

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: _____

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 have been a consistent advocate for growth, reforming the Commonwealth's tax structure and holding state government spending accountable to taxpayers.

Economy

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

I will conduct oversight to ensure that the law I authored, requiring all Commonwealth departments and agencies to justify their budget requests beginning with dollar one. Furthermore I will fight to protect another bill I authored that was signed into law, the 21st Century Manufacturing Innovation and Reinvestment Deduction Act, which will permit manufacturers making capital investments in excess of \$100 million to claim a deduction against their taxable income. These legislative priorities that I passed into law will grow our economy.

Workforce Development

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

I have been a consistent advocate for the trade, manufacturing and construction industries that provide family-sustaining careers to families across Pennsylvania. I am always willing to advance innovative partnership, like the Upper Bucks County Metalworking Program, which trains screened applicants through a 12 week program for an entry-level job at a local manufacturer. The program has a near 100% placement rate and its graduates are supporting their families in ways they never thought possible. The funds are available for worker training. I will continue to play my part in educating the community.

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 support the Prevailing Wage but believe the 1960's standard for benchmarking projects applicable to Prevailing Wage standards does not match contemporary budgets.

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 am open to any proposal which increases the efficiency and improves the cost of delivery for construction projects.

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?

There is no single "silver bullet" to solving the opioid crisis. I have supported the voluntary efforts of insurers like Independence Blue Cross who have limited the prescription duration of opioids. I supported legislation which would set up an opioid registry for doctors to make certain addicts are prevented from "doctor shopping" for more opioids. I will continue to support the expansion of treatment funding when appropriate and evidence-based.

General

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

A legislator who delivered on his promises to hold government accountable to its citizens.

I intend to do that in three ways.

Firstly, I intend to ensure that my law passed this year mandating Performance Based Budgeting for all Commonwealth agencies is fully-implemented because taxpayers deserve to know their money is well spent.

Secondly, I will advance a "Phase II" of my breast cancer screening and awareness legislation as it not only saves money, but most importantly saves lives.

Thirdly, I want ensure that my 21st Century Manufacturing Innovation and Reinvestment Deduction Act, which became law this year, is fully implemented. The law sparks growth by allowing manufacturers making capital investments in excess of \$100 million to claim a deduction against their taxable income.