

DETROIT ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA QUESTIONNAIRE

DISTRICT 7 CANDIDATE



GABE LELAND

DISTRICT 7 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: We have to start with basics. The first consideration is to increase the bulk pick up schedule. They used to be scheduled once a month which allowed residents to clean up dump sites and abandoned properties on their block and have a schedule to see the debris removed regularly. We can’t ask residents to help fight the blight if there aren’t more collections. The next action would be to step up ordinance enforcement for commercial and residential properties, particularly on lead paint. Additionally, we need to implement a stronger city-wide

recycling program which would include an educational component to teach about environmental impact.

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

A: I have already helped to organize neighborhood clean ups and have recruited volunteers to work with me. If we don’t clean up and maintain abandoned properties, vacant lots and parks, we have no hope of improving the quality of life in any neighborhood. We must increase demolition/deconstruction efforts immediately.

DETROIT ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA QUESTIONNAIRE

DISTRICT 7 CANDIDATE

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

A: We must hold owners and mortgage holders responsible for vacant properties. Too often, banks and finance companies delay mortgage foreclosure leaving homes and businesses vacant for three or four years until they are foreclosed for unpaid property taxes. This delay leads to stripping, vandalism, squatters and fires, leaving the property uninhabitable. Part of the solution is ordinance enforcement. More important is the aggressive collection of property taxes and fines. We must reach out to the state for assistance with demolition and the re-purposing of vacant land. We must make the best use possible of the federal funds we already receive, such as weatherization, and continue to seek additional federal dollars as well.

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 Agenda you have prepared is a strong framework for the creation of new, powerful policies to improve our City's environment and it deserves serious consideration by the new administration. I look forward to hearing your concerns and working to improve the policies that have gotten us to this point.

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.

Find your voting station at www.publius.org. It's as easy as entering your name!