

This questionnaire contains cross references (CRF) to questions presented in the 2018 Conservation Candidate Questionnaire of the Maryland LCV; Sierra Club-Maryland Chapter; and Clean Water Action

Questions for State Candidates for Maryland offices
(Governor, State Senate, and House of Delegates)
from the Montgomery County Green Democrats

A. Environmental Toxins

1. What is your top priority in reducing impervious surfaces?

Impervious surfaces prevent natural absorption and mix with oil, grease, etc. to create storm water runoff that contaminates our water, fish and wildlife. It's critical that we reduce impervious surfaces in order to reduce contamination and protect our environment and health. Environmental planning decisions is one of the best ways to reduce impervious surfaces. One of my priorities in working to decrease impervious surfaces is Maryland's designation of "sustainable communities," which receive various state incentives and support. I believe it's important to require that areas with the state's sustainable designation are taking steps toward reducing impervious surfaces. I have introduced legislation related to expanding the requirements of sustainable communities in the area of affordable housing. We must take additional steps to include impervious surfaces as a characteristic of our sustainable communities.

I also believe that reducing impervious surfaces is a planning decision that requires partnership between the state and county. Plans for development can include incentivizing green roofs, developing rain gardens, and identifying alternative pavement options. The state can support tax credits to individuals who de-pave or take steps to minimize impervious surfaces on their property.

2. Do you support

- a. Banning tire waste from playground material? Regardless , what should be done with tire waste? **Yes, and I support HB 505, which will stop state funds from being used to pay for toxic rubber materials on children's play surfaces.**
 - b. Use of real grass fields rather than synthetic turf? Does your answer depend on whether plant-based infill is required for synthetic turf? **Yes, regardless of plant-based infill, I believe real grass is best.**
 - c. Health hazard evaluation of toxins and worker protection (CRF-13. See also CRF-19) wherever concerns are raised? **Yes**
- 3. Do you support reducing fertilizer and pesticide runoff from manicured lawns, golf courses, and farms? (CRF-6,8,19) If so, what steps do you recommend taking in order to accomplish this goal? Yes. The most effective thing we can do is limit**

pesticides statewide and require less harmful options to be used. Another option is to require natural vegetation buffers to reduce runoff and water erosion.

B. Air Quality

1. Do you support closing the Dickerson coal power plant? (CRF-4)

Yes, I support the closing of this toxic power plant. It must be a top priority.

1. What means would you support to encourage the use of public transportation? (CRF-17)

District 20 has two stops served by Metro, and is an area with a high number of commuters. We are dependent upon a reliable Metro system. I am part of a regional group of legislators working to improve Metro, and we have issued a robust plan to fix the Metro system. In addition, I've cosponsored legislation in the 2018 session to restructure the board and include dedicated funding.

Bus and rail keep cars off the road and decrease our footprint, which is why I am an avid supporter of the Purple Line and the Bus Rapid Transit on Route 29.

C. Water Quality and the Chesapeake Bay

6. What programs do you propose to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed? (CRF-6,11)

One program I would like to see progress is Maryland's nutrient trading program. The program has been in development since 2008 and has undergone numerous revisions, but has not been finalized. A state-wide nutrient trading program involving point sources (waste water treatment plants) and non-point sources (agricultural and stormwater runoff) would reduce pollution to the watershed and generate revenue for the state.

Stormwater runoff contributes to Bay pollution and will increase as climate change effects increase rainfall intensity. Since much of Maryland's stormwater runoff drains to the bay, more effective stormwater management is essential to improving the health of the Bay. Local level stormwater management programs like GreenStreets and RainScapes in Montgomery County are examples of low impact development (LID) programs that I would like to support on a state level. LID projects result in cleaner stormwater runoff and help to reduce the risk of flooding.

D. Solid Waste

7. Do you support a 5 cent fee on each plastic bag? (CRF-13,14) **Yes**
8. Do you support a 5 cent deposit on beverage containers?(CRF-13,14) **Yes**

E. Carbon Tax

9. Do you support a carbon tax? How do you propose to reduce energy use? (CRF-3).

I believe the most important thing we can do to reduce energy use is to increase renewable energy. We have a wind industry that is on the cusp of being the most robust in the nation, however, it is constantly under assault. I am working to protect this critical energy source and make sure that legislation that seeks to harm the industry is unsuccessful. In the 2018 session, we have important opportunities to increase renewable energy such as the 100% Clean Renewable Energy and Equity Act. This legislation sets an ambitious goal for our energy use and provides a framework to get there. It also creates green jobs and ensures that low income households won't be burdened by high energy bills.

I believe our state should have a deeper debate about carbon taxing. I think it's important to look at the equity of taxing carbon and the burden on low income folks who have less alternatives.

F. Food Recovery

10. Do you support programs that would incentivize food recovery? (CRF-12) **Yes. There are many effective examples to help us amplify our efforts, such as in Austin, Texas and Alameda County, California.**

G. Candidate History

11. If an incumbent, what specific programs with substantial environmental consequences have you voted for or against? If not an incumbent, what such programs have you publicly favored or disfavored? (e.g. votes for and against pertinent legislation, participation in environmental conferences or litigation, etc.)

I have a strong track recording on voting for important environmental legislation. I'm proud to have a 100% voting record from the League of Conservation Voters. One of my most important votes was in favor of banning fracking. I have also voted to override the governor's veto of the Clean Energy Jobs Act, which increased the renewable portfolio standard to 25 percent. I voted to halt opening Maryland's oyster sanctuaries to harvesting. This legislation protects our existing

oyster recovery investments, gives these sanctuaries additional time to grow, and makes sure that decisions related to oyster harvesting are guided by science.

Constituents can count on me to be a strong environmental champion, and my voting record exhibits this passion.

Candidates please email your response to greendemocrats@gmail.com by February 15, 2018