

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 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: _____ Pam

Gerard _____

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?

One of my most important issues is Strong Unions. I am a retired teacher and know first hand how important being in a union is. I had to call on my union rep a few times. It felt safe to know I had a strong unified voice behind me. I am against "right to work" state as our unions will be dissolved. The very force bringing, higher wages, safety, a voice for the people, healthcare, etc. I will fight for pensions as well. A man or woman is not going to go down in a mile deep hole all their life and not get what is rightfully deserved. It's a moral issue really. I am for prevailing wage as well. I have been endorsed by the UMWA, The TEAMSTERS, AFL-CIO AND PSEA.

Economy

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

By attracting business to our area it keeps our brightest and smartest students here and puts many people back to work. Raising the minimum wage so that people have more money to raise their families and spend it on area businesses. Updating our Voc/Tech and trade schools so that our high school graduates graduate with a license in technology, mechanics, carpentry, welding the list goes on.

Workforce Development

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

My second biggest issue is education. More funding for our schools so our children get the education they deserve. As I stated above. Updating and funding our Voc/Tech and trade schools. Not every child can afford or want to go to college. Plus they are burdened with debt. By offering them an opportunity of having a trade upon graduation gives them skills needed for a profession.

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?

I am for Prevailing wage. If it's not broke don't fix it. The government seems to always want to take money away from the working class. Workers deserve to be paid the wage that is established. Period.

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).

I believe that the 3 parties, the owner, the designer and the builder should be able to make the decision of what works the best for their project. I am not even going to pretend that I am an authority or have the authority to make such a decision. After doing some research it looks like the Design-Build method is the most efficient. I would definitely bring in the Contractors to let them have their say as to what is the best way for their industry when changing or writing any new legislation. You are the experts.

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?

This is my 3rd most important issue. This is an issue near and dear to my heart. I lost my son to his addiction, but I also have a husband 25 years clean. I have seen what both went through and also what can be done to take steps toward fighting addiction. First, because of your safety first attitude there must be

random drug tests. After multiple times or whatever your company policy is treatment is the next step. Not just two week treatment and go home the addict must then go to a halfway house. There you learn how to live sober and with other sober people. You learn more about your disease, job skills, social skills, etc. When it's time you can go back to work and then still live at the sober living houses where you get the support and be in a safe environment. Those are the steps that should be available.

General

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

As a woman I ran for a state office and won. I ran a grassroots campaign with little funds and people with faith in me. Just like women that have opened the door for me to run I also give the future of young women a pathway as well. I hope that I can give the working person a chance to be able to provide for their family and their livelihood. By strong unions, funding for education and our drug epidemic under control this will be possible. Honestly, because of my drive and compassion I will be able to accomplish this by working together with other elected officials and our people this will bring new life to SW PA.