SIERRA CLUB
ILLINOIS CHAPTER



2018 Illinois
ATTORNEY GENERAL
* Primary Voter Guide *

A diverse field of Democratic candidates for Illinois Attorney General are pledging bold action for environmental justice and enforcement in the face of relentless attacks from the Trump Administration on environmental protection, climate action, and enforcement, and the dropoff in environmental enforcement cases under Governor Rauner.

Sierra Club invited all candidates to interviews and to submit questionnaire responses, and held a forum for Attorney General candidates February 1st, which you can view HERE. (Republican candidates Erika Harold and Gary Grosso declined to participate.) Here is some of what we heard from each and how you can learn more.

— CANDIDATES —



Scott Drury
http://scottdrury.org



Sharon Fairley
https://www.sharonfairley.com



Aaron Goldstein
http://ag4ag.org



Renato Mariotti
https://renatomariotti.com



Pat Quinn
https://quinnforillinois.com



Kwame Raoul
https://kwameraoul.com/



Nancy Rotering
http://friendsofnancy.com/



Jesse Ruiz
https://jesse4il.com

SCOTT DRURY "As a state representative, I have learned that the Illinois EPA is weak and ineffective. Under Governor Rauner's administration, it has only become weaker and more ineffective... I firmly believe that people/companies change their conduct when they know or believe someone is watching over them. When I am Attorney General, those who seek to harm our environment will know that I am watching over them and will change their behavior accordingly. This message will be reinforced through litigation against those who continue to do harm to our planet."

READ MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DRURY HERE.

SHARON FAIRLEY "I consider the protection of our state's clean air and water and natural resources to be one of the preeminent responsibilities of the office. I want to garner the resources and use all the legal remedies available to us to protect our constitutional right to a healthful environment. I want to use the full extent of the law to protect our citizens who are suffering from environmental problems in their areas that affect communities of color. I want to work on full remediation. ... I want to make sure the federal EPA and the Illinois EPA are doing what they're supposed to be doing to protect our communities."

READ MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FAIRLEY HERE.

AARON GOLDSTEIN "I will take a bold progressive approach to the Attorney General's office. First, I will stand up to the big powers — taking on the big corporations, big banks and Donald Trump's policies that hurt and disrupt Illinois. This includes taking on those powers that pollute and destroy our environment. I will not wait for a referral from the IEPA to take environmental action against environmental violators. If I see environmental violations I will use our authority as Attorney General to prosecute environmental violators. I will be an advocate to ban fracking... We need to be at 100% renewable. I will be an advocate for that. And we need to fight climate change."

READ MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GOLDSTEIN HERE.

SIERRA CLUB
ILLINOIS CHAPTER

2018 Illinois Attorney General Primary Voter Guide

RENATO MARIOTTI "As Attorney General, I will use every tool and resource of the office to protect this fundamental pillar of our society. I will also investigate pollution that puts our clean water at risk and pursue civil and criminal relief when appropriate. Clean water is fundamental to our society and our health, but companies are putting it at great risk. As Attorney General, I will aggressively defend clean water and pursue all appropriate enforcement actions in state and federal court. I will evaluate and investigate the coal industry in Illinois to ensure it complies with appropriate standards, and will pursue additional legislative and regulatory directives to protect our environment. Illinois coal operations, like Prairie State, remain a significant source of carbon pollution and pose a serious health threat. I support the Future Energy Jobs Act, along with a plan that includes retirement dates for coal operations, clear transition plans for the companies and their workers, remediation plans for our land and water, and new energy initiatives and training. I will work tirelessly to protect our environment and our workers from the disastrous policies that take the coal and energy industry back decades."

READ MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MARIOTTI HERE.

PAT QUINN "I believe in sustainability, I think that's the challenge of our time. We have to invest in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and water conservation... For many years I have cited Article XI of the Illinois Constitution which establishes the fundamental right of every person to a healthful environment. I am very concerned that the Illinois EPA under Governor Rauner has substantially reduced enforcement and will zealously utilize the resources and expertise in the Attorney General's office to fill this enforcement gap and prosecute polluters. As Attorney General, I also will vigorously defend the interests of utility customers, oppose unjustified rate increases and ensure that utilities comply with the environmental-friendly and energy efficiency provisions contained in recent utility legislation. I will continually advocate for clean energy and other tools to address climate change."

READ MORE INFORMATION ABOUT QUINN HERE.

KWAME RAOUL "As a State Senator I supported legislation to make sure we started on our way towards renewable energy, both the Future Energy Jobs Act and the Illinois Power Agency Act. Polluters unfortunately take advantage of the most vulnerable, and as a result of an appellate court decision, those individuals don't have a right of action to hold those polluters accountable. I'm the lead sponsor of SB 3055 to deal with that, to make sure we have a law so that right of action goes to the individuals. As Attorney General, I will pursue action against such polluters in federal court so the penalties can serve as a deterrent, instead of penalties just being a cost of doing business. We need to make sure that not only drinking water is safe from lead, but we need to keep all of our beautiful water sources clean for the habitats within them."

READ MORE INFORMATION ABOUT RAOUL HERE.

NANCY ROTERING "I got my start in environmental activism in the '70s and '80s. I started off in public service as a member of my city's environmental commission and created an environmental advocacy program teaching over 5,000 kids the importance of caring for their planet, and how to lobby by those who make legislative change. It has never been more important to have an Attorney General... who has lived environmental activism for decades. Because we are under attack. We need somebody who understands what it means to ban phosphorus from fertilizers, why it's important to keep stormwater management onsite, what connectivity means and why we need transit-oriented development. I've done all of those pieces as a mayor. And I understand more than ever the need to have a strong watchdog and to protect the life and health and safety of every person in Illinois against polluters."

READ MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ROTERING HERE.

JESSE RUIZ "All these struggles are personal... I want to make sure I'm that champion to fight for those issues — to make sure we do get 100% renewable energy by 2050, to make sure we do have a moratorium on fracking; to make sure that we don't subsidize any fossil fuels, no bailouts for the fossil fuel industry; to make sure that we vigorously bring Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act cases. This is something that's near and dear to my heart. Most of my public service has been in education. I know how the environment impacts young minds. When I took over the Chicago Park District, and I heard about the incident in Flint, I immediately ordered a review of the drinking fountains in the Chicago Park District system. We took immediate action to make sure that if there was any lead in our system it was addressed immediately."

READ MORE INFORMATION ABOUT RUIZ HERE.