

## **PROPOSED CHARTER CHANGE QUESTION #1**

(Bill No. 130878)

"Shall The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to establish and define the functions of the Office of Sustainability, headed by a Director of Sustainability?"

Plain English Statement: Question 1

The City's current Office of Sustainability was established by the Mayor in 2008 to set sustainability targets and to evaluate the City's progress in meeting those targets. The proposed Charter change would make the Office permanent by formally creating, in the Charter itself, an Office of Sustainability. The Office would be headed by the Director of Sustainability, to be appointed by the Mayor. The Office would be responsible for developing and coordinating the implementation of policies and programs to meet the City's sustainability goals. These goals will relate to matters such as energy use, air and water quality, tracking of greenhouse gas emissions, solid waste management, access to open space and local and healthy food, tree canopy coverage and climate change preparedness planning.

## **PROPOSED CHARTER CHANGE QUESTION #2**

(Bill No. 140015)

"Shall The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to transfer responsibility for managing and operating the City's jails from the Department of Public Welfare and the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Prisons to a new Department of Prisons and Board of Trustees?"

Plain English Statement: Question 2

Currently, the City's Home Rule Charter assigns the responsibility of operating the City's prisons to two entities. The Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Prisons is responsible for the direction and control of the management of the City's prisons, which includes selection of the Superintendent of the City's prisons, who administers the City's prisons. The Department of Public Welfare (commonly referred to as the Department of Human Services, or "DHS") has general supervisory responsibility in connection with the City's prisons.

The proposed Charter change would create a new Department of Prisons, responsible for operating the City's prisons. The Department would be headed by a Prisons Commissioner, who would supervise the management and operation of the City's prisons. He or she also would be responsible for maintaining a program for facilitating the reintegration of individuals returning from incarceration. The Prisons Commissioner would be appointed by, and would report to, the City's Managing Director. The Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Prisons would be responsible for adopting standards and guidelines to be considered by the Prisons Commissioner when making policy relating to the City's prisons.

## **CITY BOND QUESTION**

(Bill No. 140511)

"Should the City of Philadelphia borrow ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN MILLION TWO HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$137,295,000.00) to be spent for and toward capital purposes as follows: Transit; Streets and Sanitation; Municipal Buildings; Parks, Recreation and Museums; and Economic and Community Development?"

Plain English Statement: City Bond Question

This ballot question, if approved by the voters, would authorize the City to borrow \$137,295,000 for capital purposes, thereby increasing the City's indebtedness by \$137,295,000. Capital purposes means, generally, to make expenditures that will result in something of value with a useful life to the City of more than five years, for example, acquisitions of real estate, or construction of or improvements to buildings, property or streets.

The money to be borrowed would be used by the City for five identified purposes, namely, Transit; Streets and Sanitation; Municipal Buildings; Parks, Recreation and Museums; and Economic and Community Development, all in specific amounts identified in Bill No. 140511 (approved September 11, 2014). City Council would have authority, by ordinance, to change the intended allocation of these proceeds.