

DETROIT ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA QUESTIONNAIRE

DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATE



MARY SHEFFIELD

DISTRICT 5 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: First, I would work to establish an Environmental Services committee/subcommittee on City Council. I would also work to ensure that community-benefits agreements (CBAs) are created when the City of Detroit contracts with corporations/developers, and that there are concrete environmental remediation requirements included. In addition, I would advocate for the City to improve its processes and reduce its own negative impact on the environment first and then request the business community to become more responsible corporate citizens. I would push for higher standards in moving towards clean and renewable

energy, commission a study to develop blue/green initiatives for waste from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and purchase alternative buses with lower emissions for the Detroit Department of Transportation.

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

A: First, I would empower residents and neighborhood associations to develop their blocks home-by-home by working to reduce foreclosures and assist with home improvements and repairs to stabilize neighborhoods. I would also work to provide tax incentives for residents who maintain their property, remediate blight and demonstrate a commitment to improving the environment through recycling efforts, community clean-up, and utilizing green technology. Those incentives would also include offering City-owned property and resources to help with initiatives which improve the quality of life in neighborhoods.

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I would look to support an environmentally conscious candidate for a position on the Community Advisory Council in District 5 which will be created by the new City Council. Lastly, I would utilize my position as a City Council member to bring business and neighborhoods together to develop an environmental agenda in specific areas and identify funding for public/private partnerships to accomplish goals set forth by the residents.

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

A: I would like to establish an ordinance that calls for higher standards for clean air, renewable energy, blue/green initiatives and livable communities. This ordinance would direct the City to expend resources in communities with the highest environmental burdens in the City, many of which are in District 5. I would work to direct resources to residents who need remediation to remove and eliminate lead paint and mold in their homes while addressing the underlying factors which led to the conditions. Lastly, I would ensure that City Inspectors and other code enforcement officers are enforcing the current laws to ensure that our neighborhoods which experience high levels of illegal dumping and scrapping as well as poorly kept rental properties are given the attention necessary to reduce the negative

environmental impact and ultimately improve the quality of life for low-income and impoverished families.

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: I would utilize the Detroit Environmental Agenda (DEA) as a blueprint for the work of the City Council Committee/Subcommittee I would like to create. Through that committee, or taskforce if there isn't enough support to create the committee, I would work to direct and prioritize the City's efforts to improve the environment and the quality of life for residents. I would use the DEA to develop standards for an Environmental Impact ordinance and prioritize enforcement. Lastly, I would utilize the DEA to help make decisions with respect to how the City makes capital expenditures as prescribed by the new charter. I would ensure those expenditures are in line with goals set forth in the DEA.

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!