



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 current and future generations have access to clean air, clean water, as well as wild lands and open spaces for people to enjoy and wildlife to thrive. Our members support candidates who will tackle the climate crisis and pursue action to transform the way we power our country by advancing clean energy technologies in ways that also advance equity and justice.

Today more than ever, our nation needs strong leaders to defend bedrock environmental and public health protections and to ensure that America keeps its commitments in the fight against climate disruption. The science is irrefutable — the damage to our planet and our economy is palpable and will only get worse without bold action. We can address the climate and biodiversity crises, but only if America's elected leaders take the action required to put the country on a path to aggressively reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the levels demanded by science. We must meet the urgency of the moment with the scale of ambition required to address the climate crisis.

The 118th Congress secured historic environmental and climate victories through the passage of landmark legislation, including the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and the CHIPS Act. These legislative wins created novel programs and historic investments designed to cut pollution and catalyze clean energy and manufacturing, while advancing equity, creating good jobs, and strengthening resilience nationwide. Unfortunately, these important gains remain under threat from the Trump Administration, and many of the visionary programs and investments have been weakened or repealed.

At this pivotal moment, we need Congressional champions who will fight for climate and environmental justice, hold the line against efforts to weaken environmental protections, and ensure that government agencies have the resources to deliver on their mandates. Our members are looking to support leaders who will stand firm in the face of backsliding, safeguard the progress we've made, and exhibit strong leadership in the multi-front fight against the climate crisis.

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. Poll after poll has demonstrated that 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, and that both nature and people deserve justice and full protection under the law.

The Challenge for Our Federal Champions

- **Ensure that the bedrock environmental laws** that protect clean air, clean water, land, and wildlife are defended, enforced, and adequately funded.
- **Defend and accelerate federal action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions**, ensuring that all communities—especially those most affected by environmental harm—continue to benefit from an equitable and just transition toward 100% clean, renewable energy. Block efforts to rescind, redirect, or weaken climate programs; and support robust funding for agencies.
- **Protect and preserve clean energy investments, incentives, and infrastructure** at home and abroad, including the remaining climate and justice investments in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA and the Infrastructure bill IJA. Support family-sustaining jobs and communities by ensuring that funding for advancing climate-smart projects, affordable clean transportation, and resilient energy systems is prioritized.
- **Hold fossil fuel companies accountable** for the pollution they cause and oppose new subsidies, loopholes, leases, or projects that lock in dependence on dirty energy. Work to uphold climate and environmental justice-based standards that protect public health and communities most impacted by the climate crisis.
- **Defend public lands and biodiversity** by safeguarding conservation funding and programs that protect wild and natural spaces, and oppose the sell-off of our public lands. Support a national goal to conserve 30% of lands and waters by 2030, and 50% by 2050, while ensuring equitable access to parks and nature for all.
- **Promote fair and sustainable trade policies** that prioritize the rights and well-being of workers, communities, and ecosystems over the profits of multinational corporations.
- **Defend democratic participation and accountability** by protecting voting rights, ensuring transparency, and reducing the influence of corporate and special-interest money in politics.
- **Advance equity and justice for all people**, regardless of race, gender, income, or background—recognizing that environmental progress is inseparable from social and economic justice.

Powered by 3.38 million members and supporters, the Sierra Club uses its voice on behalf of the candidates it endorses. If you are interested in the Sierra Club's endorsement, complete the attached Sierra Club 2025-2026 Federal Candidate Questionnaire. In addition to your response to the specific questions, share your views, vision, and priorities on these and other environmental challenges in this questionnaire or pages you attach.

Please return the completed copy to both your local Chapter at caroline.wooten@sierraclub.org and the National Political Team (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 2025-2026 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Please provide the information requested below.

Candidate: _____

U.S. Senate: _____ **U.S. House:** _____
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 kept 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 the Sierra Club's website, 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% of 2005 levels by 2030, yet the current Congress and the Administration are rolling back meaningful actions put in place over the past decade.

1) If elected, will you work to defend 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 a net-zero economy-wide by 2050?

YES___ NO___

Protecting Communities Through Pollution Standards

Communities should be safe, healthy places to live and raise children – with clean air and water, and 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 and regulations 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. Further, those constituencies are more likely to lack access to adequate healthcare and experience higher levels of unemployment, compounding the situation for too many American families. 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.

The EPA has promulgated numerous standards to protect public health and to regulate air and water pollution, including mercury, soot, coal wastewater, and carbon. These standards are critical for protecting public health, the environment, and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

2) Will you support full funding for the Environmental Protection Agency and defend its authority to promulgate, monitor, and enforce strong standards that hold polluting industries 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 analyzing environmental justice, air and water pollution, and cumulative impacts faced by communities that have been disadvantaged or marginalized or which bear disproportionate effects of pollution?

YES___ NO___

Moving Beyond Fossil Fuels to a Cleaner Future

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 leave no community behind. Elected leaders must consistently choose clean energy over the dirty fuels of the past. Elected leaders must say no to new investments in or 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 energy as efficiently as possible to save people money and reduce our fossil fuel usage. Our nation's continued reliance on dirty fossil fuel energy not only contributes to climate change but also directly threatens our health and well-being.

Today, the fossil fuel industry – coal, oil, and gas – benefits from numerous direct and indirect subsidies and loopholes that allow it to avoid complying with laws that aim to protect our air and water. Congress must end these subsidies and close these loopholes, instead pursuing policies and investments that will create family-sustaining jobs as they unleash America's clean energy potential.

4) Will you support and promote legislation to help our country transition away from fossil fuel subsidies and financing to move us towards a 100% clean energy economy by 2050? For example, will you support ending fossil fuel subsidies? And will you support restrictions on public financing for international high-carbon projects?

YES___ NO___

5) Will you support proposals to close loopholes that allow the fossil fuel industry to be exempt from pollution standards for fracking and adhere to the basic environmental protections provided by laws such as the Clean Water Act or Safe Drinking Water Act?

YES___ NO___

6) Will you oppose efforts to curtail public input and environmental review processes for new fossil fuel infrastructure or fossil fuel exports?

YES___ NO___

Advancing a Clean Energy, Climate-Smart Economy

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 President Biden’s signature climate law, the Inflation Reduction Act. The historic investments from both the IRA and the IIJA have enabled states and communities to develop resilient and climate-smart infrastructure and transportation systems, and spur the growth of clean manufacturing, energy-efficient buildings, healthy ecosystems, and more sustainable agriculture. But these programs to ensure cleaner air and water, higher-paying jobs, lower costs, increased climate resilience, and a more stable climate have been targeted for elimination.

7) Will you vote against further attempts to rescind or redirect the historic Infrastructure and Inflation Reduction Act Investments that have fueled the expansion of Clean Energy deployment and manufacturing?

YES___ NO___

8) Will you vote to extend and expand tax incentives for clean energy technologies—like energy efficient appliances, rooftop solar, and utility-scale renewable projects—and support additional public investments in infrastructure, renewable energy, manufacturing, supply chains, and smart agriculture that help our country 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, and the electrification of our transportation systems. An accompanying clean manufacturing plan will spur growth in the manufacturing of the goods needed for a clean energy economy while slashing manufacturing-related pollution. These underpinnings are critical to support a national transition to a transportation system that relies on electric cars, trucks, and buses, powered by clean electricity and built by unionized labor. Elected leaders should also support smart growth, which emphasizes clean, convenient, and affordable transportation choices such as public transit and safe infrastructure for biking and walking. 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 invest in repairing our existing infrastructure before building new roads – fix it first!

9) Will you support a safe, affordable, equitable, and accessible 21st-century transportation system that reduces oil use and cuts vehicle pollution? And will you support strong federal clean vehicle standards as well as increased federal investment in electric vehicles, charging infrastructure, expanded public transit, and fleet electrification?

YES___ NO___

10) Will you support policies and safeguards that protect communities and the environment from the potential negative impacts of rapid data center buildout? Will you support efforts to ensure that developers conduct meaningful and early engagement with impacted communities and that ratepayers do not face increased bills? Will you support policies to ensure that local water resources are protected and that new data centers are powered by clean, renewable energy and built with clean materials (e.g., green steel and cement)?

YES___ NO___

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

The Sierra Club is campaigning to protect 30% of our lands and waters by 2030 in the United States. Attainment of that objective will help to ensure the conservation of intact ecosystems, biodiversity, and climate resilience. Far too few communities have safe access to our nation's 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 well-being. Lawmakers should build on efforts to ensure that every child in America has the opportunity to visit our parks and public lands, and that all communities can access nature close to home.

11) To protect our public lands from drilling and the impacts of climate change, do you support protecting 30% of our lands and waters by 2030?

YES___ NO___

12) Will you support legislation that expands access to nature for all communities, including our children?

YES___ NO___

Protecting Our Public Lands from Fossil Fuel Development

Transitioning away from fossil fuel dependence will also allow us to protect 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.

Right now, nearly 25 percent of America's greenhouse gas emissions come from mining or drilling on public lands. These dirty fuels and extraction operations cause irreparable harm to the environment, damage valuable wildlife habitats, foul our waters, harm indigenous communities, and hurt local economies. Our lands should be part of the climate solution, not the problem. Instead of allowing corporations to mine or drill on our public lands, we should permanently protect our lands, waters, and habitats for future generations to enjoy and explore. Doing so would help us fight climate change by

keeping dirty fuels in the ground and ensuring that we set aside habitats and landscapes critical to dealing with the climate crisis.

13) Do you oppose any new leasing or drilling on federal lands, and will you support legislation to repeal drilling mandates in the Arctic Refuge, new areas in the Gulf of Mexico, or other previously protected lands in the west?

YES___ NO___

14) Will you oppose efforts to privatize or sell off our public lands through legislative shortcuts like budget reconciliation or without public input or environmental review?

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, NAFTA helped corporations dodge hard-fought environmental policies by outsourcing pollution and jobs to countries with weaker environmental standards. In addition, such deals included handouts to corporate polluters that foster fossil fuel dependency while empowering corporations to challenge environmental protections. Unfortunately, the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) lacks strong environmental protections and makes zero mention of climate change, encouraging 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.

15) Will you support the development of a new, climate-friendly trade model—including the establishment of a carbon dumping fee on polluting imports—and the revision of trade agreements to add binding climate, environmental, labor, and human rights standards so that countries and corporations are incentivized to invest in a rapid transition that serves workers, frontline communities, and the planet?

YES___ NO___

Defending our Democracy

Coal, oil, and gas special interests are corrupting our government by trying to buy elections and influence policymaking to put corporate profits above the interests of the people and our communities. The fossil fuel industry is spending unprecedented amounts of money to influence elections – leveraging this money to drown out the voices of everyday Americans. The communities hit hardest by the climate crisis are some of the most disproportionately impacted by this attack on free and fair elections: low-income, Indigenous, and communities of color. Over the last few years, the

American public has voiced its increasing concern and frustration about the growing influence of money in politics.

16) Will you support and aggressively defend legislative actions that protect and strengthen free and fair elections, like campaign finance reform, voter protections, and the policies laid out in legislation such as the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act?

YES___ NO___

17) Will you support legislative actions that protect and strengthen campaign finance reform, such as the Government By the People Act and the Fair Elections Now Act?

YES___ NO___

Committing to Equity & Environmental Justice

Sierra Club's values are rooted in principles of equity and justice. 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 also promote racial, economic, social, and environmental justice.

18) Will you support and actively promote policies that address racial, economic, social, and environmental justice, such as the strong enforcement of environmental laws in the most disproportionately affected communities

YES___ NO___

19) Will you support legislation that requires the payment of the prevailing wage and hiring from local impacted communities on federally financed climate and clean energy projects?

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 this below or attach a separate document.

Question from the Illinois Chapter:

We need Illinois Congressional leaders to be advocating for our state's land and water. For land, Illinois ranks 48th in the nation for open space per resident. We need our Illinois Congressional delegation to lead in protecting biodiversity and open space access, especially

through our federal public lands. A few opportunities include:

- Supporting federal legislation to **transfer the Joliet Training Area property to the US Forest Service for inclusion in the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie**. This would be in accordance with a local consensus land use plan agreed under the leadership of the late US Rep. George Sangmeister.
- **Supporting the Shawnee National Forest Conservation Act, S. 2548**, which would ensure that three high quality areas—Camp Hutchins, Ripple Hollow and Burke Branch—receive protection from mining, drilling and commercial logging while protecting current recreational uses.

In terms of water, Illinois has benefited greatly from the **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)** which is the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades. It addresses five key issues: toxic substance cleanup, invasive species control and prevention, reducing non-point pollution from agriculture and cities, habitat improvement, and building foundations for future restoration projects. Funding for this critical work is uncertain.

Will you use your voice, vote, and influence as a federal elected official to support these and other efforts to protect and expand open space and biodiversity in Illinois and safeguard funding that protects Lake Michigan? ___YES ___ NO