



Cindy Bass



Bobby Henon



Kenyatta Johnson



Dennis O'Brien



David Oh



Mark Squilla

On property-tax reassessments:

Bass said that while she doesn't want to delay property-tax reform, Council must be careful not to "tax people right out of Philadelphia." She said, "What's most important to me is that we get it right and not that we necessarily do it quickly."

He doesn't like the fact that the Nutter administration won't have the reassessments done by June, when Council must set a new property-tax rate. "I think we should put an injunction in to legally stop it," he said. "I would not want a single person's property tax to raise in this calendar year without having all the proper information."

Johnson is "pretty optimistic" that the state will pass property-tax relief bills in time to reform the troubled tax system this year. Still, he said, "We need to approach this process with caution."

He said that when people get new property-tax bills in the mail, "the sticker shock is going to be hard to imagine." He wants to educate community members about the reform, because otherwise he fears that they'll reject it and it won't happen.

He is concerned that Chinatown will face a big tax increase, but is also hopeful that many neighborhoods will see taxes lowered. He expects that Council will be forced to set a new property-tax rate this year, and will probably need to adjust it next year.

He thinks his district will be hit especially hard with property-tax increases, and is worried that could hurt seniors. If the state doesn't pass legislation by this spring that allows the city to provide some forms of tax relief to residents, Squilla might balk. "There's no way I think we should go forward ... if we aren't prepared to protect our constituents," he said.

What would you cut?

She wants to see the city's prison population drop, so it requires less funding.

Unsure because he's new to Council.

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Unsure, but he wants to save money by making human services more efficient. "I haven't looked at the city budget. This is my first time," he said.

Unsure. "As a city we are cutting and we are taxing and we are penalizing," he said. "It's a bad policy."

He'd slash some of the capital budget, which provides funding for constructing public buildings, to put more funds into maintaining property. "We build brand-new rec centers but we don't put money into maintaining them," he said.

What would you spend on?

Economic development grants and job training programs.

Unsure, but he added that he doesn't want to cut social programs any further.

"I probably couldn't just pick one," mentioning DHS, Parks & Recreation and public safety.

DHS and behavioral health services.

Libraries, Parks & Recreation and funds to reform the city's tax structure.

Parks & Recreation

Council budget hearing?

"Worth considering,"

Yes.

Not "against" it.

No hearing, but post budget online.

Not sure.

Not sure.

Business tax cuts?

Maybe.

No.

Yes.

Maybe.

Rethink entire tax structure instead.

Yes.