

Issues from 2011 Ethics Agenda	Responses From Republican At-Large Candidates				
	Joe McColgan	David Oh	Dennis O'Brien	Al Taubenberger	Michael Untermeyer
1. Oppose Weakening of Current Campaign Finance Ordinance	Support	Support	See additional comment #5 below Support	Support; Has concerns about the impact on challengers I support the idea of contribution limits and I do believe the city's campaign finance ordinance is a good start in addressing the pay-to-play culture in Philadelphia. However, the current law is becoming a stifling factor for challengers. The law makes it difficult for challengers and newcomers to gain momentum and conduct a competitive campaign.	Support
2. Require Disclosure of Corporate and Union Political Expenditures	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support



Committee of Seventy

Fighting for Better Local Government

<p>3. Require “527” Committees to Register as Political Committees</p>	<p>Support Federal law should prevail.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support Although improvements in the city’s finance ordinance were made to reflect lessons learned in the 2007 municipal elections, other proposed reforms – such as tying the receipt of campaign dollars to an election cycle rather than to a calendar year – remain unaddressed.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>4. Consider Additional Campaign Finance Reforms after the 2011 Elections</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support I believe any new reforms to the campaign finance ordinance should aim to end any pay-to-play culture in city government. I also believe any reforms should address the competitive inequities facing a challenger in the race for dollars against an incumbent.</p>	<p>Support</p>



Committee of Seventy

Fighting for Better Local Government

<p>5. Provide Funds to Improve City's Electronic Campaign Finance Database</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>As long as funds are available</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>The information is already available to the public. We are in serious debt and I am not in favor of spending public funds on this project. I think such a project may be undertaken by interns, students for class credit, or a private entity that will donate the time.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>6. Link City's Non-Competitively Bid Contract Registry With Electronic Campaign Finance Database</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support Wholeheartedly</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>I believe all city contracts should be competitively bid; it is the responsibility of city government to do business at the lowest cost possible. Until all contracts are competitively bid, I support this measure.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>However, I believe that we need to eliminate No-Bid contracts</p>



Committee of Seventy

Fighting for Better Local Government

<p>7. Hold Public Hearing on Council's Annual Proposed Budget, Including Individual Council members' Budgets</p>	<p>Support for Council as a Whole</p> <p>Individual hearings on every Council office are a waste of taxpayers' time and money. Would agree to more written accountability.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Council's budget absolutely should be opened up to the public, and the public should be provided meaningful opportunity to comment. In fact I have a proven track record in the sunshine reforms I brought to the PA General Assembly during my tenure as Speaker. I was a leader in the state legislature and will be a leader in City Council on these issues.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>8. Make Proposed Detailed Annual Budget for Council Available Online</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>9. Support Public Comment Period after Every Daily Budget Hearing Session</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>I would prefer questions be submitted to individual council persons to ask prior to meetings and answered accordingly so as to not slow down the legislative process.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>See additional comment #1 below</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>



Committee of Seventy

Fighting for Better Local Government

<p>10. Require All Elected Officials to Register Outside Jobs and Salaries with Board of Ethics</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support, Wholeheartedly</p> <p>I agree that this must be addressed.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>11. Support Proposed Charter Amendment to Eliminate City Commissioners and the Sheriff as Independently Elected Row Offices</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>However I am in favor of a City Charter Review Commission made up of business and civic leaders to address the entire City Charter and if the outcome is to eliminate row offices, then so be it. To haphazardly eliminate is irresponsible.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>I believe the City Commissioners and Sheriff provide important functions and that they should be elected to remain independent of city government. I believe we should reform and correct abuses that have occurred in those offices rather than to eliminate them and place them under the authority of the Mayor.</p>	<p>Leaning towards Support, but Council should first conduct public hearings on the issue.</p> <p>I would first like to hear all of the perspectives – pro and con – fully aired in public hearings.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>The greatest accountability is with the people themselves. I favor more choice, not less, in our democracy. I believe these offices should be monitored and checked by the Mayor’s Office and City Council.</p>	<p>Support for the Commissioners; Oppose for the Sheriff</p>



Committee of Seventy

Fighting for Better Local Government

<p>12. Apply Consistent Ethical Rules to City-Related Authorities</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support in general</p> <p>See additional comment #2 below</p>	<p>Support, Absolutely</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>13. Support Permanent Legislation Preventing City Officials or Employees from Engaging in Hiring or Promotion Decisions Involving Their Immediate Family Members</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>See additional comment #3 below</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>I support this common sense proposal</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>I support hiring only the most qualified persons, as determined by an intensive screening process that involves a civil service exam.</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>14. Will Not Personally Hire or Appoint an Immediate Family Member to My Staff</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>As stated in response to Question #13, I do not believe that any qualified candidate should be overlooked or excluded for any reason other than merit.</p>	<p>Support, Wholeheartedly</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>I support hiring only the most qualified persons, as determined by an intensive screening process.</p>	<p>Support</p>



Committee of Seventy

Fighting for Better Local Government

<p>15. Amend the Home Rule Charter to Allow City Workers to Serve as Political Party or Campaign Officials</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>To the detriment of the Republican Party, if they want to be politically active then they should be given the opportunity and obviously on their own time. Political activity is a right and should not be stifled. We should be encouraging more political activity, not less.</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>I agree to oppose such an amendment except, of course, to the extent that an amendment is necessitated by the freedom of speech provisions of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 7 of the Pennsylvania Constitution.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>All people should be allowed to actively participate and engage in the democratic process. The election process, and democracy in general, requires participation in order to succeed.</p>	<p>Oppose</p>
<p>16. Reverse Current Exemption Allowing City Council Employees to Serve as Ward Leaders, Committeepersons or from Taking an Active Part in the Management or Affairs of a Political Party or Political Campaign</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>See answer to #15</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>I believe Council members should have the ability to decide how best to serve their constituents and to hire whomever they feel will best assist them in providing that service. I believe they should be open and transparent about hiring such persons.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>I will pledge that at no time would I permit any city employee to perform election work on city time or on any city premises.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>I believe more people need to be involved in our election process. City Council is also a political office and it is impossible to take the politics out of a political office.</p>	<p>Support</p>



Committee of Seventy

Fighting for Better Local Government

<p>17. Will not personally Hire or Permit Staff to Serve as Ward Leaders, Committeepeople or From Taking an Active Part in the Management or Affairs of a Political Party or Political Campaign</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>See answer to #15</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>If elected, I will hire the best and most effective people available to assist me in serving the people of Philadelphia and pushing through my ambitious agenda for Philadelphia's future.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>I have a personal record of only hiring the best people for the job. I again pledge that at no time would I permit any city employee to perform election work on city time or on any city premises.</p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>18. Enact a Comprehensive Whistleblower Law with Sufficient Protections for City Employees Who Make Good Faith Complaints about Perceived Wrongdoing in Government</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>



Committee of Seventy

Fighting for Better Local Government

<p>19. Promote Greater Public Access and Participation in City Council Hearings and Committee Meetings</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>However all citizens must respect the legislative process and act accordingly. Disruptions are not tolerated in our Nation's Capitol or our Commonwealth's and should not be tolerated in Philadelphia.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Again, I successfully fought for greater transparency in the General Assembly as Speaker of the House, and I will support greater transparency and public involvement in City Council as well.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>20. Require All Annual City Financial Disclosure Statements to be Available Online</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support, Absolutely</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>



Committee of Seventy

Fighting for Better Local Government

<p>21. Make Information about City Council and Their Staffs Available Online, including Names, Positions, Salaries, Memberships on Boards and Commissions and Positions in a Political Party or Organization</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>I also feel that any requirements in this regard must also be respectful of any <i>reasonable</i> privacy interest of the employee.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>
---	-----------------------	-----------------------	--	-----------------------	-----------------------



Committee of Seventy

Fighting for Better Local Government

<p>22. Provide Sufficient Funding for the Board of Ethics to Operate Effectively</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>If money is available. However, they must better communicate with state and city agencies. Most of what they currently do I feel is redundant.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p>23. Enact Explicit Rules on City Officials and Employees Receiving Gifts With Clear Dollar Limitations</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Not certain why any city employee or elected/appointed official would accept, or why they would be given a gift from anyone to begin with.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support</p>



Committee of Seventy

Fighting for Better Local Government

<p>24. Create an Independent Inspector General Within the City Charter With Authority to Investigate Corruption, Fraud, Waste or Dishonest Practices Across City Government, Including City Council</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>Do we really need another department to investigate other departments? Could this possibly fall under the Ethics Department? We need to make government smaller, not bigger.</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>See additional comment #4 below</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>However, it is absolutely critical that we guarantee that the Inspector General is <i>entirely</i> independent and cannot be influenced or pressured by any political entities. We must do our homework, find which cities have been most effective at accomplishing this, and model our I.G. authority accordingly.</p>	<p>Oppose</p> <p>The City Controller, the District Attorney, and the Board of Ethics are all authorized to perform these tasks. I do not believe taxpayer money should be spent for the creation of a redundant office. I will fight to make sure these current offices actually perform these tasks.</p>	<p>Support</p>
--	--	--	---	--	-----------------------

Additional Comments:

- 1. David Oh, Question #9:** Approving the budget is one of the most important and intense responsibilities of City Council. There is a lot of advocacy and lobbying that occurs before and during the budget process. Ultimately, the budget prioritizes where limited dollars will be spent. I believe it is a better process to have a public comment period at the end of the budget hearings so that both the public and the Council members can consider the public questions and input in reference to the overall budget picture.



Committee of Seventy

Fighting for Better Local Government

2. **David Oh, Question #12:** I agree in general. However, I believe that there are differences between full-time employment with the city, part-time employment with the city, serving as an elected or appointed official and serving as a volunteer on a commission or board. I would like to see as much uniformity as possible, however, the ethical rules do not apply across the board and doing so may result in the loss of valuable, civic minded volunteers.
3. **David Oh, Question #13:** I am for transparency and accountability in hiring. If someone believes their immediate relative is an excellent candidate for a position, they should be able to say so. However, they should be on record stating their reasons. Often, family members are raised with similar values and many of those who choose to serve the public in government, non-profits, public safety or the military, for example, come from such a family. I think of President John Kennedy and Senator Robert Kennedy, and George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, as examples. I believe we should have a transparent process and choose the best candidate on the merits.
4. **David Oh, Question #24:** The Inspector General has a specific function as part of the Mayor's administration in investigating misdeeds by city employees and those contracting with the city. We have a District Attorney and State Attorney General to investigate and prosecute corruption, fraud, waste and dishonest practices, including any elected official. I am not in favor of creating and funding yet another office to handle the same issues. This would also create further confusion of overlapping responsibilities.
5. **Dennis O'Brien, General Comment:** I would like to express my appreciation to the Committee of Seventy for sending out this questionnaire, for formulating many of these proposals. I believe they would go far towards providing not just cleaner government, but *more effective* government as well. If you look at the reforms I pushed through the General Assembly as Speaker of the House, I believe you will find solid proof of my commitment to the causes espoused in this questionnaire.



Committee of Seventy

Fighting for Better Local Government