



Pennsylvania Coalition for Civil Justice Reform 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

Margie Brown  
Candidate Name (Print)

Senate District # 25 or  
House District # \_\_\_\_\_

Party: Democratic

Margie Brown  
Candidate Signature

August 9, 2020  
Date

1. Do you think Pennsylvania's legal climate encourages the establishment of businesses in Pennsylvania, and their continued presence in the state?

\_\_\_\_\_yes                      \_\_\_\_\_no                       \_\_\_\_\_undecided

Comments:

However, I see a movement toward privatization of prisons, and that could create a perverse incentive for incarcerations. I think this is a delicate situation dependent on electing those who understand that the goals of justice are to improve society.

2. COVID-19 poses unique problems for health care and both small and large businesses. They now face increased exposure to civil liability as a result of stepping up to fight the pandemic.

Do you think health care providers and businesses that follow safety guidelines issued by federal or state governments should have COVID-19 liability protection?

\_\_\_\_\_yes                      \_\_\_\_\_no                      \_\_\_\_\_undecided

Comments:

I think it is very important that our health care and businesses are protected - in terms of PPE and both legally and financially.

3. Venue shopping is when plaintiffs' attorneys file suit in a county (such as Philadelphia) known for high verdicts, even though the case has little or no connection to the county. Verdicts are known to be so high in Philadelphia that the American Tort Reform Association named Philadelphia its No. 1 "Judicial Hellhole" for 2020!

a. Will you protect the current medical liability venue rule that allows cases to be filed only where the cause of action arose/injury occurred?

\_\_\_\_\_yes                      \_\_\_\_\_no                      \_\_\_\_\_undecided

Comments:

I believe in fairness.

b. Would you support limiting venue for all civil cases in Pennsylvania to the county where the cause of action arose?

\_\_\_\_\_yes                      \_\_\_\_\_no                       \_\_\_\_\_undecided

Comments:

I expect that limiting venue for all civil cases to the county where the cause of action arose would be fair, but there might be a case where the plaintiff lives in another county and it would be a physical hardship to file in the county where the cause of action arose. I marked "undecided" because I would need to look into this further.

4. A False Claims Act is legislation that encourages bounty hunters, known as "qui tam" plaintiffs, to sue on behalf of the government when they believe a business received government payments to which it is not entitled. A qui tam plaintiff keeps a significant portion, up to 30%, of any verdict.

Pennsylvania already recovers monies under the federal False Claims Act for any false Medicaid claims, yet plaintiffs' lawyers are trying to enact a state False Claims Act that would divert even more money to the bounty hunting qui tam plaintiff and the attorney.

Do you believe Pennsylvania should have a state False Claims Act?

\_\_\_\_\_yes                       \_\_\_\_\_no                      \_\_\_\_\_undecided

Comments:

I believe that money should be returned to the taxpayer.

5. From time to time, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania contracts with outside law firms to represent the Commonwealth in civil cases. These firms charge a contingency fee, sometimes more than 30%, for their services, and keeps that percentage of any money won in the lawsuit.

Transparency in Private Attorney Contracting (TIPAC) legislation imposes reasonable limits on contingency fees, allowing the Commonwealth to keep control of the litigation and ensure that the taxpayers, as opposed to the lawyers, receive more benefit from a recovery of damages.

Will you support TIPAC legislation and limits on contingency fees in representations of the Commonwealth?

\_\_\_\_\_yes                      \_\_\_\_\_no                      \_\_\_\_\_undecided

Comments:

I don't think the taxpayers should be fleeced. If there is a benefit to having a practice in PA, that benefits the taxpayers.