

Dealing with trash & litter

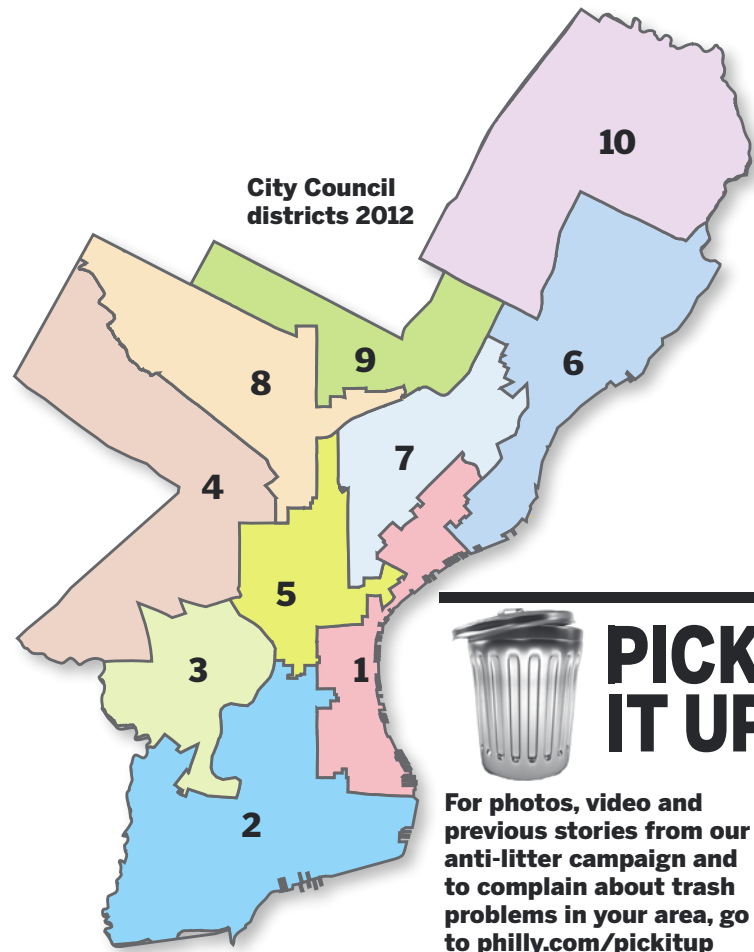
AS THEIR CAMPAIGNS drew to a close before this week's election, we asked City Council candidates what they'd do to crack down on litter and illegal dumping. Most said they'd improve enforcement of existing laws, work with community groups and educate residents on litter's effect on their communities.

Those answers sound great — but they're also noncommittal.

For one thing, education initiatives already exist. And the Streets Department has said it would rather educate violators than penalize them more frequently. So, what else would they do?

Take a look at a sample of what the incoming Council district representatives had to say (at-large Council members are coming soon). And let us know what you think about their ideas emailing trash@phillynews.com. We'll also pass along any suggestions to your councilman, so they can hit the ground running when they're installed in January.

— Phillip Lucas, Juliana Reyes and Natalie Pompilio



PICK IT UP

For photos, video and previous stories from our anti-litter campaign and to complain about trash problems in your area, go to philly.com/pickitup

1st District Mark Squilla

On a one to 10 scale, the litter problem is an ...: **8**, but that's a step up. "It was a 10 at one point."

Solution? More community outreach, involving the Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee (PMBC) and civic groups. "I don't think we have enough participation in the district or in the city," he said. "We're doing it neighborhood by neighborhood." Educate children about keeping the city clean through school programs that stress city pride and work with PMBC to introduce a "junior block captain" program.

On enforcement: "We have enough legislation on the books," he said. "It's just a matter of how we go about enforcing it."



2nd District Kenyatta Johnson

On a one to 10 scale, the litter problem is an ...: **8**. "It's an especially big problem in some areas of my district," he said. "We've come a long way since the days of 'Fithadelphia,' but we can do better."

Solution? More enforcement of anti-littering laws and stricter penalties for violations. The extra money brought in will pay for other anti-litter programs. More partnering with residents and businesses and more education programs in schools. Explore expanding special-service districts where businesses fund sidewalk sweeping, litter removal, like Center City and Old City districts.

On enforcement: "The amount of litter on the streets and the illegal dumping going on indicate that enforcement is not where it could be."



3rd District Jannie Blackwell

On a one to 10 scale, the litter problem is an ...: **4** "It ain't bad everywhere. Some people work hard [to clean up]."

Solution? Continue to sup-



port special service districts, like University City District and Mantua Community Improvement Committee, and work with community organizations, committeepeople, and City Year students to do cleanups. She started Market Street corridor-cleaning program in September, getting the city to pay for organizations to clean 46th Street to 63rd.

On enforcement: "The city can't afford to have people out 24 hours a day," she said. "That's why we need to have town watch and block captains. Everybody has to get involved. It's a partnership."

4th District Curtis Jones

On a scale from one to 10, the litter problem is a ...: **5**, "with Philadelphia progressively moving forward."

Solution? Encourage more recycling and place trash compactors in residential areas, though he's not sure how to pay for them. Push for legislation to deal with signs and advertisements left hanging on street posts, which contribute to litter. He started an alley- and lot-cleaning project, partnering with block captains, anti-drug activists and Gaudenzia House drug-treatment center.

On enforcement: Increase employment at the Department of Licenses and Inspections to better enforce regulations and generate revenue.



5th District Darrell Clarke

On a one to 10 scale, the litter problem is an ...: **6**

Solution? Get the school district to increase education about litter: "Get children real early." Increase the number of block captains, including by getting help from the private sector.

On enforcement: "It all comes down to workforce," he said. "If we had the resources, we'd be in a better position. Unfortunately, we're in a position where we don't have enough resources to enforce the way I'd like."



6th District Bobby Henon

On a one to 10 scale, the litter problem is a ...: **5** "Not to minimize the litter problem, but we have many more pressing issues in the city right now," he said. "Littering is often a symptom of indifference born of poverty ... Our primary focus needs to be on creating jobs to stimulate the economy and lift people out of poverty."

Solution? Possibly expand the anti-bligh Community Life Improvement Program. Promote recycling efforts and increase penalties for those who litter.

On enforcement: "It is inadequate, or we wouldn't be talking."



7th District Maria Quinones-Sanchez

On a one to 10 scale, the litter problem is a ...: Overall, a **4**. In her district, **7**. "I have a pet peeve about trash," she said.

Solution? Continue organizing weekly cleanups, encouraging recycling and adding trash cans, especially next to transit stops.

On enforcement: She's pleased with L&I's recent attempts to increase enforcement.



8th District Cindy Bass

On a one to 10 scale, the litter problem is an ...: **11** "In order to make Philadelphia a more hospitable place to live and do business, we need to keep it clean," she said.

Solution? Institute regular cleanups, develop



more community involvement and see if private entities, such as Home Depot, can donate materials.

On enforcement: "I would work with the local police districts within the Council district to make sure that the officers have the resources and training needed to enforce such a law."

9th District Marian Tasco

On a one to 10 scale, the litter problem is a ...: **6**

Solution? Parents and schools should teach their children not to litter. "It's a behavior issue," she said. "I'm coming from the old school because when I was growing up, we were taught in school not to throw trash on the street."

On enforcement: "The city is trying very hard to keep the city clean ... You're not going to be able to put money into everything."



10th District Brian O'Neil

On a one to 10 scale, the litter problem is ...: Between a **3** and a **4**. "We're not a clean city," he said.

Solution? Bring back the street-cleaning machines.

Every other major city has them and we stopped in the 1970s, he said. "We're about 40 years behind the rest of the world," he said. How to pay for those machines? "We'd have to figure that out," he said. More trash cans at SEPTA stations; a rewards program with neighbors for keeping their curb clean and other "low-cost, high-incentive" competitions.

On enforcement: Install more cameras to catch illegal dumping, the cost of which would be offset by the money usually spent to clean up these areas.



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