



For Immediate Release

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University of Pennsylvania Democrats Endorse Jim Kenney for Mayor of Philadelphia

Philadelphia finds itself at a key point in its history. Despite its progress since the end of the Great Recession and its selection as the host city for a historic visit from Pope Francis and the 2016 Democratic National Convention, Philadelphia faces a funding crisis for its public schools and maintains the highest poverty rate of any major U.S. city. Thus, when city voters head to the polls in May to choose the next mayor, they should vote for a candidate who will capitalize on the city's strengths, combat its weaknesses, and create a more inclusive and prosperous city for every Philadelphian. Penn Democrats looks to Jim Kenney as that leader, and today we proudly endorse Jim Kenney to be Philadelphia's next mayor.

As a member of City Council, Kenney has convincingly demonstrated his ability to get things done for the people of this city, serving as a proud and effective champion of equal rights. In 2013, he sponsored a landmark bill providing protections to LGBT citizens, making Philadelphia the largest U.S. city to offer such broad protections. Then, in 2014, in response to a brutal attack against a gay couple in Center City, Kenney successfully extended the city's hate crimes statutes to cover offenses committed against the LGBT community.

Moreover, Kenney has successfully initiated other progressive reforms. In 2014, he shepherded a marijuana decriminalization bill through City Council, ushering in a more just and effective policy. Kenney also successfully lobbied Mayor Nutter to stop the policy of detaining—without a warrant—undocumented immigrants for up to 48 hours for transfer to federal custody.

Because we know that Jim Kenney has achieved positive results on City Council, we are confident that he will deliver meaningful progress as mayor, and he has articulated a strong vision for the future of Philadelphia.

Kenney has a comprehensive plan for improving Philadelphia's education system. He has vowed to fight for a fair funding formula at the state level to guarantee that

Philadelphia students get the education funding they deserve. And he has called for universal pre-kindergarten, which is imperative to ensure that every child in this city has an equal opportunity to succeed.

Additionally, Kenney has promised to initiate important criminal justice reforms. He has pledged to end “stop-and-frisk” policing and to equip police officers with body cameras to guarantee full transparency and accountability.

Furthermore, Kenney plans to protect workers, immigrants, and the environment. He promises to fight for enhanced workplace protections and for fair wages. He wants to reduce barriers to city services for immigrants and increase their opportunities to succeed. And he wants to protect our natural environment and increase green space in the city while continuing to make Philadelphia more walkable and bike-friendly.

Ultimately, Jim Kenney’s unique combination of experience and vision make him the clear choice for Philadelphia. He is a proven leader who has represented the entire city for over 20 years and has demonstrated his ability to tackle the toughest challenges of the day. As mayor, he will work toward a more welcoming, inclusive, and prosperous Philadelphia where students receive a good education, workers earn a livable wage, immigrants find opportunity, and every Philadelphian receives equal and fair treatment under the law.

On May 19, the Penn Democrats urge Philadelphians to vote Jim Kenny for mayor.

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