year's mayor's race (a copy of which can be found on my website at www.votedomb.com). In my plan, I announced that in my first 100 days, I will take action on 10 key items, including declaring a crime emergency, cracking down on illegal guns, and beginning to rebuild our broken public safety infrastructure. I believe that it is a false choice between “justice” and “safety” and that only by rebuilding trust and a partnership between the police and the public, facilitated by community groups, can we make every community safer.
Q: What is your plan to improve the school district?
A: I will put education at the center of how the city makes decisions because a quality education system is vital to a thriving Philadelphia. For the city to really have a strong future, we must make fundamental change to a school system that doesn’t work for too many children.

First, we must address the ongoing violence and crime in our city and especially around schools. In my community safety plan, I committed to installing cameras at every high school and increase coordination with school leaders in my first 100 days. Recent shootings near city high schools drive home the point that too often, violence grows out of conflict among teenagers. While it is critical that perpetrators must be quickly identified, caught and brought to justice, it is more important to stop violence before it occurs. As mayor, I will move quickly to install cameras around every city high school to quickly identify anyone who commits violence at a school during or after regular school hours.

I will also work with police and school principals to begin more regular communication to identify and address possible problems before they escalate into violence. I will seek additional funding for de-escalation professionals to be available to work with students and school leaders when a potential conflict is identified. Additionally, I will deploy more policy officers to high volume transit routes during before-and-after school hours and improve coordination with SEPTA to enhance student safety.

Secondly, we need to improve funding. I have proudly voted for increasing investments in our schools. I led the charge to both collect delinquent taxes and to correct our assessment system to ensure that schools were getting the funding they needed and were owed.

But we all know money alone cannot fix the schools. We must focus on children’s lives outside of school.

We need to create safer communities. Too many children are coming to schools every day in trauma. They live in communities with violence. They face both food and housing insecurity. Children can’t learn and teachers can’t teach when dealing with trauma each day.
In addition to focusing on how students live outside of schools, I want to rethink education to include financial literacy; technology training; entrepreneurship courses; and provide opportunities for high school students to work for credit so they can learn the skills -- including soft skills -- they'll need to be successful. I know from experience that working as I did in high school – I was a janitor after wrestling practice every day at a rate of $1.60 an hour – helped me to become a better student and employee.

Lastly, we need to improve our school infrastructure. It was a mistake the City did not refinance as much of its debt as possible while rates were low. But until low rates return, I would use the federal funds we have received to make rebuilding our schools a priority – or, at a minimum, have property heating and air conditioning. It's unacceptable we have to close schools because it's too hot and that all schools won't have HVAC until 2027.

Q: How do you commit to invest in mental health resources and awareness for our youth?
A: Yes. As a first step, I would increase programs in schools to help children deal with the impact of the pandemic and, most specifically, trauma they may experience outside of schools and provide them support to build the coping skills needed to address and protect their mental health.

And although not all mental health issues lead to violence, we must take concrete steps to ensure it does not. As detailed in my community safety paper, I would increase funding for students in trauma and work with police and school principals to begin more regular communication to identify and address possible problems before they escalate into violence. He will seek additional funding for de-escalation professionals to be available to work with students and school leaders when a potential conflict is identified.

Q: Young people of color are disproportionately and unnecessarily suspended in schools, and their education is underfunded, which reinforces the school-to-prison pipeline. If elected, would you commit to 1) supporting efforts to reduce school suspensions, invest more in restorative justice initiatives, and end the school-to-prison pipeline 2) commit to increasing funding for schools that have been historically under-resourced?
A: 1) Yes.
2) Yes.
Q: Will you address homeless LGBTQ youth and LGBTQ mental health and empower the community to do so? If so, how?
A: Yes. I am committed to improving the city's efforts to help the unhoused, recognizing that certain communities face different challenges and have different needs. As mayor, I will provide specific funding for programs that address the needs of unhoused members of the LGBTQ+ community and, in schools, mental health resources.

Q: Given the current ordinance that protects LGBT people from eviction, termination, and discrimination, how will you raise awareness within the LGBT community and how do you plan enforcing it with regard to landlords, employers and overall community members?
A: As someone whose family was evicted when I was a child, I know how important it is to ensure that people can remain housed in safe, affordable units. As a longtime real estate agent, I also know how important protections for specific groups are – broad blanket protections are not enough. While this question is largely about leadership and communication – I will ensure that my administration makes it clear that anyone violating a person's rights will be identified and punished – it is more specifically about the management of government. The city's Department of Licenses and Inspections has historically been understaffed and done a poor job at tracking which units are rentals and ensuring compliance with all laws and regulations. As mayor, I will be committed to fully staffing L&I in order to ensure that every landlord is following the rules and every tenant is aware of their rights.

Q: We believe that all people, regardless of gender identity or citizenship status, should be treated equally, without discrimination. If elected, will you 1) make the legal name and gender change process for transgender people easier and as confidential as possible 2) require gender neutral restrooms in public and private accommodations 3) add documentation status to antidiscrimination and hate crime statutes?
A: 1) Yes, it's appalling this has not already been done.
2) Yes, there should be gender neutral public accommodations, and while the city does not have the authority to order a private entity to be retrofit, I would consider updating building codes for any new development or rehabilitation of public space.
3) Yes.
Q:  What plans do you have to transition our water, waste, & transportation systems to an environmentally conscious infrastructure, and what training should we invest in for the jobs growing in these fields?

A:  I believe climate change is a very real threat to our future and we all have an obligation to do what we can to stop it. As mayor, I will make protecting and preserving our environment a priority, including by adopting best practices and moving our city toward environmentally conscious policies. I am also committed to improving recycling, supporting tree replanting and investing in our parks.

I believe that the city should use some portion of American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds to invest in up to date infrastructure, environmentally conscious vehicles and tools, and training for the workers needed to transition to and maintain more environmentally friendly infrastructures.

Q:  Do you commit to enacting policies that will reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2030?

A:  No. It is unrealistic to suggest that the City of Philadelphia could reduce its carbon emissions to zero by 2030. As just one example of why, PGW, a city owned asset, serves more than 500,000 households, 25% of which live at or below poverty. Many, although not all, ratepayers may not be able to afford the transition to renewable energy without significant financial assistance in the coming years unless and until renewable energy becomes significantly more affordable. Of course, lower income PGW customers already have their bills subsidized by other payers so, in theory, a full transition could require significant government resources. Moreover, with as many renters as the city has – we recently became a city with a majority of renters – it is also possible that small investor-owned properties would not be able to afford the transition. As much as I would like to believe it would be the responsibility of the owners to shoulder the burden, I do not want to risk some being unable to afford it, putting renters at risk of becoming unhoused.

That said, I will commit to making achieving “net zero” carbon emissions citywide by 2050 or sooner a top policy and budget priority throughout all branches of government, and to regularly promote those priorities to the citizens of Philadelphia.
Q: Do you agree to fight for all government employees and contractors to be paid at least $15 per hour and to advocate for an increase in the minimum wage of $15 for other elected officials and the state legislature?

A: Although as Mayor, I would not have a vote on whether to increase the commonwealth’s minimum wage, I do support increasing the base wage to at least $15 an hour. I was proud to support an increase when Council approved a minimum wage hike on the ballot in 2019 and in support of a higher minimum wage for all municipal workers.

But I do not believe that there is nothing that can or should be done to increase the minimum wage if Republicans in Harrisburg block Philadelphia’s ability to raise it. One thing the pandemic has taught us in no uncertain terms is that a demand for workers increases workers’ ability to negotiate how they work, what they are paid, and what benefits they should receive. Is it simply a fact that retail jobs which pay $20 an hour would not do so without a demand for workers.

That is why I believe the next mayor must be focused on expanding the number of jobs that need workers. The city must, of course, do more to prepare workers for those jobs through new training and education programs and support entrepreneurs who will hire from their neighborhoods.

Q: A recent survey of our community showed that the number one issue in our communities is the overwhelming police presence and police brutality. How do you commit to fight police brutality and increase accountability for law enforcement?

A: I would like to see the survey, as the surveys I have seen found that for every community, across racial, geographic and identification, the overwhelming issue is improving public safety, not “over policing”. As you know, there is little hope of achieving safer communities in the short run without smart, and yes, more policing in neighborhoods that are seeing significant crime and violence.

But I am committed to not just “more” policing, but better policing. As detailed in my community safety plan, I will triple the funding for recruitment efforts and bolster the department’s cadet program, with a particular emphasis on increasing diversity. Diversifying the police force can help
reduce racial disparities in policing and strengthen community-police collaboration and interaction.

Additionally, as part of my plan, I will strengthen community-police relations and double down on community policing initiatives because law enforcement agencies are most effective when they have strong relationships and support within the communities they serve. When law enforcement officers engage with communities on a regular basis, it builds trust, helps community members to feel safer and aids law enforcement in preventing and solving crime. Police departments across the country are making real progress with community policing, including our New Jersey neighbors, the City of Camden, where they have a dramatic decline in crime. Since implementing an effective community policing strategy, Camden has reduced homicides by more than 65 percent. And, after the City of Chicago modified its public safety efforts around a community policing strategy, it reported improved relationships between communities and police. To make similar progress, I will work to strengthen community-police relations by expanding foot beat and biking patrols, encouraging community events with law enforcement, and creating opportunities for young people to engage with law enforcement in positive and healthy ways. I will also work to bring community organizations and law enforcement together to identify challenges and work together toward community-driven solutions.

Q: How can you ensure that battered women are protected in the city and how will you make sure that police officers take domestic violence cases more seriously?
A: This is an issue of leadership, funding and transparency. As mayor, I make Philadelphia the most transparent in the country, with increased disclosure of calls to police (protecting privacy and safety) in order to identify whether calls, including for domestic violence, as being addressed correctly, in addition to ensuring they (and other professionals) are receiving the most up to date training. But it is not enough to send police – we have to have somewhere for victims to go to protect themselves. As mayor, I will increase funding for protection of domestic violence victims.

Q: Are you committed to supporting efforts to enact inclusive zoning and reduce gentrification?
A: Yes. I believe that every community must be open and inclusive and I will support programs to encourage inclusive zoning. And while not every
community is experiencing gentrification, I will continue to support programs that protect homeowners and, more specifically, helps renters become owners in order to protect their future and build generational wealth.

Q: Do you agree to advocate for the positions you’ve taken in this questionnaire to other elected officials in order to support these same efforts at the county, state, and national levels?
A: Yes. I expect to make Philadelphia a national model for other communities to follow.