SIERRA CLUB CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

2022 ELECTIONS

1. Please describe your public service record on environmental issues.

2. What do you anticipate will be the three most important environmental issues you will face if elected, and what actions do you propose to take to address them?

   a.

   b.

   c.

3. California has led on a number of policies that protect the environment and public health. For example, it was the first state to require automakers to reduce tailpipe emissions and it was the first state to pass a law designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across many sectors. Some special interests have called for limiting or even rolling back environmental regulations in the state. Please answer the following questions.

   a. What would you do if you were asked to vote for a bill that weakens California’s environmental regulation?

   b. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) ensures that the environmental impacts of publicly approved projects be overtly identified and mitigated through an environmental impact reporting process. The law relies on the public to enforce CEQA through legal action. How will you respond to legislation designed to weaken CEQA? If you are an incumbent, have you ever voted for legislation that weakens CEQA?
4. Across the board, experts agree that a key to reducing the effects of climate disruption is to reduce our dependence on and use of carbon-based fuels, including oil, natural gas and coal. The oil and gas industry in California has a long history that continues to be accompanied by significant environmental damage to water, air, lands, and climate. Please answer the following questions, and feel free to elaborate to help us understand the reasoning behind your answers.

   a. What role will you play as a legislator to help facilitate the phasing out of fossil fuels in California?

   b. Will you support a ban on new oil drilling permits in California?

   c. Will you support a ban on fracking and cyclic steam injection?

5. Demand for state parks has been increasing with the population in California over the last two decades even as per-capita funding for state parks, including daily operations, has declined. How do you believe the legislature can help meet the demand for a well-maintained state park system?

6. California regularly leads the nation in conservation work. For example, in October 2020, the Governor issued an Executive Order to combat climate change and protect nature by focusing on the role of lands and waters as climate solutions. Through this, California is the first state to proactively advance work to protect 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030, a vital component of international efforts to save half the planet by 2050. How will you as a legislator support this effort and further implementation of this executive order?

7. What can and should the legislature be doing to help low-income community members in the wildland urban interface create 100 feet of defensible space around their homes and install basic home-hardening measures (e.g. ember grates on attic vents)?
8. Climate change is moving more rapidly than scientists earlier believed it would. California (and the rest of the world) is already suffering from some of the anticipated effects of climate change, including wind-driven fires, extended and more frequent drought, and sea-level rise. California’s coasts are also being affected due to sea level rise and development in sensitive areas.

   a. What do you think the legislature should be doing to ensure that adaptation measures to address climate change do not conflict with the health of the environment?

   b. How do you plan to respond to the impacts of climate change on the coast?

9. The governor has advocated building a giant tunnel to divert water from the Sacramento River around the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for delivery to points south. This would create irreparable environmental damage and ultimately not solve California’s water supply problems. Please consider the following questions:

   a. Do you support the Delta tunnel project?

   b. Why or why not?

   c. Would you introduce or support legislation to halt the tunnel construction plans?

10. Land use patterns that lead to urban sprawl, high vehicle miles traveled and traffic congestion contribute to global warming and conventional, health-threatening pollution. Moreover, an often unanticipated consequence of land use policies and particularly infill policies is the gentrification of existing neighborhoods and pricing out existing residents. What should the state do to address land use practices and transportation policies that lead to growing pollution in sensitive lands but also address the lack of affordable housing?
11. What policies do you believe would help ensure that disadvantaged communities do not suffer a disproportionate impact from climate change and environmental problems?

12. Why should the Sierra Club support your candidacy?

13. How much have you raised for your campaign so far and who are your highest contributors?

14. Have you taken or will you take campaign donations from oil and gas interests?

15. Is there any other group or industry from whom you will not accept campaign contributions?

Please provide the following information to ensure prompt processing of the questionnaire:

CANDIDATE NAME:
OFFICE CANDIDATE IS SEEKING:
EMAIL ADDRESS:
PHONE:
MAILING ADDRESS:

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE NAME:
CAMPAIGN ID NUMBER:
CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS:
PHONE:
CAMPAIGN MANAGER:                      PHONE:
CAMPAIGN MANAGER EMAIL ADDRESS:

IF ANY PERSON HELPED THE CANDIDATE COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE, PLEASE STATE:

RELATIONSHIP TO ABOVE (Example: campaign staff, consultant, etc.)

I hereby acknowledge that I have completed this questionnaire to the best of my ability and am submitting it to the Sierra Club for consideration in its endorsement process.

CANDIDATE’S SIGNATURE:          DATE:
_________________________________               ____________________________