

DETROIT ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA QUESTIONNAIRE

DISTRICT 6 CANDIDATE



ISAAC ROBINSON

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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: People are looking for tangible results as the DEA points out on page 10. When the EPA called for public comment in 2011 on the re-opening of the toxic deep-injection waste well in Romulus that threatens our region, I organized Detroit elected officials, pastors and community leaders from Detroit to submit comments opposing the re-issuing of permits.

I understand that fighting for environmental justice can also promote economic justice. As I opposed the re-opening of the Romulus Waste-Well, I recognize it as an opportunity for us to support Detroit based companies that treat waste in safer and cleaner ways.

We can take real steps to address the very high rates of asthma, cancer, and lead poisoning if we demand a legislative process that is inclusive and has meaningful participation from the DEA coalition partners, labor and the community.

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

A: The DEA is special in that it brings together a diverse coalition of organizations and citizens committed to economic and environmental justice. I will support the coalition's efforts to educate the community about issues impacting Detroit and fight hard for policy solutions that create jobs, improves public safety and makes Detroit cleaner. I will rely on my years of legal, legislative, and community organizing experience to be a strong advocate for the DEA at the council table.

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The same passion and energy that I have put into past fights for Detroit jobs, the disability community and improved transportation, I will put into current efforts to improve quality of life.

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

A: We cannot continue to support big governmental projects that do not include community benefits programs that creates jobs for Detroiters and improves the quality of life of our residents. As your council member, you will have an attorney with years of legislative experience making sure that the DEA is on the table early and often. Our community is suffering and it is important that we elect candidates who have the political and real-world experiences to get things done.

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 DEA will be a great tool because it was created with input from the community. The survey also shows where the community needs more information and education about issues impacting them. Before we can successfully move a policy agenda, it is important that we engage and educate the community.

I envision using the DEA as a major tool in holding corporate polluters accountable in District 6. In 2009, as political director of the 14th District Democratic Party, I co-founded the 14th District Democratic Party Environmental Caucus to push my political party to stand up for environmental justice. As a council member, I will continue these efforts relying heavily on the coalition who tirelessly worked to develop the DEA using a bottom-up approach.

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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