



PROGRESSIVE

The race to represent a diverse district that includes neighborhoods, such as Bloomfield, Friendship, Highland Park, Lawrenceville, Morningside, Polish Hill, Stanton Heights and the Strip District, sees incumbent councilor Deb Gross facing off against community organizer La'Tasha Mayes. Both tout progressive cred, but Mayes says Gross is a progressive in words only.

{ COMPILED BY REBECCA NUTTALL }

<p>CANDIDATE</p>	 <p>DEBORAH GROSS</p>	 <p>LA'TASHA MAYES</p>
<p>BIOGRAPHY</p>	<p>Gross was elected to city council in a 2013 special election. She has been involved with the Lawrenceville Corporation, the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Alliance, and the Women and Girls Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania. She also started a business that helps nonprofits connect with the business community.</p>	<p>Founder and executive director of New Voices Pittsburgh, a group dedicated to the health of black women and girls. Has received several honors from groups including Planned Parenthood and the Greater Pittsburgh YWCA and was also named to <i>Pittsburgh Magazine's</i> 2005 "40 Under 40" list.</p>
<p>PUBLIC SAFETY</p>	<p>As a former block-watch captain, Gross is a proponent of similar crime-prevention strategies. Says communication between community organizations and police is key to monitoring criminal activity. Will advocate for using data from complaint forums like the city's 311 line as early detection for crime trends.</p>	<p>Mayes is a proponent of community policing, where citizens are familiar with the officers in their neighborhoods. She's particularly concerned with the violence people of color and LGBTQ individuals have experienced at the hands of police, and she has been vocal at police-brutality rallies and protests throughout the city.</p>
<p>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>Has spent much of her tenure aiding the growth of small businesses in her district. Says she'll make sure the "community has a say in development." This includes maintaining housing affordability. Credited with sponsoring land-bank legislation designed to redevelop blighted property.</p>	<p>As development in District 7 continues, Mayes says it should not create challenges for the people living in the district. She cites years of experience as a community organizer in the areas of affordable and sustainable development and would bring this expertise to council.</p>
<p>TRANSIT</p>	<p>In neighborhoods experiencing population changes and increased development, Gross says transit improvements are necessary to aid her district's transformation. This includes changes to transportation and traffic infrastructure such as crosswalks and stoplights.</p>	<p>Since Mayes says her district has lower rates of car ownership, she says neighborhoods must have multi-modal transportation that includes public transit, biking and walking. She says city leaders should work with the county to ensure people who most need access to buses have it.</p>
<p>FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS</p>	<p>Endorsements include Allegheny County Labor Council, SEIU, Fraternal Order of Police, Stonewall Democrats, Sierra Club Allegheny Group, Allegheny County Democratic Committee, Young Democrats of Allegheny County, Equality PA, Planned Parenthood PA and Clean Water Action.</p>	<p>Has been endorsed by the Gertrude Stein Political Club, who said Mayes "embodies what our club is all about."</p>