

DETROIT ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA QUESTIONNAIRE

DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATE



ANDRE L. SPIVEY

DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATE

QUESTION: Detroit suffers from very high rates of asthma, cancer, and lead poisoning, all influenced by our heavily polluted environment. These problems impact children’s ability to learn and adults’ ability to work. What would you, as an elected official, do to improve Detroit’s environment?

ANSWER: One of the major aggravators of pollution in the city of Detroit is the numerous amount of automobiles. Because we are the motor capital of the world, the carbon gas emissions are considerably high. I support and advocate for cars and public transportation that run on alternative energy sources. I am also in support in holding fossil fuel and waste production and management companies in the city responsible for their maintenance and disposal of their toxic waste—not granting tax abatements to those corporations whose pollution jeopardizes the health of citizens and our river with destructive

methods of waste management. I commend organizations such as those that created the Detroit Environmental Agenda, and intend to support initiatives from these organizations that create a more sustainable and healthier future for Detroit.

Q: How would you, as an elected official, be an advocate for resident efforts to improve neighborhood quality of life?

A: This question offers numerous answers; however to name a few, our neighborhoods, we need to institute a program similar to the former “nuisance abatement” or “repair-to-own” programs where citizens can acquire abandoned dwellings with clear titles, rehabilitate these dwellings and live in them. This along with tax incentives such as the Neighborhood Enterprise Zones will place thousands of properties back on the tax rolls. The remaining structures which cannot be repaired should be demolished, making room for new development. Council should explore benchmarks in other cities that provide incentives for city employees, families, recent graduates and immigrants.

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Q: In the interests of environmental justice, how would you work to alleviate disproportionate environmental burdens in the city?

A: To alleviate disproportionate environmental burdens in the city, I will work towards bringing harmonized environmental efforts that will improve the quality of life in Detroit's neighborhoods. I support urban gardening in vacant lots, eco-friendly architecture in the construction of new houses and businesses, and increasing the access to recycling throughout the city. In the past, I have supported organizations that show a commitment to environmentally sustainable and social equitable initiatives, such as the climate action plan formulated by the Detroit Climate Action Collaborative, and Team 313, a group of outstanding young people who volunteer weekly to clean up areas of Detroit's east side. I encourage training for green energy jobs, education, awareness, and policy reform around environmental justice in the city of Detroit.

Q: The City needs to be an advocate for higher environmental standards. If you are elected, how do you envision using the Detroit Environmental Agenda as a tool to create policies that improve the city's environment?

A: The Detroit Environmental Agenda can be a tool for my colleagues and I to write resolutions and ordinances to improve our city. The DEA can also be a tool that connects Detroit's legislative body to similar bodies at the county, state and federal levels. The DEA can also be used as we move into the Council District system to engage residents and businesses to become more aware of our environmental issues.

Read the full Detroit Environmental Agenda report at www.detroitenv.org.

It's time to act. Inform your vote for the **Tuesday, November 5, 2013** general elections.

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