

## Sierra Club Falls of the James Group

### Henrico County Board of Supervisors Candidate Questionnaire 2023 General Election

**DEADLINE: September 30, 2023**

Dear Candidate for the Henrico County Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the Sierra Club Falls of the James Group, we thank you for taking time to complete this questionnaire. We realize that every minute is precious in a campaign. Your responses to this questionnaire are an important factor in our endorsement process. The Sierra Club will not publicize candidate responses without your permission.

As an elected official, many of the policy actions you take will have direct and indirect environmental consequences. Many of the issues that concern us are represented in the following questionnaire.

We ask that you indicate “YES” or “NO” to each question. There are no “trick” questions – all “YES” responses reflect our positions. No one question is a “litmus test”; our endorsement is based on a range of factors which includes your replies to this questionnaire. If you would like additional information about any of the questions, please contact us. You are encouraged to expand your responses in the space provided or by attaching additional comments, but that is not required.

Please return the completed questionnaire by email to [glenbesa@gmail.com](mailto:glenbesa@gmail.com)

**Deadline for return of the questionnaire is Saturday, September 30, 2023.**

Candidate: Jody K Rogish

Party Affiliation: Democratic

Campaign Name: Jody Rogish for Tuckahoe

Candidate's Email: [rogish4tuckahoe@gmail.com](mailto:rogish4tuckahoe@gmail.com)

Candidate's Phone: 804-814-5880

Campaign Office Address (physical location): 205 Bayly Ct Henrico VA 23229

Campaign Website: <https://www.rogish4tuckahoe.org/>

Campaign Social Media:

[Twitter \(@Rogish4Tuckahoe\)](#),

[Instagram \(Rogish4Tuckahoe\)](#),

[Facebook \(Jody Rogish for Tuckahoe\)](#)

Campaign Office Phone:

Campaign Mailing Address (post office box): PO BOX 31951

HENRICO, VA 23294

Campaign Manager: Bob Shippee

Campaign Manager's Email: [rsoxbob@gmail.com](mailto:rsoxbob@gmail.com)

Campaign Manager's Phone: 804-325-9788

### **Sierra Club Philosophy**

Our Mission: To explore, enjoy and protect the planet. To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives.

The Sierra Club believes all people deserve a healthy planet with clean air and water, a stable climate, parks and protected areas, and safe communities. That means all people deserve equal protection under the law and the right to a life free of pollution, discrimination, hatred and violence.

Do you agree? **YES**

YES NO

Comments?

### **Development:**

Virginia law requires localities to develop long range comprehensive plans to address population growth and land use. Henrico County is currently in the process of formulating its 2045 plan during a period of accelerating growth and land conversion, particularly in the traditionally rural Varina district. The 2045 Plan, when finalized, will guide important zoning decisions and changes on the landscape for many years to come. If elected, will you strenuously advocate for a Henrico 2045 Comprehensive Plan that embodies the highest principles of good government and smart growth?

**YES** NO

Comments? **ABSOLUTELY**

### **Transportation:**

Transportation is now the #1 source of climate pollution in Virginia. The current model of transportation in the commonwealth has led to policies that appear to increase use of cars instead of providing alternative transit options. For example, Northern Virginia has largely doubled down on building and widening roads yet doing so has failed to reduce traffic in the region. Henrico County plans and Central Virginia Transportation Authority priorities also include significant road expansion as well. Will you support a revised transportation plan that provides expanded alternatives to driving, including accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists and increased accessible public transportation for all? **YES**

**YES** NO

Comments?

### **Addressing Climate Change:**

To date, Henrico County has taken insufficient steps to address climate change. The county should undertake the development of a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and a climate action plan that would assess the climate impacts of county decisions including the budget and land use planning and development. That climate action plan should have specific actions linked to

measurable GHG reductions reaching net zero by 2050 with significant benchmark reductions every five years starting in 2025.

Do you agree? **YES**

**YES** NO

Comments?

Another important approach to addressing climate change is through investments in efficiency and renewable energy. Would you support a county climate action plan that called for the measures to reduce GHG emissions such as conversion of fleet vehicles to electric, requiring county buildings including schools to go fossil fuel free over time, significantly improve energy efficiency and add solar panels, and encouraging developers to meet energy efficiency and renewable standards? **YES**

**YES** NO

Comments?

Natural gas is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, and the [International Energy Agency](#) has found that an immediate end to expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure is necessary if we are to avoid the worst consequences of global warming. Electricity-based alternatives are readily available in the form of high efficiency heat pumps, hot water heat pumps and induction stoves. Would you support efforts to discourage new residential and commercial natural gas connections?

YES NO

Comments?

### **Natural Resources:**

Virginia is home to the largest concentration of data centers in the world, and there are plans in motion to expand the data center presence in Henrico. While thought of as key to economic development, data centers require massive amounts of energy that strain our electric grid, water from local sources for cooling, and often include emergency power components from fossil fuel generation that can harm air quality. Would you make it a priority to mitigate the environmental, climate and community impacts of data center projects? **YES**

Yes NO

Comments?

Numerous jurisdictions across our nation are adopting tree ordinances to preserve existing forests and urban tree canopies as well as requiring new developments to plant trees as a part of their projects.

Will you support adoption of a tree ordinance for Henrico County?

**YES** NO

Comments? **ABSOLUTELY**

In 2022 EPA identified a facility in Henrico's East End, Sterilization Services of Virginia as a major source of Ethylene Oxide (ETO) emissions posing unacceptably high risk of cancer. Will you commit to pushing the US EPA and the Virginia Department of

Environmental Quality to significantly reduce ETO emissions for workers and the public and to monitor ongoing compliance with strict emission standards? **YES**

YES NO  
Comments?

The Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice screening tool screen has flagged that numerous low income and communities of color in Henrico live in an area that's in 95th percentile of cancer and other chronic illness risk because of air toxins from the industrial sector. In other words, the risk for these communities is 95% higher than the rest of Virginia. Will you commit to taking steps to ensure that disadvantaged communities and communities of color are not disproportionately impacted by decisions to locate industrial and other uses that emit pollution around their homes? **YES**

YES NO  
Comments?

The Virginia General Assembly passed legislation authorizing local governments to adopt local plastic bag bills that would impose a \$0.05 tax on bags in order to encourage shoppers to use reusable bags to cut down on plastic waste. A number of jurisdictions have adopted the bag bill including: Roanoke, Charlottesville, Albemarle County, Fredericksburg, Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria. Would you support the passage of a local plastic bag fee bill for Henrico County? **YES**

YES NO  
Comments?

*Yes; but generally speaking, I am not a fan of a new tax to our local residents. I would like to explore a way to provide a credit or incentive to those of us that bring reusable bags to store rather than a tax; however, these fees have been proven to work in other states and countries.*

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**Thank you for taking the time to answer our questionnaire. Please complete and email to: [glenbesa@gmail.com](mailto:glenbesa@gmail.com) by Saturday September 30, 2023.**