

## GCAP's 2018 Candidates' Questionnaire

Dear Senatorial Candidate:

As a candidate for Pennsylvania State Senate in the 2018 election, the General Contractors Association of Pennsylvania (GCAP) is interested in learning more about you and your stance on issues affecting the construction industry. The information that you provide will be shared with members of GCAP and other construction industry stakeholders.

GCAP is an organization representing the memberships of General Building Contractors Association (based in Philadelphia), Keystone Contractors Association (based in Harrisburg), and Master Builders' Association of Western PA (based in Pittsburgh). Collectively, GCAP represents over 600-plus commercial construction companies based throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Since 1953, GCAP has been a strong, unified voice in Harrisburg representing major contributors to employment and economic growth in Pennsylvania.

As for completing this questionnaire, please feel free to answer the questions on these pages, adding pages as needed for expanded comments, or you may submit your answers on a separate document included with this questionnaire. Responses can be sent to: [sethkohr@keystonecontractors.com](mailto:sethkohr@keystonecontractors.com) or by mail to General Contractors Association of PA, 20 Erford Road, Suite 310, Lemoyne, PA 17043.

We would appreciate responses by Friday, August 31, 2018.

**Candidate's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ Emily Best\_\_\_\_\_

### Introduction

As leaders representing the commercial construction industry, GCAP is interested in hearing your legislative priorities. Why should the construction industry show support for you?

I strongly believe in our rural areas as the foundation of a healthy region and state. There's a lot of work to be done in this district in terms of economic development and growth. I am also an advocate for workers and labor across the board and have been endorsed by several large unions.

## **Economy**

Everyone benefits from a strong economy. How can your priorities grow the economy in Pennsylvania?

One of my key priorities for this district is to act quickly and decisively on getting rural broadband and better cell phone coverage to everyone. I believe this will help encourage businesses to stay or to locate in this area. I also support public schools, and want to ensure good funding for our training programs so that we have an educated workforce. Another top priority for me is healthcare accessibility and affordability in our communities. We can't have a growing economy if our workers and families can't afford to get medical care.

## **Workforce Development**

The construction industry workforce in Pennsylvania is currently facing some challenges to attract workers. How would you address this issue?

I believe many of these issues are connected. Even if there are jobs in an area, if there is not a good school or good medical care, then families may not choose to relocate to that area. I want to make every community livable, healthy, and safe. Additionally, I will work hard to ensure that training programs and job development organizations have the funding they need to provide needed services to job seekers.

Additionally, it appears every legislative session that Prevailing Wage is under attack. Lowering workers' wages may not be an ideal approach to attract future workers. Where do you stand on Prevailing Wage?

In today's economy, there is no reason to lower workers' wages, especially if the industry is struggling to attract new employees or trainees. I support the Prevailing Wage as a means to level the playing field for public construction projects and as a means to pay workers what they are worth.

## **Construction Practices**

GCAP believes in having the freedom of choice concerning construction delivery method. The Separations Act is an archaic mandate enacted in 1913 that only allows for one delivery system – Multiple Prime Delivery. Due to the inefficiencies of Multiple Primes, this delivery system is only required in three states; meanwhile 47 states, the federal government, and the private sector all benefit from choice in construction delivery. What are your thoughts on the modernization of the Separations Act? (Since this is such an industry-specific question, please do not hesitate to contact GCAP for additional information on this topic).

In general, I am all for modernization of old practices and regulations that lead to inefficiencies in cost or speed of delivery. I can see where some stakeholders may be in favor of maintaining this current system because they may benefit from it whereas the stakeholders interested in modernization this Act would mostly benefit from the change. As a legislator, my job is not to represent what is best for certain sectors only but what is best for the district, and it seems as though modernization of the Separations Act would be best for the district as a whole. I would need to look into it in more detail before getting behind any legislation.

GCAP members are renowned for having a safety-first mentality. Due to the opioid epidemic, construction workers and the general public are put in harm's way. How can you help on this issue?

The opioid epidemic is a horrible scourge on our communities. First, I would support increased funding for mental health care and accessibility in our communities. Second, I would find out how we can hold pharmaceutical companies accountable and pursue that action. Third, I would ensure that our hospitals, doctors, and nurses are all following the best practices in the nation in terms of prescribing opioid drugs. Fourth, I would pursue action with the insurance companies to make sure that all treatment options are available to those who need them, and not at exorbitant prices. This is an important issue for me and deserves a legislator who will stand up for our families.

## **General**

If you win this election in 2018, what will your legacy be 20 years from now?

My legacy will be that I can work with voters and community members from all backgrounds and all political affiliations to get things done. I am not driven by ego, status, or wealth; only by the desire to make a difference and bring my work ethic, curiosity, and motivation to get things done to Harrisburg for the benefit of us all.