



EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE PLANET.

## **Wanted: Environmental Champions!**

For the last quarter century Sierra Club members have worked to elect leaders who will take action to ensure that this and future generations have clean air, clean water, safe and healthy neighborhoods as well as wild lands and open spaces for people and wildlife. Our members support candidates who will move our nation swiftly along a path to 100% clean energy by reducing greenhouse gas pollution and advancing clean energy technologies in ways that also advance equity and justice.

Today more than ever, our nation needs strong leaders to restore and strengthen bedrock environmental and public health protections and to ensure that America steps up its commitments in the fight against climate change. The science is irrefutable--the damage to our planet is real. We can turn the corner on climate change, but only if America's elected leaders take bold action now to put the country on a path to meet or exceed the carbon reductions of 50% by 2030 that science demands. We must meet the urgency of the moment with the scale of ambition required to address the climate crisis.

### **The Challenge for Our Federal Champions**

- Reverse, and build back better from, the Trump administration's rollback of environmental safeguards and ensure the laws that protect clean air, clean water, public lands and wildlife are strengthened, enforced, and adequately funded.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and carbon pollution and make an equitable and just transition to 100% clean renewable energy.
- Advance clean energy investments, incentives, and infrastructure both here and abroad to create climate resilience, provide access to clean and affordable transportation choices for all, and boost family sustaining jobs.
- Hold fossil fuel polluters accountable for their pollution and keep dirty fuels in the ground.
- Lay the groundwork to protect 30% of wild spaces by 2030 and 50% by 2050 ensuring enhanced conservation of intact ecosystems biodiversity and climate resilience and that all communities have access to public lands and every child in the United States can benefit from a direct connection to the natural world.
- Advance fair trade that puts the interests of communities, workers, and the environment before the interests of multinational corporations.
- Protect and expand the rights of voters and limit the power of big money in politics.
- Advance equity and justice for all, regardless of race, gender or economic status.

Voters across the country – regardless of demographics or political persuasion – share these values. They believe we do not have to choose between a clean environment and a strong economy. These values are rooted in equity and justice: both nature and people deserve justice and full protection under the law. Voters expect their elected representatives to provide leadership that will secure good jobs for America’s workers **and** a healthy environment with clean air, clean water, and wild places for this and future generations.

Sierra Club uses the power of its voice and our volunteers on behalf of its 3.8 million members and supporters, on behalf of the candidates it endorses. If you are interested in Sierra Club’s endorsement, complete the attached Sierra Club 2021-2022 Federal Candidate Questionnaire. In addition to your response to the specific questions, share your views, vision, and priorities on these and other environmental challenges on this questionnaire or pages you attach.

Please return the completed copy to both your local Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ and the National Political Team, ([political.desk@sierraclub.org](mailto:political.desk@sierraclub.org)).

***If you have additional comments on any of the issues discussed below please include them in the questionnaire or attach a separate document.***

## Sierra Club 2021-2022 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

*Please provide the information requested below.*

Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Senate: \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. House: \_\_\_\_\_  
State State / District

Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Committee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Office #: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Finance Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**General Campaign Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell#:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

The questions below are representative of some of the diverse environmental issues that the members and supporters of the Sierra Club consider a priority. Your responses to the following questions will be considered confidential, will NOT be posted online or released to the public, and will only be seen by Sierra Club volunteers and staff who are assigned to review the questionnaires. For any additional information on the issues raised below please feel free to reference Sierra Club's website, [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org).

## QUESTIONS

### ***Advancing Bold Climate Leadership***

Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge of this century. Science demands that we take bold action to reduce carbon pollution by at least 50% by 2030, yet the previous administration sought and some in Congress are still actively seeking to roll back meaningful policies put in place over the past decade.

- 1)** If elected, will you work to restore, and expand upon, the progress we made to address the challenge of climate change and support additional action to put the country on a path to meet or exceed carbon reductions of 50% of 2005 levels by 2030 and economy wide by 2050?  
YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

### ***Protecting Communities***

Communities should be safe, healthy places to live and raise children – with clean air and water, free from the dangers of toxic pollution. This can be achieved by defending, upholding, and fully funding the enforcement of environmental laws that require all polluters to meet stringent standards to reduce carbon, soot, smog, sulfur, mercury, and other air and water pollution. These laws must also be strengthened to align with what scientific and public health data demand.

Air and water pollution and the impacts of climate change disproportionately impact our nation's poorest families, working class communities, and communities of color who are more likely to live in areas where air and water pollution exceed national standards. We must ensure that as we hold polluters accountable and pursue action to address climate change, the solutions are just and fully address the needs of these communities.

Over the past decade, the EPA established strong standards to protect public health and to regulate pollution, including carbon pollution. These standards have had a positive impact on the health of communities and our efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change, yet these standards and the progress they have fostered came under direct attack from the previous administration, which sought to

systematically strip EPA of its capacity to enforce these lifesaving protections. These standards must be restored and strengthened and Congress must work with the Biden administration to do so.

**2)** Will you support full funding for the Environmental Protection Agency and affirm its authority to promulgate, monitor, and enforce strong standards that hold fossil fuel polluters accountable for meeting the requirements of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and other longstanding safeguards to public health, safety, and the environment? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

**3)** Will you support policies and legislation that drive the cleanup of air and water pollution while prioritizing high impact areas and analysis of cumulative impacts faced by overburdened communities? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

**4)** Will you support targeted funding for the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct more intensive monitoring and enforcement programs for air and water quality in and near communities, particularly for communities which have been disadvantaged or marginalized or which bear disproportionate effects of pollution? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

**5)** Will you support legislation to protect communities and waterways in Appalachia from pollution and coal-mining waste resulting from surface coal mining such as mountaintop removal mining, including impacts related to incomplete or insufficient reclamation resulting from mine operator bankruptcies? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

**6)** Will you support legislation, such as the RECLAIM Act, to protect the livelihoods of communities and workers that have depended on and been affected by fossil fuels? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

### ***Advancing a Clean Energy, Climate-Smart Economy***

Our planet, our people, our security and our economy depend on elected leaders supporting the transition to a 100% clean energy future. In accomplishing those objectives, our elected leaders must do so in ways that advance social justice. Elected leaders must consistently choose clean energy over the dirty fuels of the past. Elected leaders must say no to major new investments and commitments to dirty fossil fuel infrastructure. Elected leaders must ensure that existing coal, oil, and gas meet the strictest pollution standards. And finally, we must use all energy as efficiently as possible. Our nation's continued reliance on dirty fossil fuel energy not only contributes to climate change but also directly threatens our health and wellbeing.

Today the fossil fuel industry – coal, oil, and gas – benefits from numerous direct and indirect subsidies and loopholes that allow them to avoid complying with laws to protect our air and water. Congress must end these subsidies and close these loopholes.

**7)** Will you extend clean energy tax credits, expand existing clean energy incentives, and support and promote legislation that will ramp up investment and deployment of renewable energy

projects and a just transition from dirty fuels to move the U.S. toward a 100% clean energy economy by 2050? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

**8)** Will you support ending fossil fuel subsidies? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

**9)** Will you support proposals to close loopholes that exempt drilling and fracking operations from basic environmental protections provided by laws such as the Clean Water Act or Safe Drinking Water Act? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

**10)** Will you oppose efforts to short circuit the approval process for new fossil fuel infrastructure or fossil fuel exports? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

**11)** Will you support restrictions on public financing for international high carbon projects? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

### **Climate Smart Investments**

Sierra Club supports bold public investments to simultaneously tackle the climate crisis and pollution, create high-paying jobs, and reduce inequity, as outlined in visionary proposals such as a Green New Deal, the THRIVE Agenda, and President Biden’s Build Back Better plan. Government investments could help us achieve a climate-smart infrastructure and transportation system, energy-efficient buildings, growth in clean manufacturing, healthy ecosystems, and more sustainable agriculture. As a result, low-income workers, communities of color, and other frontline communities would benefit from cleaner air and water, higher-paying jobs, lower costs, increased climate resilience, and a more stable climate. As one example, a new “Buy Clean” policy could use government purchasing to create good manufacturing jobs in low-income communities while slashing climate, air, and water pollution from manufacturing processes.

**12)** Will you support bold public investments in infrastructure, renewable energy, manufacturing, ecological, agricultural, and other projects to tackle the climate crisis and pollution, create high-paying jobs, and reduce inequity? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

A 21st century climate-smart infrastructure plan will prioritize renewable energy projects, grid modernization, advanced energy efficiency projects, updates to critical water infrastructure, the electrification of transportation systems, and advance energy resiliency. An accompanying clean manufacturing plan will spur growth in manufacturing of the goods needed for a clean energy economy while slashing manufacturing-related pollution. Elected leaders have the opportunity to build a transportation system that relies on efficient vehicles, clean fuels, and smart growth that emphasizes clean, convenient, and affordable transportation choices such as public transit and safe biking and walking paths. Elected leaders must pursue performance-based transportation funding, driven by national goals, including a goal to significantly reduce our oil consumption. They must support smart, integrated land use and investing in repairing our existing infrastructure before building new roads -- fix it first!

**13)** Will you support and strengthen federal clean car standards as well as increased federal investment in electric vehicles, charging infrastructure, expanded public transit, and fleet electrification. Will you support a safe, affordable, equitable and accessible 21st century transportation system that reduces oil use and cuts pollution? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

***Promoting a Just Democracy***

Sierra Club's values are rooted in principles of equity, justice and inclusion. We believe both nature and people deserve justice and full protection under the law. We believe in a society that is first and foremost just, fair and rational – one that abhors brutality and favors equality. Whether it's the planet itself or the people who inhabit it, we hold the ideals of respect and reverence in the highest regard. For these reasons, we support policies that not only preserve and protect the environment but promote racial, economic, social, and environmental justice.

**14)** Will you support and actively promote policies that address racial, economic, social, and environmental justice like legislation that requires payment of the prevailing wage, provides for hiring from local communities on federally-financed climate and clean energy projects, and promotes strong enforcement of environmental laws in the most disproportionately affected communities? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

***Defending our Democracy***

Coal, oil, and gas special interests are corrupting our government by trying to buy elections and putting corporate profits above the interests of our country. The fossil fuel industry is spending unprecedented money to influence elections – leveraging this money to drown out the voices of everyday Americans. Over the last few years the American public has voiced their increasing concern and frustration about the growing influence of money in politics.

**15)** Will you support legislative actions that protect and strengthen campaign finance reform, voter protections, and the policies laid out in legislation such as the For the People Act (H.R.1/S.1 - 2021) and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

***Protecting Our Public Lands from Fossil Fuel Development***

Keeping dirty fuels in the ground is critical to meeting carbon reduction goals to address climate change and has the added benefit of protecting some of the most wild and spectacular public lands in the nation. America is rich with parks, monuments, forests, wilderness and wildlife; but today, a rush to mine, drill and frack for coal, oil and gas threatens the natural, recreational, health and cultural values of special places from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to our public lands and forests across the country and our coasts. The oil, gas, and coal industries must not be permitted to drill in the Arctic Refuge, undertake new offshore drilling, or be allowed mining and drilling permits in national monuments such as Bears Ears in Utah or on public lands. Developing these dirty fuels and extraction operations would cause irreparable harm to the environment, damage valuable wildlife habitat, foul our waters, harm indigenous communities, and hurt local economies.

**16)** Will you support legislation to block proposed leasing and drilling on public lands, special places such as the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Chaco Canyon in New Mexico? And will you support legislation to designate the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge as wilderness? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

**17)** Will you oppose new leasing and development in the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans and other threatened public lands onshore? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

***Ensuring a Lasting Legacy of Wildlands and Open Spaces for the Public***

The Sierra Club has adopted a public policy objective to protect 30% of publicly owned wild spaces by 2030 and 50% by 2050. Attainment of that objective will assist in ensuring the conservation of intact ecosystems, biodiversity, and climate resilience. Attainment of that objective will also help achieve an important social policy adopted by the Sierra Club: citizens, especially in low income communities, have little to no access to public recreational lands designed to bring them closer to nature. Additionally, far too few communities have safe access to our network of protected parks and public lands, with low-income families the least likely to benefit from a direct connection to nature. All kids and communities deserve access to nature, which supports mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing. Lawmakers should build on efforts to ensure every child in America has an opportunity to visit our parks and public lands, and all communities are able to access nature close to home.

**18)** Will you oppose attempts to de-designate, shrink or compromise existing national monuments, weaken protections for public lands, and oppose any attempt to weaken the Antiquities Act? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

**19)** Will you support legislation that expands access to nature for all communities, including our children? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

***Ensuring Trade Deals are Good for Workers and the Environment***

Past U.S. free trade agreements have undermined the ability of governments to protect the environment and address the climate crisis. For example, past agreements like NAFTA help corporations dodge hard-fought environmental policies by outsourcing pollution and jobs to countries with weaker environmental standards. In addition, such deals include handouts to corporate polluters that foster fossil fuel dependency while empowering corporations to challenge environmental protections. Unfortunately, the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement’s (USMCA) lack of strong environmental protections and zero mention of climate change encourages continued outsourcing of pollution and jobs. We need to move beyond the past and develop a new, climate-friendly trade model that curbs damage to our air, water, climate, and communities. That includes establishing a carbon dumping fee on imports made with high climate pollution and revising existing trade agreements to replace handouts to corporate polluters with binding environmental protections.

**20)** Will you support the development of a new, climate-friendly trade model, including the establishment of a carbon dumping fee on imports made with high climate pollution, and the revision of existing trade agreements to eliminate handouts to corporate polluters and to add binding climate, environmental, and labor standards? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

***Reproductive and Environmental Health***

Reproductive and environmental health go hand in hand. No matter one's gender, everyone should be able to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and live in a safe and healthy community powered by clean energy and protected from our changing climate. Every child-bearing person should be able to plan their families on their terms, to deal with their realities. Many people would like to plan and space their pregnancies, but don't have the knowledge, tools, or power to do so. With access to education, voluntary family planning, and lives powered by clean energy, women and girls at home and around the world are better able to cope with extreme weather events, feed their families, and live the lives of their choosing.

**21)** Will you support funding for comprehensive national and international voluntary family planning/reproductive health assistance so that child-bearing people here in the United States and in other countries are able to voluntarily control their own bodies? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

***Environmental Leadership***

Please describe leadership you've shown in support of the environment and/or justice, fairness and equity in the natural and human environments in any elected office you've held, or outside of elected office. If you've introduced legislation please describe the success or failure of that legislation. Please address below or attach a separate document.