



SETH WILLIAMS' PLAN TO FIGHT MUNICIPAL CORRUPTION

Much like its' broken criminal justice system, Philadelphia's political system is broken. Although important steps have been taken to improve our political and governmental systems in recent years, there remains significant work to be done.

The overwhelming majority of the city employees and political figures are hardworking and honest. But just as a very small percentage of criminals are responsible for a majority of crimes, there is a small percentage of employees, political figures and elected officials who cross the line into unethical practices. The actions of these individuals not only harms the morale and performance of our city workers, but it makes the City of Philadelphia a less desirable place to live, work or create a business. That cannot be allowed to continue.

Unfortunately, even as Mayor Michael Nutter has taken steps to reform the City's political system and government, the District Attorney has not been an equal partner in that effort. Current District Attorney Lynne Abraham's stated position that she was limited in her ability to fully investigate corruption in the city because she relied on elected officials and political leaders for their electoral support was an embarrassment and an abdication of responsibility.

Only when there is a District Attorney as committed to rooting out, investigating and prosecuting corruption as Mayor Nutter is will Philadelphia be able to shed its national image as a place where a pay-to-play culture thrives.

As a former Inspector General, Seth Williams is uniquely qualified among the candidates for District Attorney to fight corruption and help reform the culture of corruption that has too long been prevalent in Philadelphia.

As District Attorney, Seth will build on the relationships he developed as Inspector General with investigators of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Attorney's Office and Attorney General of Pennsylvania and will work to create a multi-agency task force to root out corruption.

While the District Attorney has no legislative role nor control over any department other than their own, as District Attorney Seth will not only lead by example, but partner with the Controller, Inspector General and city departments to ensure that no one is violating the public's trust. Seth believes no one should be above the law and as District Attorney, he will.

- Lead by example;
- Create a dedicated municipal corruption unit;
- Establish a “whistleblower hotline” for the public;
- Create a Chief Performance Officer;
- Create and meet annual performance measures; and
- Ban political activity by D.A. staff.

As District Attorney, Seth Will:

Lead by Example.

It is important for the District Attorney to lead by example. If elected, Seth will make his office an example and open and transparent government. He will increase the amount of information that is publicly available about the operations and successes of the office, hold regular community meetings and public review meetings (DA-STAT). In addition, not only will he limit the number of outside consultants the Office of the District Attorney has, but Seth will also competitively bid those contracts.

Create a dedicated municipal corruption unit.

Currently, investigations of elected officials, their staff and political leaders are handled by the Investigations Unit of the District Attorney’s Office. As District Attorney, Seth will create a dedicated municipal corruption unit that will be charged with working with the Office of the Inspector General to investigate and prosecute

Establish “whistleblower hotline”.

With the establishment of an independent Ethics Board, there is now an agency charged with monitoring and enforcing the City’s ethics code. As District Attorney, Seth will create a “whistleblower hotline” to allow the public to file an anonymous complaint against a City official. A second hotline should be established to allow city workers to anonymously discuss ethics issues and receive advice.

Create a Chief Performance Officer.

As detailed in an earlier policy paper, as District Attorney, Seth will create a Chief Performance Officer in order to evaluate every program within the office. This data will be collected and analyzed in order to correctly measure results and allocate limited resources and staff.

Create an Inspector General for the D.A.’s office.

Seth will appoint an Assistant District Attorney to serve as an Inspector General in the District Attorney’s office. The new Inspector General will conduct all internal investigations to ensure all D.A. staff members comply with all state and municipal ethics laws and the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter.

Create and meet annual performance measures.

As Seth has said before, the goal of the District Attorney should not be to increase convictions, but to reduce crime. As District Attorney, Seth will adopt a performance based budget system that tracks performance against agency missions and budget appropriations. Working closely with the Chief Performance Office, Seth will not only set specific goals with important benchmarks, but he will public report on the progress to meeting those goals.

Ban political activity by D.A. staff.

There is already a ban on political activity by most employees of the Executive Branch, but as a Row Office, the employees of the District Attorney's office are not under the same restrictions. They should be. As District Attorney, Seth will require every one of his employees to live under same rules and regulations as executive branch, including a ban on political activity by staff.

Seth Williams, the City's former Inspector General, has 10 years of experience as a top prosecutor and supervisor in Philadelphia's District Attorney's Office. For more information, please visit his campaign website at www.votesethwilliams.com.

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