

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 made the decision to run for PA State Senate because I want to ensure that all PA residents have the opportunity to succeed. I am committed to creating protections for hardworking people and families including equal pay, affordable child care, livable wage and paid family leave. I will also encourage investment in vocational training to help bring skilled workers to the trades and alleviate the labor shortage. I believe that Pennsylvania should be a place where all its residents have access to jobs and resources that help them, through hard work, to succeed.

Economy

Everyone benefits from a strong economy. How can your priorities grow the economy in Pennsylvania? Pennsylvania's infrastructure is in need of repair and, in some areas of the state, an overhaul. As our population continues to steadily increase, housing demands also continue to grow. Advocating for livable wages will also grow our economy, and provide the chance for lower-income families to not only own their own homes but also spend more money on the local economy. Renewable energy is also set to increase over the next few years, and that will bring with it new industry and jobs.

Workforce Development

The construction industry workforce in Pennsylvania is currently facing some challenges to attract workers. How would you address this issue? My plan to attract new workers to the trades includes vocational training and guaranteeing liveable wages. School districts across the state should receive incentives and support to grow their vocational/technical schools. The state must provide skilled vocational and apprenticeship opportunities for adults through educational programming. This education and training should be provided at little or no cost to decrease the burden of student debt.

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 believe that the Prevailing Wage should not be lowered. In order to maintain construction quality and craftsmanship, the prevailing wage is a necessary guarantee for working professionals.

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).

The Separations Act forces an owner to provide oversight on a project that would benefit from the expertise of a professional general contractor. This inefficient method ends up causing delays in the work and the likelihood of the project running over budget. More delivery options are available now than there were in 1913, and Pennsylvania needs to recognize that advancement. The numerous other options should be considered as well, and Multiple Prime Delivery should be utilized only when it is the delivery method that fits the job.

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? Professionally, I am a health care provider, and throughout my career I have worked as an athletic trainer. I have advocated for my clients' rights and needs to insurance companies, other healthcare providers, and college/university/professional athletic administrations. I have personally seen the damage that the opioid crisis does to not only an individual's mental and physical health, but also to that person's community. I will advocate for a healthcare system that provides access and affordability, so that all affected by this epidemic are able to receive the help they require.

General

If you win this election in 2018, what will your legacy be 20 years from now? My legacy will be that I was a strong voice for hardworking Pennsylvanians, and that I fought every day I was in office to make sure that all residents of our state had the access they needed to education, opportunity, healthcare, and safety.