

GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

PROJECT HOME VOTERS GUIDE

What Will Philadelphia's Next Mayor Do to End and Prevent Homelessness?



A Non-Partisan Voters Guide for Housing and Homelessness Solutions in Philadelphia

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The mission of the Project HOME community is to empower adults, children, and families to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty, to alleviate the underlying causes of poverty, and to enable all of us to attain our fullest potential as individuals and as members of the broader society. • Since 1999, Project HOME has registered more than 18,000 homeless and low-income voters, hosted hundreds of voter education events, and turned-out countless people to the polls.

NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME® • 1515 FAIRMOUNT AVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19130 • 215-232-7272 • **PROJECTHOME.ORG**

See a Philadelphian experiencing homelessness who needs help? Call the 24-Hour Homeless Outreach Hotline at 215-232-1984



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



David Oh

REPUBLICAN

Oh served as at-large City Council member from 2012 to 2023, when he resigned to run for mayor. Oh worked as an attorney before running for City Council, and served in the Army National Guard from 1988 to 1992.

davidoh.com

As a Councilmember, I introduced a bill to provide the Housing Trust Fund that receives \$17 million a year with an additional \$50 million a year from the General Fund to jump start a serious and viable effort to build new, intelligent affordable housing. My bill was defeated. As Mayor, I will increase funding for affordable housing built or rehabilitated in neighborhoods that need it most. Particularly at these job sites, I will enforce requirements that female and minority workers be included. I have fought improper assessments and over taxation that are forcing residents out of their homes and also has decreased the amount of affordable rental units. My bill to reject housing value and tax increases resulting from “below industry standard” assessment methodology was defeated in Council.

Leveraging state/federal resources for development of affordable housing is a key strategy. Partnerships with landlords and developers on a local level are needed. Developers need to be accountable to provide affordable housing set-asides if they accept public money for market rate housing. The Department of Behavioral Health must prioritize the development of affordable housing. The Department needs to ensure there is adequate funding from the State for housing for individuals with serious mental illness and substance use issues.

I believe it is time to create a task force that brings together all stakeholders and help solve the many problems that confront the homeless. Currently, there is not much cross-systems work at a higher level across City departments. Such an approach may

kick start the conversation and move it in a better direction. In addition to the Offices of Homeless Services and Behavioral Health, we should include law enforcement (Philadelphia Police Department (PPD)), SEPTA and Amtrak Police, since they all regularly interface with the street homeless. Health care organizations and community development organizations should also be involved. The task force can use former Mayor Nutter’s plan as a start. One idea would be to take a look at the plan as a whole, determine what has been successful, and move forward with those ideas, or develop an entirely new plan.

Smaller homeless service programs can be expanded. Examples are : the PPD’s behavioral health unit, homeless street outreach, and those programs that identify homeless persons who frequent Emergency Departments and have significant medical and/or behavioral health needs. Housing Smart is one of these services. However, the key with any programs that serve as an entry point for homeless individuals is to ensure there’s a continuum of services as someone progresses through the system. There needs to be enough affordable housing resources when individuals hit the endpoint of the system. That’s where the big picture comes into play. There needs to be an effective use (and increase) in funding and also identify landlords and developers that are agreeable to provide these opportunities. Finally, efforts to decrease the level of poverty are essential so that there is enough funding/economic opportunity in order that individuals can be self-sufficient once they have found a place to live.



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

Cherelle Parker

DEMOCRAT

Parker served as the 9th district City Council member from 2016 until 2022, when she resigned to run for mayor. From 2005 to 2015 she served as the state representative for the 200th district.

cherelleparker.com

Our city faces a host of challenges for the next mayor, and among my top priorities will be working with coalitions to address homelessness.

At the root of the problem is a fundamental misunderstanding of how and why people find themselves unhoused. Throughout my campaign, I discussed how, under a Parker Administration, we are going to address this issue differently, with an approach based in dignity and respect.

In many ways, my views are informed by the amazing work done by Sister Mary Scullion. Sister Mary has led the charge in providing humane and forward-thinking solutions to address homelessness in Philadelphia. The work being done at Project HOME offers a roadmap of how we can connect those experiencing homelessness to the resources they need to ultimately secure a path to self-sufficiency – in whatever shape and size makes sense for their unique situation and circumstance.

As mayor, I will be committed to building on the work of Sister Mary and other organizations who are working toward finding pragmatic and innovative solutions to address homelessness. Using an inter-governmental approach that includes federal, state, and municipal partners, I am confident that we can convene the necessary support to fuel the kind of change we need to ensure the pendulum swings in the direction of humane and constructive solutions.

Additionally, I will be working to ensure that world-class facilities are available to help those whose mental health and/or addiction requires in-patient treatment services, but also providing services including job training so that when people leave the program, they have skills and a job.

We cannot stop until every person who finds themselves on the street has transitioned into a sustainable and safe living situation. This will take every single one of us to accomplish that.

I know, as Philadelphians, we are up to the challenge. We will have strong regional, state, and federal partnerships. And I commit that you will have a Parker Administration that will rise to the occasion.

What Elections are happening on November 7, 2023?

Local: Philadelphia

- ▶ **Mayor**
- ▶ City Council
- ▶ Register of Wills
- ▶ Sheriff
- ▶ City Commissioners
- ▶ Court of Common Pleas
- ▶ Municipal Courts

State: Pennsylvania

- ▶ Justice of the Supreme Court
- ▶ Judge of the Superior Court
- ▶ Judge of the Commonwealth Court

BALLOT QUESTIONS

- 1 Should The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to create the Division of Workforce Solutions within the Department of Commerce and to define its duties?
- 2 Should The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to expand the requirements for annual minimum appropriations to the Budget Stabilization Reserve, more commonly known as the “rainy day fund”?
- 3 Should The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to make employees of the Citizens Police Oversight Commission exempt from civil service hiring requirements?
- 4 Should The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to create the Office of the Chief Public Safety Director and to define its powers, duties and responsibilities?

For more information, please visit seventy.org/philadelphia-primary-voter-guide/ballot-questions

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Linkedin.com/company/[project-h.o.m.e](https://www.linkedin.com/company/project-h.o.m.e)

What do we want the next mayor to do?

1. Philadelphia needs more **affordable housing units with appropriate supports** to end homelessness and to prioritize City funding opportunities for permanent, supportive housing for vulnerable populations.
2. Expand **accessible housing** (including shelters and safe havens), **social services** and **comprehensive behavioral health supports** for people on the street to accommodate for people with disabilities as required by law. Meet the needs of people who want to come in including women, children, and families, and people who are aging and/or medically frail, particularly during dangerous weather and public health emergencies.
3. **Permanent housing with a recovery focus** needs to be prioritized for people who want to be in a recovery community within the Continuum of Care process, supported with additional flexible resources from the City, through the Office of Homeless Services (OHS), Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS), and Community Behavioral Health (CBH).
4. Provide **long-term housing, education, and employment supports for young people** exiting foster care, and/or identifying as LGBTQIA+ who are homeless.
5. **Social services solutions** should be used to solve social problems, not police.

For more information, read the *Project HOME Mayoral Policy Brief* at projecthome.org/publications

Special thanks to Project HOME staff and Advocacy Committee, Grid Magazine, the Lenfest Institute for Journalism, the William Penn Foundation, and the many partners who made this guide possible.

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**SOCIAL
MEDIA**

If you are experiencing issues on Election Day, call the National Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR VOTE or 1-866-687-8683

VOTE!

How To Vote In The 2023 General Election

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE AT YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS?

Register to Vote by Monday, October 23, 2023 to Vote on Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Polls are Open From 7am-8pm & Mail-in Ballots Are Due by 8pm

REGISTER TO VOTE:

- ▶ **Option 1:** Use your phone to scan the QR Code
- ▶ **Option 2:** Visit projecthome.org/vote



APPLY FOR A MAIL-IN BALLOT BY OCT. 31 AT 5PM (GENERAL)

- ▶ **Option 1:** Use your phone to scan the QR Code
- ▶ **Option 2:** Visit vote.pa.gov/applymailballot

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS A PENNSYLVANIA VOTER:

- ▶ All voters must be a US Citizen, be at least 18 years old on Election Day, and a resident of Pennsylvania for at least 30 days before the election.
- ▶ You can vote when you are homeless; just use the address of a place where you get mail.
- ▶ You can vote when released from jail or prison – even with a felony conviction from PA or another state.
- ▶ You can vote when you are on probation, parole, or house arrest.
- ▶ You can vote while in jail awaiting trial or while serving time for a misdemeanor.

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE!

- ▶ Where do I vote?
 - Confirm Polling Site Before You Vote Online at vote.pa.gov/ status or call the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR VOTE or 1-866-687-8683
 - Check mail-in ballot status: vote.pa.gov/mailballotstatus
 - Deliver by 8pm on Election Day: In Philadelphia, you can bring your mail-in ballot to City Hall or 520 N. Columbus Blvd.
 - What if your mail-in ballot did not come in time
 - Anyone who requested a mail-in ballot can vote in person on a provisional (paper) ballot. You won't be allowed to vote on the voting machines, but you can vote by paper ballot and it will be counted later

DO I NEED VOTER ID?

- ▶ Voters only need ID if it is their first time voting at a new polling site.
- ▶ Acceptable forms of ID include photo and non-photo state or government ID, voter registration card, firearm permit, current utility bill, current bank statement, current paycheck, and government check.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

If you are experiencing issues voting, call the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR VOTE or 1-866-687-8683.

projecthome.org/vote and vote.pa.gov