Diana Lin

Subject: Notice of Administrative Enforcement Proceeding - Tracey Gordon

Attachments: Exhibits in Support of Tracey Gordon Notice.pdf; Notice of Admin Enforcement - Tracey

Gordon - 12-11-2014.pdf

From: Michael Cooke

Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2014 3:14 PM

To: Maya Nayak

Cc: MICHAEL COARD; Shane Creamer; Jordan Segall

Subject: Notice of Administrative Enforcement Proceeding - Tracey Gordon

Maya -

Attached, please find a Notice of Administrative Enforcement Proceeding for the matter Creamer v Gordon, 1412MU14, and related Exhibits.

Ms. Gordon is represented by Michael Coard, Esq. He is cc'd on this email.

His address information is on the Certification of Service.

Thank you,

Michael J. Cooke, Esq. Director of Enforcement Board of Ethics of the City of Philadelphia 1515 Arch St., 18th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19102 (215) 686-9459 (f) (215) 686-9453

BOARD OF ETHICS OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

J. Shane Creamer, Jr.

Executive Director
Board of Ethics

of the City of Philadelphia : 1515 Arch Street, 18th Floor :

Philadelphia, PA 19102 :

: **Matter No.** 1412MU14

v. : **Date of Notice:** December 11, 2014

Tracey Gordon : 6543 Windsor Street :

Philadelphia, PA 19142

Respondent :

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDING

By serving this Notice on you, the Executive Director of the Board of Ethics initiates an administrative enforcement proceeding against you. The Executive Director is asking the Board to find that you have violated: a) the gratuity provisions of Philadelphia's Home Rule Charter (Charter § 10-105); b) the political activity restrictions of Philadelphia's Home Rule Charter (Charter § 10-107); and c) the cooperation provisions of Philadelphia's Ethics Code. (Code § 20-606).

If you wish to submit a written Response to this Notice, you must do so within 20 days of the date of the Notice. You have the right to request a hearing before the Board. If you wish to request a hearing, you must include the request in your written Response to the Notice. If you fail to request a hearing in a written Response to this Notice, you will waive your right to a hearing.

Board Regulation No. 2 and the Memorandum on Procedures for Administrative Enforcement Proceedings set forth the rules and procedures for administrative enforcement proceedings before the Board. A copy of each is enclosed.

As set forth in Regulation No. 2, administrative enforcement proceedings are confidential, unless you request a public hearing in your Response to this Notice. *See* Board Regulation 2, ¶2.15.

If you have any questions regarding the procedures for administrative enforcement proceedings before the Board, you should contact the Board's General Counsel, Maya Nayak, at 215-686-9450 or maya.nayak@phila.gov.

I. RELEVANT LAW

Subsection 10-107(3) of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter prohibits a City officer or employee from directly or indirectly demanding, soliciting, collecting or receiving, or being in any manner concerned in demanding, soliciting, collecting or receiving, any assessment, subscription or contribution intended for any political purpose.

Subsection 10-107(4) of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter prohibits a City appointed officer or employee from taking any part in the management or affairs of any political party or in any political campaign. The Board has further specified that this prohibition means that an appointed officer or employee shall not engage in any political activity that is performed in concert or coordination with a political party, candidate, or partisan political group. *See* Board Regulation 8, ¶8.11.

Subsection 10-105 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter prohibits a City officer or employee from soliciting or accepting any gratuity for any act or omission in the course of his or her public work.

A violation of Section 10-107 or 10-105 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter imposed by an administrative adjudication of the Board of Ethics is subject to a civil penalty of \$300. *See* Charter § 10-109; Board Regulation 8, ¶ 8.26.

Section 20-606(2) of the Philadelphia Code requires all City officers and employees to cooperate fully with any request of the Board of Ethics made pursuant to the execution of its powers and duties and that any City officer or employee who fails to or refuses to cooperate with the Board shall be deemed to be in violation of the City Ethics Code. The Board has further specified that failure to cooperate with the Board includes telling another person not to meet with Board staff or answer questions relating to an investigation. *See* Board Regulation 2, ¶2.8.

A violation of Section 20-606(2) of the Philadelphia Code is subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000 which may be increased to \$2,000 if an aggravating factor is present or decreased to as low as \$250 if mitigating factors are present. *See* Code §§ 20-612(1); 20-1302. Pursuant to Code § 20-1302(1)(b)(iii), obstruction of a Board investigation is an aggravating factor.

II. PARTIES

- 1. J. Shane Creamer, Jr. is the Executive Director of the Board of Ethics.
- 2. Tracey Gordon was a Deputy City Commissioner for the City of Philadelphia from February 2011 to December 2014. The City Commissioners are responsible for administering all elections that occur in Philadelphia. Ms. Gordon worked in the office of City Commissioner Stephanie Singer. On May 28, 2014, the City Commissioners suspended Ms. Gordon from her position without pay. On December 3, 2014, the City Commissioners terminated Ms. Gordon from her position.

III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- a. Gordon Solicits and Accepts a Gratuity from Leslie Miles in April of 2014
- 3. Leslie Miles is a writer and reporter for the newspaper One Step Away.
- 4. On or about April 14, 2014, Ms. Miles came to Commissioner Singer's office seeking assistance for her candidacy for Resident Commissioner of the Philadelphia Housing Authority. She met with two employees in Commissioner Singer's office: Tracey Gordon and Jasmine Winfield, a temporary worker who performed clerical tasks in the office from mid-March to mid-June of 2014.
- 5. Ms. Miles asked Ms. Gordon and Ms. Winfield to help her type and format a letter she had written by hand. Commissioner Singer encouraged employees in her office to assist members of the public with such tasks as part of their job duties.
- 6. Ms. Gordon agreed to type and format Ms. Miles' hand-written letter and Ms. Miles left the office. Later that day, Ms. Gordon emailed Ms. Miles a copy of the typed letter.
- 7. On or about April 15, 2014, Ms. Miles returned to Commissioner Singer's office. She spoke with Ms. Gordon and Ms. Winfield in the hallway outside of Commissioner Singer's office.
- 8. Ms. Miles mistakenly thought that both Ms. Gordon and Ms. Winfield worked on the letter for her.
- 9. Ms. Gordon told Ms. Miles that if Ms. Miles was going to ask for help, she should pay for the help she received. Ms. Gordon specifically asked Ms. Miles to give Ms. Winfield money for the work done on her letter.

- 10. Ms. Miles asked Ms. Gordon if she also expected payment and Ms. Gordon replied "I'd appreciate it, and don't forget us."
- 11. On or about April 16, 2014, Ms. Miles returned to Commissioner Signer's office with thank you cards for Ms. Gordon and Ms. Winfield.
- 12. Neither Ms. Gordon nor Ms. Winfield were present when Ms. Miles returned to Commissioner Singer's office. As a result, Ms. Miles left the cards on Ms. Gordon's and Ms. Winfield's desks.
- 13. The card for Ms. Winfield contained \$20 in cash.
- 14. The card for Ms. Gordon contained \$10 in cash.
- 15. Ms. Winfield returned to the office before Ms. Gordon. She opened her card and found the \$20 in cash in it. She then opened Ms. Gordon's card and saw the \$10 in cash in it. Ms. Winfield closed Ms. Gordon's card and put it back on her desk.
- 16. When Ms. Gordon came back to the office, she opened her card. A copy of the card Ms. Miles gave Ms. Gordon is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

b. Gordon Solicits a Gratuity from Leslie Miles in June of 2014

- 17. On May 28, 2014, the City Commissioners suspended Ms. Gordon from her position without pay.
- 18. In order to raise money while she was suspended without pay from her City position, Ms. Gordon decided to hold a fundraiser on June 21, 2014 for herself. She created a flyer promoting the event and posted it on Facebook. She also sent the flyer to people by text message. Tickets to the fundraiser were sold for a minimum of \$20. A copy of the flyer is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

- 19. On or about June 12, 2014, Ms. Gordon sent Ms. Miles a text message asking her to attend the fundraiser.
- 20. After receiving the text message, Ms. Miles telephoned Ms. Gordon for an explanation of the message. Ms. Gordon told her that she was contacting all of the people who she had helped in her role as Deputy Commissioner so they could help her now.
- 21. Ms. Gordon then demanded to know how many tickets Ms. Miles was going to purchase for her fundraiser, at which point Ms. Miles ended the call.
- 22. Ms. Miles did not buy a ticket for Ms. Gordon's fundraiser.

c. Gordon Recruits Susan McCall to Run as a Candidate for Committeeperson

- 23. In the spring of 2014, Susan McCall served as a volunteer in Commissioner Singer's Office. She answered telephone calls from the public and answered inquiries regarding voting information.
- 24. In mid-April 2014, Ms. Gordon approached Ms. McCall and discussed with her elections for committeeperson and ward leader in the 32nd ward.
- 25. A committeeperson is the elected party representative of a ward division. The committeepersons in a ward elect the ward leader. Committee persons and ward leaders are officers of the Democratic and Republican parties in Philadelphia. Gary Williams is the ward leader in the 32^{nd} ward.
- 26. During their conversation, Ms. Gordon asked Ms. McCall to run for committeeperson in the 32nd ward with the understanding that, if elected, she would support a candidate who planned to run against Mr. Williams for ward leader.
- 27. After speaking with a committeeperson in the 32nd Ward, Ms. McCall told Ms. Gordon that she was not interested in running.

d. Gordon prevents Susan McCall from Submitting a Complaint to the Board of Ethics

- After informing Ms. Gordon of her decision not to run for committeeperson, Ms. McCall drafted a letter to the Board of Ethics describing Ms. Gordon's recruitment of her to run for committeeperson. Ms. McCall showed the letter to Norys Gonzalez, a Principal Assistant to Commissioner Singer.
- 29. On or about May 27, 2014, shortly after drafting the letter, Ms. McCall approached Seth Bluestein, a Deputy City Commissioner, outside Commissioner Singer's office holding the letter. She told him she had written to the Board and asked for his help. Mr. Bluestein said he would speak further with her as soon as possible.
- 30. In the interim, Ms. Gordon approached Ms. McCall and said that she needed to speak privately with her. Before Mr. Bluestein returned, Ms. Gordon and Ms. McCall went out to the City Hall courtyard to speak.
- 31. In the courtyard, Ms. Gordon asked Ms. McCall not to submit the letter she had written to the Board.
- 32. Ms. Gordon told Ms. McCall that if she submitted the letter to the Ethics Board she would never be hired again. Ms. Gordon also told Ms. McCall that she was next in line for a job with Commissioner Singer's office.
- 33. Ms. Gordon then asked Ms. McCall to tear up her letter to the Board, which she did.

e. Gordon Participates in a Workshop for Committeepersons

- 34. From March through May of 2014, Ms. Gordon participated in the planning and promotion of a workshop for recently elected committeepersons. The workshop was held on May 28, 2014.
- 35. The workshop instructed the new committeepersons on party rules, party governance, ward reorganization, and the election of ward leaders.
- 36. Ms. Gordon was scheduled to participate as a speaker at the workshop.
- 37. She decided not to participate after she was suspended from her job by the City Commissioners.
- 38. Ms. Gordon promoted the event via email and social media.

f. Gordon Promotes a Democratic City Committee Fundraiser

- 39. In 2012, Commissioner Singer launched the website patransparency.org to release election-related information to the public. The website includes a link to a Google calendar. *See* Screen shot of patransparency.org front page, attached hereto as Exhibit C.
- 40. Commissioner Singer directed Ms. Gordon, as part of her job duties, to update the calendar on Patransparency.org with any event that might be of interest to voters.
- 41. In May of 2013, Ms. Gordon created a calendar entry for the Democratic City Committee's annual fundraising dinner which was scheduled for May 13, 2013. *See* Screen shots of patransparency.org calendar, attached hereto as Exhibit D.

IV. <u>ALLEGED VIOLATIONS</u>

COUNT 1 – VIOLATION OF PHILADELPHIA HOME RULE CHARTER SUBSECTION 10-105

42. By asking Leslie Miles to provide her a payment on or about April 14, 2014 for work she had done in her official capacity, Tracey Gordon solicited a gratuity from Miles and thereby violated Philadelphia Home Rule Charter § 10-105.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Philadelphia Home Rule Charter § 10-109 and Philadelphia Code § 20-606(1)(h), the Executive Director requests that the Board impose upon Tracey Gordon a civil penalty of \$300.

COUNT 2 -VIOLATION OF PHILADELPHIA HOME RULE CHARTER SUBSECTION 10-105

43. By accepting \$10 in cash from Leslie Miles on or about April 14, 2014 as payment for work she had done in her official capacity, Tracey Gordon accepted a gratuity from Miles and thereby violated Philadelphia Home Rule Charter § 10-105.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Philadelphia Home Rule Charter § 10-109 and Philadelphia Code § 20-606(1)(h), the Executive Director requests that the Board impose upon Tracey Gordon a civil penalty of \$300.

COUNT 3 -VIOLATION OF PHILADELPHIA HOME RULE CHARTER SUBSECTION 10-105

44. By asking Leslie Miles to provide her a payment on or about June 12, 2014 for work she had done in her official capacity, Tracey Gordon solicited a gratuity from Miles and thereby violated Philadelphia Home Rule Charter § 10-105.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Philadelphia Home Rule Charter § 10-109 and Philadelphia Code § 20-606(1)(h), the Executive Director requests that the Board impose upon Tracey Gordon a civil penalty of \$300.

COUNT 4 -VIOLATION OF PHILADELPHIA HOME RULE CHARTER SUBSECTION 10-107(4)

45. By recruiting Susan McCall to run for committee person so that she could support a specific candidate for ward leader, Ms. Gordon violated Philadelphia Home Rule Charter § 10-107(4).

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Philadelphia Home Rule Charter § 10-109 and Philadelphia Code § 20-606(1)(h), the Executive Director requests that the Board impose upon Tracey Gordon a civil penalty of \$300.

COUNT 5 – VIOLATION OF PHILADELPHIA CODE SECTION 20-606(2)

- 46. Tracey Gordon failed to cooperate with the Board and obstructed the Board's investigation into her potential violations of the Ethics Code and Home Rule Charter by:
 - a. Telling Susan McCall not to provide information to the Ethics Board about her potential violations of the Home Rule Charter;
 - Telling McCall to destroy the letter she had written to the Board about her potential violations of the Home Rule Charter; and
 - c. Suggesting that McCall would receive a position with Commissioner Singer's Office if she agreed not to provide information to the Board of Ethics.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Philadelphia Code §§ 20-612(1), 20-1302 and 20-1302(1)(b)(iii), the Executive Director requests that the Board impose upon Tracey Gordon a civil penalty of \$2,000.

COUNT 6 -VIOLATION OF PHILADELPHIA HOME RULE CHARTER SUBSECTION 10-107(4)

47. By participating in the planning and promotion of a workshop for committeepersons held on May 28, 2014, Ms. Gordon violated Philadelphia Home Rule Charter § 10-107(4).

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Philadelphia Home Rule Charter § 10-109 and Philadelphia Code § 20-606(1)(h), the Executive Director requests that the Board impose upon Tracey Gordon a civil penalty of \$300.

COUNT 7 -VIOLATION OF PHILADELPHIA HOME RULE CHARTER SUBSECTION 10-107(3)

48. By creating and posting a public calendar entry for the Democratic City Committee's May 2013 annual fundraiser, Ms. Gordon violated Philadelphia Home Rule Charter § 10-107(3).

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Philadelphia Home Rule Charter § 10-109 and Philadelphia Code § 20-606(1)(h), the Executive Director requests that the Board impose upon Tracey Gordon a civil penalty of \$300.

Date: 12/11/14

Respectfully submitted,

J. Shane Creamer, Jr., Esq. Executive Director

Michael J. Cooke, Esq. Director of Enforcement

Jordan E. Segall, Esq. Staff Attorney

City of Philadelphia Board of Ethics 1515 Arch Street, 18th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19102 Phone: (215) 686-9450

Fax: (215) 686-9453

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I, Michael Cooke, hereby certify that on this date I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Administrative Enforcement Proceeding, with Exhibits, to be served upon the following:

By hand delivery:

Tracey Gordon 6543 Windsor Street Philadelphia, PA 19142

By email:

Michael Coard One Liberty Place 1650 Market St., Suite 3652 Philadelphia, PA 19103 michaelcoard@msn.com Counsel for Tracey Gordon

Maya Nayak General Counsel Board of Ethics 1515 Arch St., 18th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19102 Maya.nayak@phila.gov

12/11/14

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BOARD OF ETHICS OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

J. Shane Creamer, Jr.

Executive Director : Board of Ethics :

Board of Ethics : of the City of Philadelphia : 1515 Arch Street, 18th Floor : Philadelphia, PA 19102 :

: **Matter No.** 1412MU14

v. : **Date of Notice:** December 11, 2014

Tracey Gordon : 6543 Windsor Street :

Respondent :

Philadelphia, PA 19142

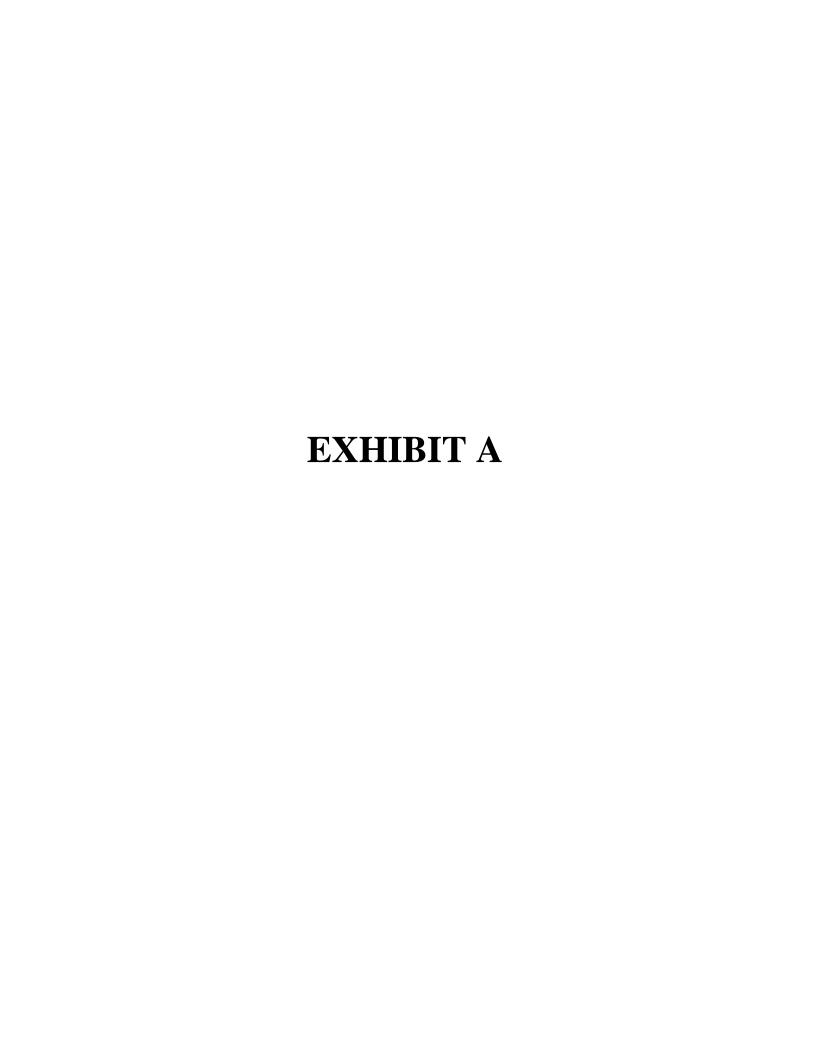
EXHIBITS IN SUPPORT OF NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDING

Exhibit A Thank You Card provided by Leslie Miles to Tracey Gordon

Exhibit B June 21, 2014 Tracey Gordon Fundraiser Flyer

Exhibit C Screen shot of patransparency.org front page

Exhibit D Screen shots of patransparency.org calendar



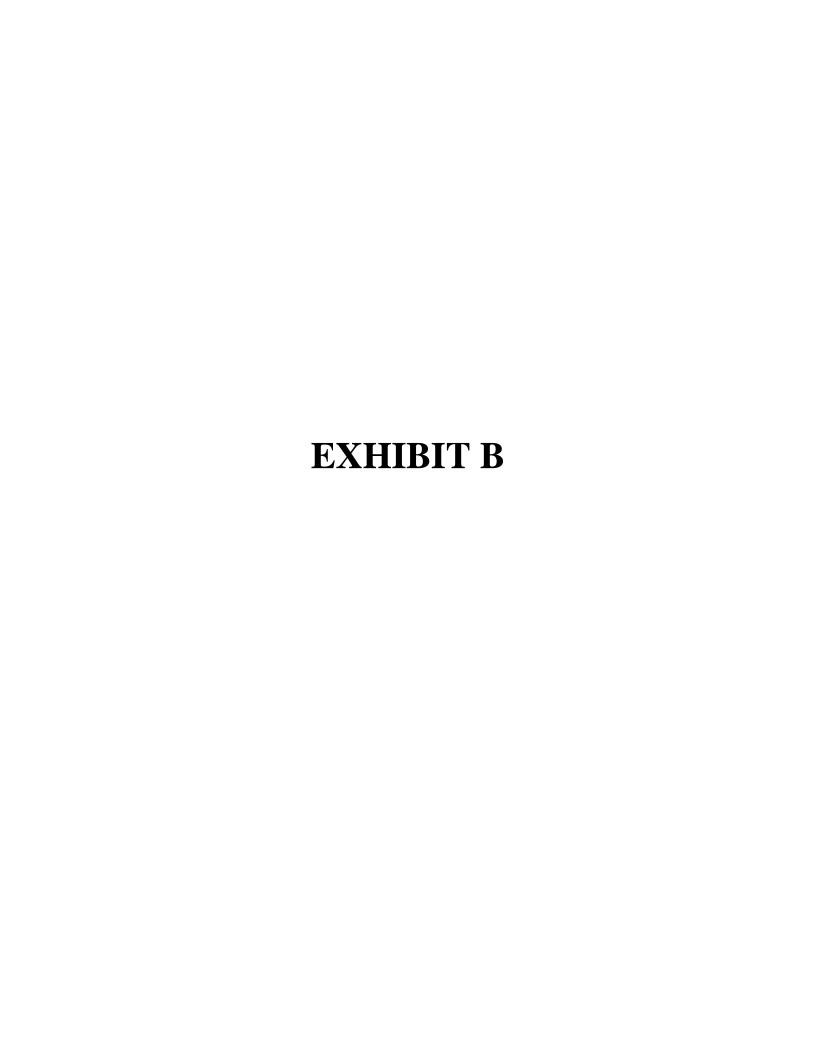
"A time for thanks, a time to say God bless you now and every day." Tender Thoughts 4702704 \$1.95 TETY99874-04F



Thank you and bless you for being so special.

Graterfully yarrs Spalie Mills 2014 PHA Commissioners

Thouts for Beliaring Un







Tr.

Tracey Gordon

Shan

🖒 18 people like this.



Arlean J. Worthy Hi. So this is a fundraiser for community projects?



Tracey Gordon Arlean J. Worthy read the flyer? Its for Community Service and Supporting Tracey

June 21 at 9 (Barn

Sponsored Wil

County Bri

Your First Box is Free!



Monthly delivery of colors from Julep that are SO YOU. Use code FREEBOX.

Running Windows XP?



Support for Windows XP ends in April. Find a modern device to match your business needs.

Designer Bags at Gilt



Access Top Designers at Insider Prices, Join Gilt Todayl

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PA Transparency Project



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Welcome to the Pennsylvania Transparency Project!

The purpose of the Pennsylvania Transparency Project (formerly the Pennsylvania Election Transparency Project) is to collect, analyze and disseminate publicly available election-related data and knowledge in

Precinct Election Board Candidates by Precinct Department of State Instructions on Voter ID Candidates for Open Seats in 2013 General Election

Poll Worker Training Schedule for 2013 General Election

Judicial Retention Races on Nov 5 Ballot Possible Ballot Question for Council to Have Its Own Budget Office

Divisions lacking party nominations for poll

Possible Ballot Question Regarding Minimum Wage for Nov 5

Possible Ballot Question for City to Borrow Money Slated for Nov 5 Election

Poll Worker Training Materials On Line

Emergency Absentee Ballot

Data and Information

- Google Calendar of public events for voters (e.g., candidate forums)
- PA Voter Protection Laws in a Nutshell (pdf from the Advancement Project)
- . The Sunshine Act of Pennsylvania
- Warszw Declaration Toward a
- Community of Democracies
- · Philadelphia Election Results (bulk download or easy look-up)
- Philadelphia Campaign Finance Reports
- · Pennsylvania Campaign Finance Reports
- Federal Campaign Finance Data
- Philadelphia City Commissioner meeting transcripts
- · Pennsylvania Election Calendar. 2014
- · How-To guides
- · Phila Division maps

Contact Us!

Name *

