



2021 GENERAL Voter's Guide



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How will your candidates...

- ✓ **Support climate resiliency & increase access to renewable energy**
- ✓ **Improve air quality**
- ✓ **Ensure affordable access to clean water**
- ✓ **Ensure access to green & healthy homes**
- ✓ **Create clear pathways for residential access to land**
- ✓ **Support land acquisition for urban farming**
- ✓ **Increase Detroit's waste diversion rates**
- ✓ **Increase access to greenspace & healthy transportation alternatives**
- ✓ **Ensure Detroiters have access to good paying green jobs**



About the Detroit Environmental Agenda

Our vision

Detroit is a healthy, clean, and safe place for people to live, work, and thrive.



Background

The Detroit Environmental Agenda (DEA) Collaboration was initiated in early 2012 following an environmental summit held by the City of Detroit in 2011. Ten organizations came together and formed the DEA, whose purpose was to engage Detroit residents and groups about sustainability, public health, and environmental justice issues taking place in their city. The DEA surveyed nearly 500 residents and created Detroit's first grassroots sustainability action agenda describing the state of the environment in Detroit's neighborhoods, while also providing community-based solutions to respond to these problems. This report, named after the Collaboration, was titled Detroit Environmental Agenda and was published in July of 2013.

web: detroitenv.org

twitter: [@DetroitEnv](https://twitter.com/DetroitEnv)

facebook: [@DetroitEnvironmentalAgenda](https://www.facebook.com/DetroitEnvironmentalAgenda)

The Detroit Environmental Agenda Collaboration was built upon five core principles:

- 1 Ensure environmental justice: protect and involve vulnerable populations in decisions that impact their lives.
- 2 Protect and restore Earth's resources: land, water and air.
- 3 Engage affected residents to understand community needs and potential impacts.
- 4 Leverage the connections between environmental solutions and health, safety, jobs, and education.
- 5 Build on successful models in Detroit and from elsewhere.

Who we are

DEA members represent 19 local, non-profit organizations committed to environmental justice:

Alliance for the Great Lakes	Eastside Community Network
Community Action to Promote Healthy Environments, University of Michigan	FoodPLUS Detroit
Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors, Wayne State University	Green Living Science
Community Development Advocates of Detroit	Henry Ford Health Systems
Detroit Dirt	Keep Growing Detroit
Detroit Food Policy Council	Make Food Not Waste
Detroit Greenways Coalition	Michigan Climate Action Network
Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice	Michigan Environmental Council
	National Wildlife Federation
	Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision
	Zero Waste Detroit

Your vote matters!

In Detroit, our quality of life is negatively affected by air pollution, water pollution, and soil pollution much more than it is for people in surrounding communities. Here are a few facts that highlight the disparity:

- Detroit is predominantly African-American/Black (78%) and one-third of the city's population is low-income. The median annual per-capita income is \$17,338, with 17% of households earning under \$10,000 per year. To add insult to injury, Detroiters pay two times more of their household income on energy than other Michigan residents.
- Detroit is home to the most polluted zip code in Michigan and Detroiters lose approximately 65,000 days of work to pollution-related illnesses each year.
- The prevalence of asthma among Detroit adults is 29% higher than Michigan as a whole.
- Food insecurity in Detroit is more than twice the rate of food insecurity in Michigan as a whole.
- Due in part to exposure to lead in Detroit's aging housing stock, nearly 6% of Detroit children tested positive for elevated blood lead levels in 2020, compared to 2% for Michigan as a whole. Additionally, it is estimated that Detroit's water infrastructure is over 100 years old .

The Detroit Environmental Agenda reached out to candidates running in the 2021 City of Detroit Primary elections to get their perspectives on our most urgent environmental issues. We asked specific questions to learn what candidates will do over the next four years to make real change.

Our top environmental issues:

✔ Support Climate Resiliency & Increase Access to Renewable Energy

By supporting climate resiliency, we help Detroit reduce the negative effects of climate change. Climate change is the process of our planet heating up. The Earth has warmed by an average of 1.33°F in the last century. One example of the impacts of climate change felt by residents, are extreme rainstorms that flood Detroit streets and homes, and occur more often.

Moreover, Detroiters pay some of the highest energy rates in Michigan while experiencing some of the least reliable service. Energy bills can consume up to 30% of residents' income, which creates financial hardship that puts them at constant risk of power shutoffs. Currently, DTE sources most of its energy from CO2 and methane-producing natural gas and coal with the city only using 1% of its rooftop solar potential. The Detroit Sustainability Action Agenda, published in 2019, set a goal of 6.6 megawatts of solar capacity by 2024. That same year, Detroit City Council passed its first Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Ordinance setting the goal of reducing its carbon emissions by 35% by 2024.

Let's support climate resiliency by taking the following actions:

- Reduce citywide emissions by enforcing Detroit City Council's GHG Ordinance.
- Reduce the use of gasoline engines and increase the use of public transit.
- Make changes to buildings to use less energy for heating and cooling.
- Increase access and demand for renewable energy (solar and wind) and reduce dependence on fossil fuels (coal and natural gas).

✔ Improve Our Air Quality

Immediate action is needed to reduce exposure to harmful air pollutants. Harmful air pollutants that are found in Detroit include sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and particulate matter. These air pollutants come from industrial spaces, like factories, in Detroit and the surrounding area, and from vehicles on our roads. They are linked to health issues like asthma.

Moreover, Detroiters are disproportionately affected by air quality problems stemming from increased truck traffic, heavy industry, and multiplying construction projects, and are burdened by some of the highest asthma rates in the state. The city is home to zip code 48217, the most polluted zip code in Michigan. It is therefore not surprising that Detroiters suffer from much higher rates of severe COVID-19 cases than in the rest of the state.

Let's improve our air quality by taking the following actions:

- Control industrial and vehicle emissions that release air pollution into the Earth's atmosphere.
- Install air filters indoors to protect residents.
- Use trees as buffers or barriers between air pollution sources and people.
- Enforce air quality rules and increase air quality monitoring.

✓ Ensure Access to Green & Healthy Homes

We know that Detroiters, a large part of whom are renters, live in aging, poorly weatherized housing that contains old pipes, as well as potential lead, mold, and asbestos hazards.

Let's ensure that residents have access to green, healthy, and affordable housing by taking the following actions:

- Prioritize the repair and maintenance of existing housing for current residents over new construction.
- Ensure that housing, repaired or newly built, is affordable, and that it reduces asthma triggers, as well as exposure to lead, mold, and asbestos.
- Allocate dollars to weatherize and retrofit residents' homes in order to make them more energy efficient.

✓ Support Land Acquisition for Urban Farming

Residents depend upon Detroit's network of gardens and farms to access healthy, affordable, and culturally-appropriate food. The City of Detroit needs to put measures in place to protect our existing network, as well as develop policies and services that ensure residents can purchase and lease land to grow produce and earn a living.

Let's keep land for local use by taking the following actions:

- Learn about Detroit's urban agriculture movement.
- Demand an equitable and transparent process for land acquisition.
- Support local food businesses that support local farmers.

✓ Ensure Affordable Access to Clean Water

Detroit is a Great Lakes city and yet water shut-offs are causing a public health emergency. Water is our most precious resource, especially the water we use to drink, wash, and care for our families. To protect our water, we need to commit to conservation, efficiency, and green stormwater infrastructure. Water conservation means making sure we do not waste water. Water efficiency means doing more with less water. Green stormwater infrastructure helps manage sewage overflows, reduce basement flooding, and build healthier neighborhoods.

Let's ensure affordable clean water access by taking the following actions:

- Stop residential water shut-offs.
- Inform and guide water consumers about water quality, water sources, and costs.
- Protect and restore our waterways.
- Incorporate green stormwater infrastructure into street redesign and greenway projects to direct stormwater away from our Great Lakes and into a system to be filtered.
- Reduce industrial and stormwater pollution through the Protecting Our Waters Ordinance.

Create Clear Pathways for Residential Access to Land

Communities in Detroit struggle to raise their quality of life through beautification projects, re-purposing of vacant lots, and removing blighted properties, many of which are owned by the Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA). They are also concerned with new development projects coming into their neighborhoods that lead to an increased cost of living, among other issues. City government is often the biggest obstacle in revitalizing communities outside of the Downtown Detroit and Midtown areas.

Moreover, while studies continue to show that more policing does not mean increased safety for many residents, the Detroit Police Department continues to be one of the City's largest expenditures. Significantly less funding is dedicated to departments like sustainability, housing, health, and recreation.

Let's create clear pathways for residential access to land by taking the following actions:

- Getting the City to support community leadership and decision-making around blight control, beautification projects, and ownership and redevelopment of vacant lots and buildings.
- Ensuring that Detroiters have a seat at the table and get to benefit from and participate in the redevelopment of their city.
- Decrease blight ticketing to residents and strengthen accountability structures around illegal dumping.
- Prioritizing land acquisition for Detroiters.

Increase the City's Waste Diversion Rates

Sustainable waste management in Detroit is critical to reducing the negative effects associated with waste disposal and litter, as well as improving markets for recyclable and compostable materials. Currently, 37.4% of residents are participating in the curbside recycling program and the contamination rate (i.e., amount of non-acceptable materials like food waste, unwashed containers, electronics, batteries, plastic bags, placed inside curbside recycling carts versus the amount of acceptable materials, like paper, cardboard, glass, metal, and plastic containers, placed in those same carts) is recorded at 22% in May of 2019. The contamination rate will likely increase without proper education as the recycling program expands citywide. To increase waste diversion rates away from landfills, as well as materials utilization, we must also create and implement a comprehensive composting program (organics recycling).

Establishing sustainable waste management systems for the sake of the people, businesses, and the environment, is critical for Detroit.

Let's expand recycling and waste diversion efforts by taking the following actions:

- Increase participation in the existing single-family curbside recycling program.
- Implement the citywide commercial and multifamily recycling program expansion approved by City Council.
- Create and implement citywide food waste prevention, food recovery/rescue, as well as organics recycling programs.

✓ Increase Access to Green Space and Healthy Active Transportation

Parks and green space, as well as safe biking and walking environments, are all urban quality of life indicators. Detroiters need more green space and more safe transportation options.

Increasing vehicle speeds have become a major topic across the city, as they result in more traffic accidents and make Detroit's streets less safe for pedestrians and bicyclists. The City is responding by investing in Complete Streets (e.g., speed humps, streetscapes, bike lanes) and creating a Streets for People Plan. These actions can improve transportation options for all residents.

Let's increase access to green space and healthy active transportation by taking the following actions:

- Improve public and environmental health in planning and zoning (buffer zones, truck routes, etc.)
- Create safe and reliable walking and biking pathways for residents of all ages and abilities that connect them with parks, schools, transit, jobs, retail, and more.

✓ Ensure Detroiters Access to Good Paying Green Jobs

Jobs related to the environment (i.e., green jobs) are critical to advancing solutions to economic disparities and climate change. Detroiters trained to enter careers in construction, renewable energy, recycling, water infrastructure and conservation, air quality, and others, will play a meaningful role in championing public health and economic wellbeing in their communities. Detroit should lead in preparing residents for these jobs and in aligning existing and emerging workforce training programs with employers who see value in hiring graduates.

Let's ensure Detroiters access good paying green jobs by taking the following actions:

- Recognize that clean energy jobs pay 25% more than the national median average.
- Leverage Detroit Works Green Jobs Programs (e.g., [EITI Renewable Energy Training](#))
- Leverage grass roots clean energy programs
 - [Green Door Initiative](#)
 - [Youth Energy Squad](#)
- Support Detroit based HVAC, electrical, and solar contractors to prepare them to take advantage of Justice40 Infrastructure Funding from the Biden/Harris administration.
 - [Justice40 Accelerator](#)

2021 Primary Candidates

Mayoral Candidates

Anthony Adams

NO RESPONSE:

Mayor Mike Duggan

At-Large Candidates

Nicole Small

Mary Waters

Coleman A. Young II

NO RESPONSE:

Janee' L. Ayers

District 1 Candidates

Krystal P. Larsosa

NO RESPONSE:

James Tate

District 6 Candidates

Gaby Santiago Romero

Hector Santiago

District 7 Candidates

Fred Durhal

NO RESPONSE:

Regina Ross

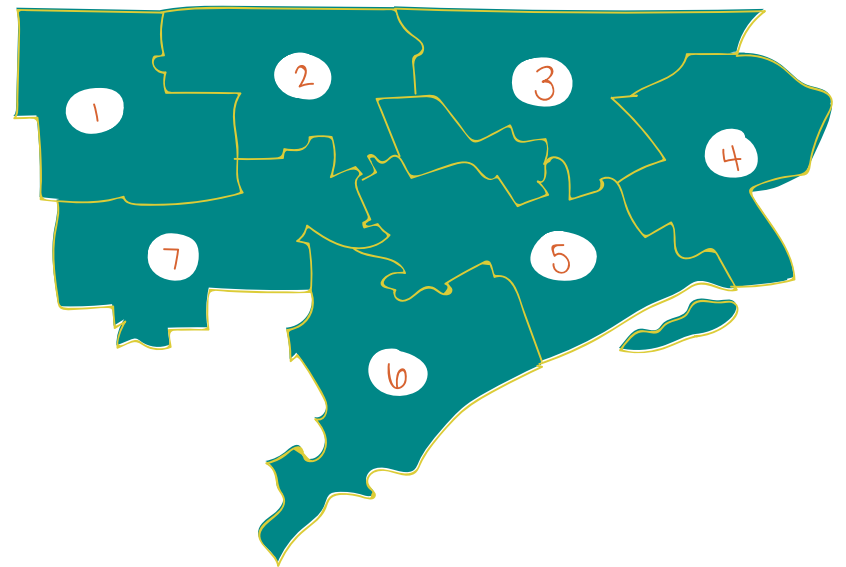
District 4 Candidates

Latisha Johnson

M.L. Elrick



Mayoral





Anthony Adams

Q: Where can people go to learn more about your biography? If not readily available online, please describe in 150 words or less, your relevant experience, public offices held (if any), involvement in environmental causes, and membership in any environmental organizations. If you currently hold office, describe any votes or actions demonstrating concern for the environment.

A: I am a dedicated public servant with a track record for managing large, complex organizations. I am also a key player in leading recycling efforts in Detroit, although stewardship of Greater Detroit Resource Recovery Authority caused issues with environmentalists. I have grown in understanding issues associated with discharge of toxins in the environment, and worked with community organizations to fight modifications of discharge permits in the development of the Chrysler Plant expansion. AnthonyAdamsforMayor.com

Community

Q: If elected, how will you work with Detroit residents to ensure that they benefit from and partake in the decision-making surrounding local development projects and that potential adverse impacts of those projects are identified, measured, monitored and mitigated? Moreover, how would you work to put more power into the hands of residents to maintain and revitalize their own communities and to access vacant land through the DLBA?

A: Community residents have been taken out of the development decision-making process. My plans include empowering community residents into all aspects of the process to ensure they have a place at the table. That is my reputation. DLBA will be disbanded in 2020 as authorized by law. Community residents will be given first dibs on land in their community. Community benefit agreements will be strengthened at the Executive level of the City.

Q: If elected, what budget appropriations would you propose to increase investment in needed social and environmental services to help improve the quality of life and health of Detroit residents?

A: Budget appropriations must be reallocated to increase investment in the quality of life and health of Detroit residents. This would include allocating more dollars to address quality of life issues surrounding housing, public health and recreation. Recognizing that public health of residents is of paramount importance, a portion of the city's general fund would be allocated to increase dollars available to attack these problems above and go beyond basic grant funding received from federal and state governments.

There is also a need to allocate dollars to facilitate the robust development of quality educational facilities to improve learning. This would include improving funding for our libraries by eliminating the arbitrary tax capture which cripples their operation. The focus must be on promoting projects, and developments which focus on and impact the way we live.

A major part of the problem with development in Detroit is that residents have been taken out of the decision-making process. My plan includes empowering community residents into all aspects of the process to ensure they have a place at the table to promote quality environments where they live.

The City can no longer be a hindrance to the stabilization of neighborhoods and the development of affordable housing. The focus must always be on stabilizing the homes of existing

residents. This includes providing relief to repair porches, roofs, painting, siding and furnaces so that more blight is not created by more people vacating their homes because they cannot fix their current home. Preserving homeowners is the best blight removal strategy we have. This would improve the overall health of neighborhoods.

Land must be quickly repurposed into the hands of those who are current owners and real community development corporations (CDCs) to increase ownership of land in critical development areas. The idea is to push ownership of land into the hands of those that own property, both residents and community CDCs, into targeted areas to push development into those areas where land is not as much in demand yet has value. This approach has a way of spreading development to those areas that would normally be overlooked. This allows for targeted growth throughout the entire city.

In addition, property reassessment must also be undertaken to reduce the tax burden of those that own homes. The University of Chicago study by Professor Bernadette Athuene clearly establishes that property tax burden is not fair and needs to be reformed. The DBLA will ultimately be abolished to bring this function back in house following an aggressive period of reducing its inventory through a more deliberate transfer of ownership. The focus will no longer be on Midtown and Downtown, but areas outside the central city core. This includes prioritizing the use of affordable housing dollars for real affordable housing and not mixed finance developments that proliferate in the Central Core. To the extent that existing developments have vacancies, pressure will be applied to house folks at income levels below that which was specified in the development agreement to increase diversity of housing in the central core. Homeownership will be a clear focus of my administration's efforts.

Health, social service and recreational services must also be integrated into neighborhood development. To the extent that

affordable housing development is subsidized, then additional spaces must be incorporated into the design and paid for using subsidies.

We must always change the paradigm on how we police ourselves. I have called for the creation of community intervention specialist positions within DPD to take over the execution of several police functions such as mental health runs, homelessness, vagrancy, prostitution, certain types of drug cases and certain gang de-escalation interventions. This will allow for diversion of resources and manpower to handle issues not associated with the enforcement of serious criminal justice issues. By intervening on the front end to engage people with issues, the ideal is that issues will be addressed upstream, reducing actual calls for service on the police which would lead to a reduction in the public safety budget, increase public safety by providing alternatives to police and provide for better health outcomes.

Public Health

Q: What long-term solutions do you see for addressing vehicle speeds and making our streets safer?

A: We need to create a facility to allow for drag racing and drifting in the city. Cultures cannot be broken overnight. We need to provide a safe space for this type of activity. I will work with motorcycle and car clubs to promote safe driving in the city. Enforcement efforts will be directed at repeating offenders. Seizure of vehicles — with due process — will be employed.

Q: How will you work to reduce the negative health impacts of air quality on the residents of Detroit?

A: I will not allow for expansion of existing air discharge permits. I will also work to reduce existing permits to lower discharge levels.

Q: If elected, what actions will you take to work toward safer, healthier, and more affordable housing for all Detroiters?

A: Affordable housing dollars will go towards real affordable housing projects. I will dramatically reduce the use of mixed income projects with minimal affordable housing units in the city. My vision is to create more affordable housing and homeownership projects in the city.

Energy

Q: What are your priorities to reduce emissions and lessen the impacts of climate change in Detroit during your term in office?

A: I can support the Greenhouse Gas Ordinance. The City also needs DTE to invest more in protecting/redeveloping its infrastructure in Detroit. The City must be a leader in energy efficiency and conservation. This includes utilizing the City's massive infrastructure with renewable energy technologies. The city should also utilize alternative technologies in the heating and cooling of its buildings, including geothermal technologies. The city can also use the rooftops of buildings to maximize the use of green technology- tree planting-- to reduce the overall temperature of neighborhoods.

The City should also be much more aggressive in the retrofitting of homes in the city with energy efficiency technologies. This includes pressing DTE to expand low-income assistance to residents in the city to swap out old appliances.

The city can also effectively manage its energy use through staggered work periods and reducing peak period utilization of energy through adjustment of work schedules. Allowing employees to work from home should be encouraged to reduce office utilization and energy expenditures on a large scale.

The City must also take the lead to modernize its massive fleet to reduce greenhouse gas. This would include the use of more electric vehicles and smaller modalities of transporting people across the region to and from work.

Q: What are your plans for helping the city transition to renewable energy and how will you ensure that the cost-benefits and increased resilience that come from the use of renewables, are made accessible to low-income and vulnerable communities across Detroit?

A: We need to begin the transition to more environmentally friendly vehicles in the city's fleet. Also, we need to begin increasing the renewable infrastructure footprint in the city. Benefits to low-income residents include more mobility options to increase mobility throughout the city.

Recycling

Q: How can the city increase recycling, composting, and the use of post-consumer recycled materials, while addressing the city's litter and illegal dumping problem?

A: We need to move towards creating a green infrastructure plan, which encompasses the use of public facilities to create composting and recycling facilities. I can see using what I call an environmental corps to go throughout the city to work to clean up the city. More recycling bins need to be placed around the city.

Jobs

Q: What steps would you take to prepare the local workforce to take advantage of and be part of the movement toward a green economy, through qualifying for good paying infrastructure and clean energy jobs, amongst others?

A: DESC needs to be retooled to provide tax benefits/subsidies for companies that promote a green environment. The Detroit Health Department needs to be focused on addressing environmental issues which impact the public health of Detroit residents. Income support (Guaranteed Basic Income) is on the table to further develop this initiative.

Water

Q: How will you ensure that clean water is accessible and affordable to all Detroiters?

A: Environmentally friendly DWSD Director will be promoted. A big push to replace lead service lines and small level detention ponds on both commercial and residential housing to reduce drainage fees assessed will also be undertaken. I have been a proponent of water affordability.

Q: How will you help municipal agencies and property owners integrate Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) across the city to manage stormwater and reduce drainage charge fees for property owners?

A: Infrastructure management--curb replacement, stormwater management -- would be integrated into street design. Parks will be used as conservation districts to divert water out of the sewer system.

Optional

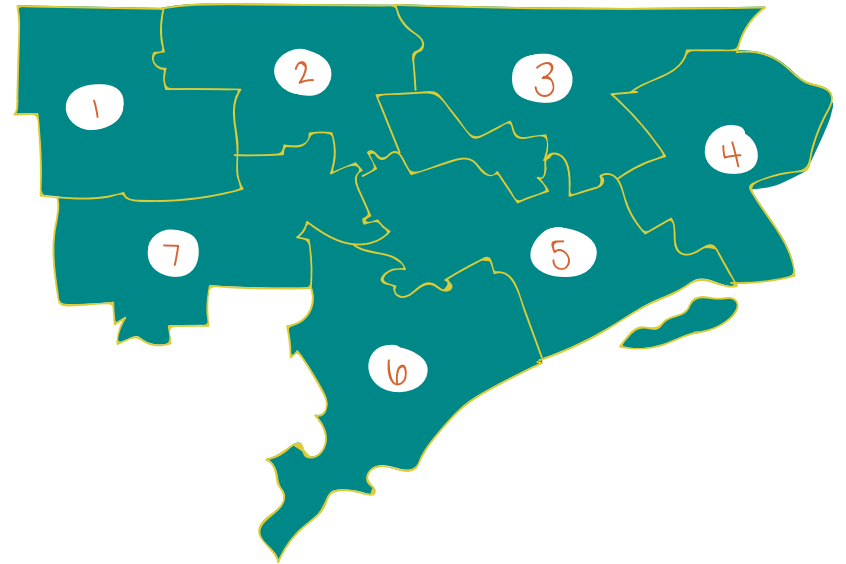
Q: Please identify the top environmental concerns to you personally. Identify the environmental issue in your community that is the most pressing, and what you would like to do as an elected official to address this most pressing concern.

A: Address stormwater management, discharge of pollutants in the air, and reducing greenhouse gas impact through the use of renewable energy vehicles. I will integrate storm water management to create more conservation districts throughout the city, enact policies designed to reduce air discharges in Detroit, and move to increase the renewable energy fleet.





At-Large





Nicole Small

Q: Where can people go to learn more about your biography? If not readily available online, please describe in 150 words or less, your relevant experience, public offices held (if any), involvement in environmental causes, and membership in any environmental organizations. If you currently hold office, describe any votes or actions demonstrating concern for the environment.

A: I'm a change agent for social and economic equity. As a former UAW member, organizing around issues that have a direct impact on improving working and living conditions for the most vulnerable is second nature. Balancing my career as an HR professional and a public advocate, often results in pushing policies that help shape organizations and communities. I've watched Detroit be dissected into marginalized communities. This fueled my passion to seek a formal role as a public servant. In 2018, I ran for Detroit Charter Revision Commission, and I was elected with 57,000 votes city wide. Now, I'm seeking to build bridges across the city and provide Detroiters with equitable resources and services.

Community

Q: If elected, how will you work with Detroit residents to ensure that they benefit from and partake in the decision-making surrounding local development projects and that potential adverse impacts of those projects are identified, measured, monitored

and mitigated? Moreover, how would you work to put more power into the hands of residents to maintain and revitalize their own communities and to access vacant land through the DLBA?

A: I would host district roundtable meetings and listen to the concerns of residents and form a process to prioritize the issues that impact the majority of residents. Currently, I'm an elected official that has an open door policy and I would continue to identify solutions and policies that support the needs of residents. The DLBA actually is an entity that should be supervised by the executive branch. However, as a Councilperson, I would contact the DLBA about a property that the DLBA is preventing a Detroit resident from accessing or that is not being maintained in the community.

Q: If elected, what budget appropriations would you propose to increase investment in needed social and environmental services to help improve the quality of life and health of Detroit residents?

A: No response.

Public Health

Q: What long-term solutions do you see for addressing vehicle speeds and making our streets safer?

A: I noticed that speeding is more of an issue in neighborhoods and at a bare minimum downtown. I would speak to residents in the neighborhood about whether they would like more traffic enforcement in the neighborhood as opposed to the high volume dispatched downtown. Speed bumps are an option. However, I've received feedback from residents that they are not as effective as desired.

Q: How will you work to reduce the negative health impacts of air quality on the residents of Detroit?

A: I would hold bad actors accountable for compromising the air quality and strengthen the standards for businesses that use materials that cause negative health impact on residents.

Q: If elected, what actions will you take to work toward safer, healthier, and more affordable housing for all Detroiters?

A: I would propose that developers receiving tax credits have a portion of the units designated for Detroit residents to qualify based on the AMI of Detroiters, not the tri-county area.

Energy

Q: What are your priorities to reduce emissions and lessen the impacts of climate change in Detroit during your term in office?

A: No response.

Q: What are your plans for helping the city transition to renewable energy and how will you ensure that the cost-benefits and increased resilience that come from the use of renewables, are made accessible to low-income and vulnerable communities across Detroit?

A: I would support policies that ensure renewable energy and benefits to residents that provide access to affordable utilities.

Recycling

Q: How can the city increase recycling, composting, and the use of post-consumer recycled materials, while addressing the city's litter and illegal dumping problem?

A: The City could create a program that hires people (not a privatized company) to clean up the areas where dumping is occurring and ensure there are separate dumpsters for recycling. Additionally, the City could expand the number of dump sites for residents to dispose of waste properly.

Jobs

Q: What steps would you take to prepare the local workforce to take advantage of and be part of the movement toward a green economy, through qualifying for good paying infrastructure and clean energy jobs, amongst others?

A: Establish a program that offers proper training to DPSCD students and adult residents. The program should include educational components around careers in this field, grants and financial benefits of businesses and community organizations that take advantage of these opportunities.

Water

Q: How will you ensure that clean water is accessible and affordable to all Detroiters?

A: I will support implementing the water affordability proposal by the Bill of Rights coalition.

Q: How will you help municipal agencies and property owners integrate Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) across the city to manage stormwater and reduce drainage charge fees for property owners?

A: I would support removal of stormwater drainage fees to residents. There needs to be a process implemented that charges residents a fair rate and allocated funds to improve the infrastructure.

Optional

Q: Please identify the top environmental concerns to you personally. Identify the environmental issue in your community that is the most pressing, and what you would like to do as an elected official to address this most pressing concern.

A: Unaffordable water, excessive waste/dumping and unaffordable utility rates.



Mary Waters

Q: Where can people go to learn more about your biography? If not readily available online, please describe in 150 words or less, your relevant experience, public offices held (if any), involvement in environmental causes, and membership in any environmental organizations. If you currently hold office, describe any votes or actions demonstrating concern for the environment.

A: www.marywatersfordetroit.com/meet-mary

Community

Q: If elected, how will you work with Detroit residents to ensure that they benefit from and partake in the decision-making surrounding local development projects and that potential adverse impacts of those projects are identified, measured, monitored and mitigated? Moreover, how would you work to put more power into the hands of residents to maintain and revitalize their own communities and to access vacant land through the DLBA?

A: As a public servant, my charge is to listen to the will of the people. Community engagement requires a multi-faceted approach. This means holding town halls, both in-person and virtual. This means publishing short, easy to read fliers and social media posts that inform the citizens about the issues. This means continuing to engage with our District Managers and other local community leaders. This also means transparency at all levels. If elected, my mission would be to ensure that local development

projects are transparent from the top down by collecting information the Detroiters would want to know, such as: How many Detroiters will be employed as a result of this project? How will the project enhance the quality of life of its surrounding areas? Will the development adversely impact our sewer system, our water, or our air?

To place power in the hands of the residents for the enhancement of their own neighborhoods requires information and funding. If elected, my office would engage with every district in Detroit to provide information on grant opportunities, forgivable home improvement loans, and community partners that can assist with neighborhood improvement efforts. As for access to vacant land through the DLBA, again, information is key. My office would work hand-in-hand with the DLBA and each district to send out information about vacant land, and ways to obtain some help with funding for purchases.

I will support the passage and the funding of Proposal P, which contains significant measures for citizen inclusion and equitable metrics for development projects. I will also support amendments to strengthen the Detroit Community Benefits Ordinance and Community Outreach Ordinance. I will introduce and advocate for adopting racial equity and sustainability indexes for evaluating, approving, and monitoring all development deals. I will introduce and vigorously fight for legislative amendments and policies that require the DLBA to eliminate auction sales that favor wealthy cash buyers over Detroit residents. Instead, I will support measures that create a tiered land disposition process with first preference to Detroit residents who are first-time home buyers currently residing in the surrounding neighborhood, followed by first-time home buyers and Detroit residents throughout the city. I will work with nonprofits, community groups, and state and federal entities to subsidize costs.

Q: If elected, what budget appropriations would you propose to increase investment in needed social and environmental services to help improve the quality of life and health of Detroit residents?

A: We must invest in residents first. Accordingly, I will propose an increase in appropriations to the Detroit Housing Trust Fund to create and preserve affordable housing in addition to increasing appropriations for home repair grants and loans, employment training, and neighborhood-based entrepreneurship. I will propose increases and shifts of public subsidies in preference of “green and clean” businesses. The city’s investment in air quality monitoring and regulation of industrial emissions must also increase.

If elected, I would propose increased funding to the City of Detroit Health Department. The Health Department has handled the COVID-19 pandemic with a coordinated campaign of information and access to services across all 144 square miles of the city. Detroiters suffer from a variety of chronic conditions such as obesity, high blood pressure and asthma. These conditions can be managed, but a vast segment of the population does not have access to information and services. As a breast cancer survivor, I am well aware of how access to information and services can lead to positive outcomes. By increasing the Health Departments funding, the city will be able to focus more on the health of every man, woman and child in the city.

Public Health

Q: What long-term solutions do you see for addressing vehicle speeds and making our streets safer?

A: We must first address over-policing and gentrification. There are not enough recreational options for low-income teens and young adults. Unfortunately, many teens and young adults are profiled in downtown, midtown, and more affluent areas. Years ago, the City of Detroit offered free festivals hosted in Hart Plaza until midnight. These places provided a safe environment for teens and young adults that were not dependent on money; accessible (public and financially) public venues keep people out of trouble. I will also invest in proven, evidence-based crime prevention interventions such as mental health and substance abuse centers.

Finally, I will work collaboratively with community members to design and implement solutions for their neighborhoods. Neighbors may request speed bumps, support for community radio patrols, securing abandoned homes etc. I will work with neighbors across Detroit as co-leaders in designing solutions for their neighborhoods.

In the long-term, there are 3 ways to make our streets safer: information, enforcement, and obstacles. As to information, we need to consistently hammer home the speed limits in our neighborhoods. I often see signs that say, “Drive like your children live here”, and others that mention driving slower. A series of public service announcements and social media blasts can potentially remind drivers to take it slow. As to enforcement, the recent efforts of the Detroit Police Department to crack down on drag racing are a welcome addition to combating speeding drivers. If those enforcement efforts can be sustained and expanded, it would ensure the safety of our streets. Third, the efforts of the city to install speed humps, medians and other speed-reducing obstacles has the potential to greatly increase the safety of our streets, especially in less densely-populated residential areas.

Q: How will you work to reduce the negative health impacts of air quality on the residents of Detroit?

A: I pledge and commit to the following to reduce the negative health impacts of air quality on Detroit residents. Specifically, I will:

- Work with neighbors, council members, and the mayoral administration to obtain “clean and green” economic development.
- Lead the way in requiring an environmental impact study, health impact assessment, and mitigation plan before approving any sale of land or zoning request for an industrial business.

- Advocate for additional investment for our public health department to provide and subsidize air filters, window sealants, and other protective measures for homes.
- Advocate to increase requirements for vegetative and other green buffers for industrial facilities.
- Work with experts to establish truck routes in our city to limit diesel emissions in our neighborhoods.
- Advocate for a phased approach to convert all municipal buses to hybrid or electric models.
- Work closely with state and federal entities to monitor and enforce (and advocate for enhanced standards) air quality standards in Detroit.

To reduce the negative impacts of air quality, we would have to start at the sources of air quality issues: industrial and vehicular emissions. As to industrial emissions, I would have to work with the factories and businesses in each district to evaluate what, if any, impact their emissions have on air quality. Once impact is determined, then the businesses and the community would come together in a town hall, to brainstorm a way to reduce or limit emissions in a gradual, safe way. I would also try to help the business identify any grants or federal funding to achieve the goals of reducing emissions and enhancing air quality.

Q: If elected, what actions will you take to work toward safer, healthier, and more affordable housing for all Detroiters?

A: First, I will push for a substantial increase in appropriations to the Detroit Housing Trust Fund. Second, I will prioritize resource allocation, tax subsidies, and other public assistance to developments that reserve 50% or more units for low-to-moderate-income units based on the median income for the City of Detroit and not the regional index. Third, I will invest in grants for home remediation, including measures such as lead, mold, and asbestos removal. Finally, as stated earlier, I will advocate for increased appropriations for home repair grants, followed by zero

to low-interest home repair loans, keeping Detroiters shielded from property tax foreclosure.

There are some citizens who live in deplorable conditions in a home they own, simply because financing for repairs is out of reach. There are already a few banking entities that work with Detroit homeowners, but I would like to attempt to expand the partnerships and increase the types of financing available for home repairs. I would also seek, as always, grant funding and federal programming assistance to ensure the success of the expanded programming.

To shield more Detroiters from property tax foreclosure, I would like to work to intensely promote the Homeowners Property Tax Assistance Program, and other flexible payment options offered by both the Detroit Tax Relief Fund and the Wayne County Treasurer's office. To bring more affordable housing units to the city, my office would need to hold certain corporate entities to their promises of building such units, as well as support smaller development companies who solely focus on affordable, sustainable housing.

Energy

Q: What are your priorities to reduce emissions and lessen the impacts of climate change in Detroit during your term in office?

A: Our community's health comes first. My priority is to shift the current economic development strategy to one that prioritizes jobs and "clean and green" industry. As stated earlier, I will advocate for the use of a racial equity and sustainability index for approving and monitoring development projects. Finally, I will hold the City accountable for following and adequately funding the Detroit Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Agenda.

One of my priorities is to evaluate the environmental impacts of the different industries and businesses in each district, then

engage key stakeholders (the citizens in the impacted area, local leaders, and business owners) to come up with a coordinated plan to reduce and/or limit harmful emissions to meet the 2024 emission reduction goal of the Greenhouse Gas Ordinance. If such a plan had already been created, my term would be the perfect time to evaluate and revise with the input of the community.

The next is to get citizens more information and education regarding climate change, and what sorts of actions/inactions by some industries can contribute to its effects.

Q: What are your plans for helping the city transition to renewable energy and how will you ensure that the cost-benefits and increased resilience that come from the use of renewables, are made accessible to low-income and vulnerable communities across Detroit?

A: My plans include a proposal for City Departments to integrate a circular economy framework to eliminate waste, integrate reuse, and recycle materials. I commit to supporting proposals to incorporate green stormwater infrastructure into current and upcoming street redesign and greenway projects, in addition to enhancing energy and water efficiency at City-owned facilities. On a larger scale, I will advocate for issuing RFPS to assist the City of Detroit in a phased plan towards the majority use of natural and renewable energy sources. I will promote creating an index to determine cost savings and target those savings to reinvest in social services, subsidizing renewable energy upgrades for low-to-moderate-income homeowners, and promoting neighborhood-based green infrastructure projects.

The first plan is to distribute information to key stakeholders on what the transition to renewable energy could look like. Then, it would be my plan to host town halls across the city to gain citizen input on the transition. These town halls would be frequent and can be virtual or in person to capture everyone, especially in our most vulnerable areas. Not only that, but our office can direct

citizens who are interested in solar panels and other forms of renewable energy sources of grant and federal funding to assist with the start-up costs.

Recycling

Q: How can the city increase recycling, composting, and the use of post-consumer recycled materials, while addressing the city's litter and illegal dumping problem?

A: I will work with community groups and environmental allies to host demonstration projects and educational events across Detroit to show residents how simple, non-cost-prohibitive actions can create a better world for our children. I will promote investment in neighborhood patrols and cameras to target illegal dumping, most of which comes from businesses outside of Detroit, in addition to proposing increased fines and the ability to seize vehicles for violators. We must send a message that Detroit is not a dumping ground.

Once again, information is part of the process. We have the city recycling bins, but there are still a few citizens who may be a bit confused as to what you can put in them. Putting out more information, even a simple as a few social media posts, can increase residential recycling. Composting is an excellent process that might require a little more support and help to get started with, and I could host a series of webinars using leading environmental professionals to show citizens how to do it. As to the use of post-consumer recycled materials, I would have to work with local businesses and our citizens to help them identify how and where in their supply chain they could incorporate recycled materials, be it from plastic to paper biodegradable straws, or by "up-cycling" old fixtures and furniture. "Up-cycling" is the repurposing of something old into something new, and has the potential to curb the litter and illegal dumping issue. For example, an old bathtub can be turned into a planter, an old barrel into an outdoor seat. More education about up-cycling and recycling, as

well as stiffer penalties for littering and dumping can help Detroit resolve these issues.

Jobs

Q: What steps would you take to prepare the local workforce to take advantage of and be part of the movement toward a green economy, through qualifying for good paying infrastructure and clean energy jobs, amongst others?

A: I will champion policies that reserve economic development incentives for clean, green, and equitable companies. I will leverage my vote to support businesses that not only hire Detroiters, but provide a path to a career in infrastructure and clean energy beyond temporary and entry-level employment. Furthermore, I will organize and work with City departments to host "meet and greet" activities in neighborhoods to connect employers, recruiters, education and training programs, and skilled trade programs to Detroiters eager for an upwardly mobile career path. Finally, I will also use my experience as a seasoned state legislator to secure state and federal appropriations to subsidize paid job training and transportation vouchers to ease the burden of Detroit residents making skills and career transitions.

To get our Detroit workforce ready to participate in the green economy, I would have to work to identify sources of training for green jobs. Once those sources have been identified, then distribution to the local community begins. I will work to identify sources of grants and other funding that can keep the trainings low-cost and/or free to Detroit residents. I can also reach out to the green industries that are here or that are considering a move here. Those industries can work with the city to provide training and a direct hiring pipeline for Detroiters.

Water

Q: How will you ensure that clean water is accessible and affordable to all Detroiters?

A: I believe water is a human right and will support a water affordability plan based on an individual's income and not a debt-based collection model. I will not support water shut-offs for homes with children, elders, differently abled, and low-income residents. I will also fight for continued infrastructure improvement in replacing all lead-based service lines. I will increase education and outreach for water testing and require plain-language disclosure to assure residents that lead testing will not subject homes to water shut-offs. I would explore the feasibility of programs that can use yearly income as a factor, and potentially a sliding scale for water payments based on usage and yearly income.

Q: How will you help municipal agencies and property owners integrate Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) across the city to manage stormwater and reduce drainage charge fees for property owners?

A: Billions of dollars are coming to Detroit and the State of Michigan through the American Rescue Plan Act for this express purpose. I will fight to ensure Detroit's allocation for infrastructure is used wisely and equitably, including integrating GSI and reducing onerous drainage fees.

I will help both municipal agencies and property owners integrate GSI by using a coordinated campaign of information, volunteers and town halls. These events will teach each of the groups how to integrate GSI and explain the benefits to everyone.

Optional

Q: Please identify the top environmental concerns to you personally. Identify the environmental issue in your community that is the most pressing, and what you would like to do as an elected official to address this most pressing concern.

A: Air pollution is a top concern personally and a truly pressing concern for our community. Air pollutants deteriorate Detroiters' health and health and cause a slow and premature death for too many. As stated above, I will propose the use of economic development for incentives only for corporate actors that utilize clean, green, and equitable practices. Conversely, I will aggressively advocate for stiff and swift penalties for businesses that violate environmental, health, and safety standards. Finally, I commit to leveraging my vote and voice to invest in public monies to offer health mitigation tools and benefits to Detroit residents.

I, and many Detroit citizens, are most concerned about air quality. The COVID-19 pandemic showed us exactly how much damage respiratory disease can do, and the air we breathe plays a part in that. The area surrounding the Marathon refinery is an excellent example of what bad air can do to a population. I understand that industry and manufacturing are dirty processes that are necessary for our society to function. But now that we all know what is being put out into the air, we must do better and work with our companies, factories, and businesses to improve our air quality.





Coleman A. Young II

Q: Where can people go to learn more about your biography? If not readily available online, please describe in 150 words or less, your relevant experience, public offices held (if any), involvement in environmental causes, and membership in any environmental organizations. If you currently hold office, describe any votes or actions demonstrating concern for the environment.

A: Campaign website to be released.

Community

Q: If elected, how will you work with Detroit residents to ensure that they benefit from and partake in the decision-making surrounding local development projects and that potential adverse impacts of those projects are identified, measured, monitored and mitigated? Moreover, how would you work to put more power into the hands of residents to maintain and revitalize their own communities and to access vacant land through the DLBA?

A: We want to increase the number of Citizen Advisory Councils. We want to make changes to the Community Benefits Ordinances to allow greater citizen participation. We want to bring our community meetings to the neighborhoods where development is occurring. We want to invest more in Neighborhood Opportunity Funds (NOF) to beautify the neighborhoods. We want to work with the administration and our federal, state, county and non-profit philanthropic partners to accomplish the above listed goals.

Q: If elected, what budget appropriations would you propose to increase investment in needed social and environmental services to help improve the quality of life and health of Detroit residents?

A: I would increase funding to the Public Works Department and General Services Department for beautification and aesthetic improvements. I would allocate more money for capital improvements for blue and green infrastructure. I would lead more investment to enforce penalties on illegal dumping. Invest more in the Community Health Corps. I want to work with the administration and our partners in the mental health field, as well as continue our conversations with Wayne Integrated Health Network and the Detroit Police Department for mental health training and services. Work with our State partners to invest more in group homes and mental health facilities. Work with the City's Public Health Officer and administration to improve nonprofit assistance with residential mental health issues.

Public Health

Q: What long-term solutions do you see for addressing vehicle speeds and making our streets safer?

A: We need to have more speed bumps and humps, rumble strips and posted speed limits that are enforced. We need to work with our performance street car racing industry partners to provide outlets for racing.

Q: How will you work to reduce the negative health impacts of air quality on the residents of Detroit?

A: Work with the administration, state EGLE and federal EPA partners to focus our efforts on air quality via the Air Quality Index. As well as, non profit organizations that are focused on the air quality for the citizens of 48217 and Detroit. In addition, work with the Public Health Officer and other nonprofits that focus on the health of citizens that are impacted by poor air quality to provide them with monetary and medical relief for their health improvements.

Q: If elected, what actions will you take to work toward safer, healthier, and more affordable housing for all Detroiters?

A: I would work with the administration and my colleagues to bring in the Urban Institute's National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP), which is a learning network connecting partner organizations in 30 cities, including Detroit, through Data Driven Detroit. NNIP ensures that communities have access to data and the skills to use information to advance equity and well-being across neighborhoods. Further, we need to focus on what the data indicates so that we can make greater improvements to the health and safety of more affordable housing for Detroiters.

Energy

Q: What are your priorities to reduce emissions and lessen the impacts of climate change in Detroit during your term in office?

A: My priority to reach the reduction of carbon emissions by 35% by 2024 as set by the City Council would require working with the administration EGLE, the EPA and the Urban Institute and NNPI to first increase the priority of reduction of emissions for the City Government. Then work with community groups and nonprofits to increase their awareness of this issue. Then work with the community liaison from DTE and our congressional partners to accomplish this federal EPA Clean Air requirement. We also need a truck traffic ordinance that redirects trucks away from the residential neighborhoods. Also, we need an incentive program to retro fit trucks to electrify or use alternative fuels that burn cleaner with fewer emissions.

We need to use more carbon forests. Use federal financing to invest more in air infiltration units in Southwest Detroit, working with our Federal and State partners. As well as use zoning laws and building inspectors to enforce the building codes for energy efficiency in our residential building. Work with the administration to electrify the city vehicle fleet and bus systems.

Q: What are your plans for helping the city transition to renewable energy and how will you ensure that the cost-benefits and increased resilience that come from the use of renewables, are made accessible to low-income and vulnerable communities across Detroit?

A: I would work with the administration's Climate Equity Advisory Council (CEAC) and its approach to the citizens, as well as the Detroit City Council Green Task Force to make improvements that help reduce the carbon emissions by 35% by 2024. Use zoning to invest more in solar energy.

Recycling

Q: How can the city increase recycling, composting, and the use of post-consumer recycled materials, while addressing the city's litter and illegal dumping problem?

A: We need to have a city-wide curbside recycling community education program. We need a recycling program in mixed used, multi-purpose buildings. Then we need to set a target for recycling and composting. And we need to work with the Eastside Community Network to establish target percentages for recycling and composting programs.

Jobs

Q: What steps would you take to prepare the local workforce to take advantage of and be part of the movement toward a green economy, through qualifying for good paying infrastructure and clean energy jobs, amongst others?

A: We need to work with Workforce Development, Detroit Economic Solutions Corporation, Skilled Trades Task Force and our labor brothers and sisters to teach deconstruction, bioswales, permeable concrete, retention ponds, wetlands and other green construction that provides green jobs.

Water

Q: How will you ensure that clean water is accessible and affordable to all Detroiters?

A: Implement a Detroit Water Affordability Plan, which I supported in 2005. We need to continue the moratorium on water shutoffs that we have right now, Use the capital improvements budget and the federal infrastructure plan to reduce the number of leaks that we have in the current system that are increasing the water rates. Also, we need to use the capital improvements budget to expand the capacity of the pipes.

Q: How will you help municipal agencies and property owners integrate Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) across the city to manage stormwater and reduce drainage charge fees for property owners?

A: We need to work with the administration to implement a city-wide community education program on Green Stormwater Infrastructure. We also need to pass ordinances encouraging green infrastructure and amend the Master Plan and zoning ordinances to include green infrastructure.

Optional

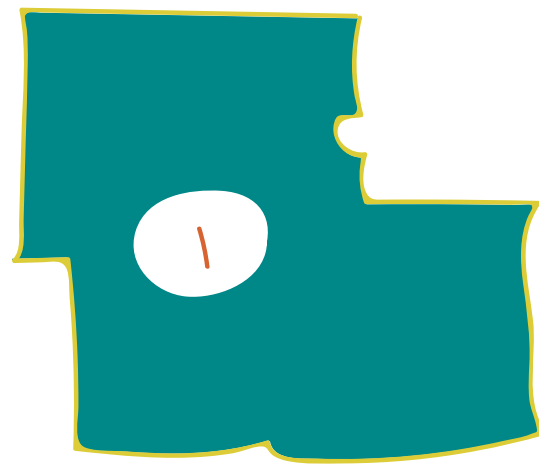
Q: Please identify the top environmental concerns to you personally. Identify the environmental issue in your community that is the most pressing, and what you would like to do as an elected official to address this most pressing concern.

A: Neighborhood investment, blight, trash, litter, air quality, water accessibility, improper handling of construction materials (asbestos in the air and cadmium in the dirt, (lack of environmental construction remediation)).





District 1





Krystal P. Larsosa

Q: Where can people go to learn more about your biography? If not readily available online, please describe in 150 words or less, your relevant experience, public offices held (if any), involvement in environmental causes, and membership in any environmental organizations. If you currently hold office, describe any votes or actions demonstrating concern for the environment.

A: I am a child- and youth-development professional having worked in juvenile justice, the church, and the public school system facilitating safe play, interactive learning as well as art and outdoor activities for children and families. More importantly, I'm a mother and wife who set aside her career to focus on home, my family's best interests, as well as my surrounding community. Because of my sacrifices, our three brilliant Black daughters at ages 14, 12, and 5 are known nationally as the Hershekissis by over 300k followers on their social media platform, which elevates Black girls, the Black community, and issues of our environment. Because of my private nature, I have been largely uninterested in public office. However, the good fortune experienced by our family in consideration with this pivotal year for Black and Brown communities and the environments we inhabit motivated me to lend my perspective as a mom and successful media entrepreneur for scalable, common sense solutions for our families' environments.

Community

Q: If elected, how will you work with Detroit residents to ensure that they benefit from and partake in the decision-making surrounding local development projects and that potential adverse impacts of those projects are identified, measured, monitored and mitigated? Moreover, how would you work to put more power into the hands of residents to maintain and revitalize their own communities and to access vacant land through the DLBA?

A: I will facilitate participatory governance by being present in the neighborhoods. I will fight for a lower threshold for community benefits agreements. And I will root out corruption to ensure Detroiters receive preferential and equitable treatment for purchasing and renovating homes and other property.

Q: If elected, what budget appropriations would you propose to increase investment in needed social and environmental services to help improve the quality of life and health of Detroit residents?

A: I am going to take a close look at every department, beginning with DPD, to cut out the fat and reallocate funding to decrease militarization and ensure officers are paid well and that we expand opportunities for their secondary employment to increase their presence in the neighborhood. I am going to transfer remaining excess DPD dollars to housing, water, transportation, and health services. I will champion the appropriation of HUD dollars under Section 3 to Black and Brown contractors in the Detroit neighborhoods. I will be an advocate for community block grants going to homeowners for home repair. I will support a millage for affordable water as long as we put an end to tax captures on human service millages so that Detroit is assured our dollars are going where we designated them to go, and the people may actually afford water permanently.

Public Health

Q: What long-term solutions do you see for addressing vehicle speeds and making our streets safer?

A: We need to increase police presence in the neighborhood by expanding opportunities for their secondary employment while moving toward a community-based policing model. More residential streets must be afforded speed humps. But there also needs to be more city and government presence in the neighborhoods, and the young people and other dangerous drivers will hear directly from me and other leaders they trust about the importance of careful driving. This means we will also need to offer alternatives for them to blow steam and feel free, such as opening up Belle Isle, Hart Plaza, and other important parks to them such as what we had when we were growing up.

Q: How will you work to reduce the negative health impacts of air quality on the residents of Detroit?

A: My office will explore the following:

- A program adopting tighter vehicle emission standards for commercial vehicles.
- Retrofitting and controlling emissions from existing power plants with the shift away from coal and requiring new power plants to use cleaner fuel such as natural gas.
- Working with foundations and the philanthropic community to introduce more trees to line neighborhood streets, and to increase rooftop solar.
- Leveraging or allocating funding to increase weatherization and the use of LED lights.

Q: If elected, what actions will you take to work toward safer, healthier, and more affordable housing for all Detroiters?

A: Champion a local affordable housing model, based on Detroit AMI instead of that of surrounding communities; end

tax foreclosures for residents, end water shut-offs for residents; develop a permanent affordable water plan; allocate block grants to homeowners for home repair or updates; facilitate bulk purchase to bring down the cost of material; create apprenticeship programs for enlisting non-credentialed trades workers in the neighborhoods in home renovation to help bring down contracting cost to actually reflect labor.

Energy

Q: What are your priorities to reduce emissions and lessen the impacts of climate change in Detroit during your term in office?

A: Credit companies who convert to rooftop solar would be a key initiative.

Q: What are your plans for helping the city transition to renewable energy and how will you ensure that the cost-benefits and increased resilience that come from the use of renewables, are made accessible to low-income and vulnerable communities across Detroit?

A: Partner with cities across the country to buy in bulk and leverage the combined purchasing power. Potentially work with DTE to purchase large-scale renewable energy. Create a dedicated revenue stream to bring renewable energy to the community while ensuring a minimum percent goes to residents earning lower income.

Recycling

Q: How can the city increase recycling, composting, and the use of post-consumer recycled materials, while addressing the city's litter and illegal dumping problem?

A: We need to seed a collaborative of neighborhood environmental groups and match them with a consistent stream of funding to

develop and implement plans to put forward practical action in this arena. The groups need to have full support of the city for enforcement on dumping, with the understanding that violators are less inclined to offend when there is evident hyper local collaboration and control.

Jobs

Q: What steps would you take to prepare the local workforce to take advantage of and be part of the movement toward a green economy, through qualifying for good paying infrastructure and clean energy jobs, amongst others?

A: We will attract green companies and facilitate private-public-nonprofit partnerships for jobs training and placement in the green sector. Detroit can be a national leader on this front.

Water

Q: How will you ensure that clean water is accessible and affordable to all Detroiters?

A: I will fight to end water shut-offs and institute a permanent water affordability plan.

Q: How will you help municipal agencies and property owners integrate Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) across the city to manage stormwater and reduce drainage charge fees for property owners?

A: I budget for a community task force that partners green agencies with the city of Detroit and community groups to determine the best course of action and to implement a plan.

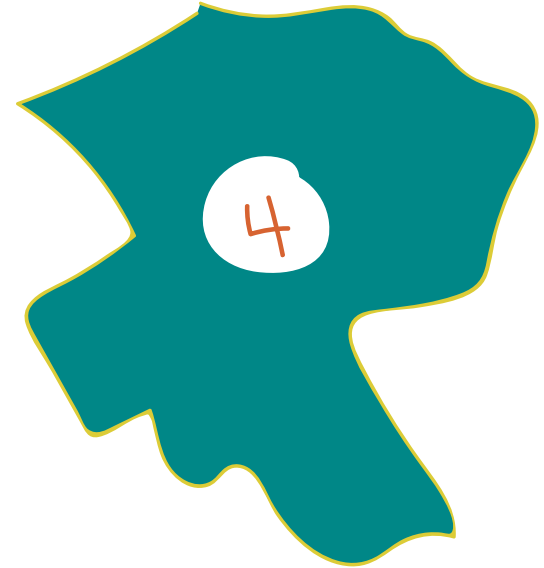
Optional

Q: Please identify the top environmental concerns to you personally. Identify the environmental issue in your community that is the most pressing, and what you would like to do as an elected official to address this most pressing concern.

A: The top environmental concerns from my perspective as a neighborhood mom are speeding cars, litter and dumping, and stray bullets. These are as much mental wellness and anti-poverty issues as there are law enforcement issues. Young people need and deserve to be inspired, to be offered safe recreational gathering spots, and to be connected to financial opportunities that give them an increased stake in the community while helping them contribute toward the generational wealth of their families. My budget, proposed legislation and public narrative will reflect these priorities.



District 4





Latisha Johnson

Q: Where can people go to learn more about your biography? If not readily available online, please describe in 150 words or less, your relevant experience, public offices held (if any), involvement in environmental causes, and membership in any environmental organizations. If you currently hold office, describe any votes or actions demonstrating concern for the environment.

A: Latisha is a member of Third New Hope Church, wife and mother of an 18-year old son. Latisha is a graduate of University of Michigan - Dearborn with a degree in finance. She began her career in Detroit's tourism industry, marketing the city for visitors and attracting millions of dollars in spending to the local economy.

In 2007 Latisha began serving the community. She was inspired to work together with neighbors to promote and strengthen the community during one of the most distressed times in Detroit's history. She served tirelessly as a Vice President of the East English Village Neighborhood Association by overcoming blight, holding financial institutions accountable, and preventing resident foreclosures.

In 2014, she responded to her community's need for a strategic vision by founding MECCA Development Corporation. For the past seven years, she has partnered with residents to address concerns of well-being, workforce development, youth engagement, and neighborhood revitalization. Latisha's

leadership has led to the implementation of the Community Closet free store, skill building programs, rehab of affordable houses, and development of a small nonprofit center.

Latisha has also served as the Treasurer for the 5th Precinct Police/Community Relations Council, Vice Chair for the City of Detroit's Board of Zoning Appeals, Wayne Metro Community Action Agency Regional Advisory Council member and Wayne State University's AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program.

Community

Q: If elected, how will you work with Detroit residents to ensure that they benefit from and partake in the decision-making surrounding local development projects and that potential adverse impacts of those projects are identified, measured, monitored and mitigated? Moreover, how would you work to put more power into the hands of residents to maintain and revitalize their own communities and to access vacant land through the DLBA?

A: When elected I will ensure that citizens are engaged through a community advisory group. Myself and others have taken initiative within our community to repurpose both housing and vacant lots, so I plan to leverage those relationships that I have built within the community to expand resources and ease of access of acquiring land through the DBLA.

Q: If elected, what budget appropriations would you propose to increase investment in needed social and environmental services to help improve the quality of life and health of Detroit residents?

A: When elected I will begin focusing on affordable housing, recreation centers, and public health.

Public Health

Q: What long-term solutions do you see for addressing vehicle speeds and making our streets safer?

A: One known issue in the city of Detroit is drag racing. We saw a major decline in incidents when those drivers were given designated space for their recreation. We as a city could find a way not only to invest in new recreational spaces for these drivers, but to also create community amongst this increasingly popular hobby. Furthermore, this effort could drastically increase public safety by limiting the sport to a closed and restricted area.

In residential areas, I would continue to advocate for the investment in speed bumps.

Q: How will you work to reduce the negative health impacts of air quality on the residents of Detroit?

A: Simply offering tax incentives is not enough to keep air quality controlled, I would also work on regulation that would assess penalties to those plants and factories that are excessively contributing.

On a micro-level, I believe that there are things that we as individuals can do simply by recycling to curb that effects on the air quality. I would push for more incentives for small/medium businesses to recycle, understanding how sometimes the strain on cost could dissuade those businesses from recycling.

Q: If elected, what actions will you take to work toward safer, healthier, and more affordable housing for all Detroiters?

A: When elected I will work on programs to help Detroiters stay in their homes, as well as secure investment so that Detroiters also have help maintaining their homes.

Energy

Q: What are your priorities to reduce emissions and lessen the impacts of climate change in Detroit during your term in office?

A: My priorities in lessening the impacts of climate change is to explore options of renewable energy, specifically hydroelectricity. I would also explore investments into electric transportation.

Q: What are your plans for helping the city transition to renewable energy and how will you ensure that the cost-benefits and increased resilience that come from the use of renewables, are made accessible to low-income and vulnerable communities across Detroit?

A: As previously stated, renewable energy is at the top of my priorities. My goal is to lessen the cost for all residents, but especially those that are most vulnerable, as energy costs have steadily increased.

Recycling

Q: How can the city increase recycling, composting, and the use of post-consumer recycled materials, while addressing the city's litter and illegal dumping problem?

A: The city can invest in more trash and recycling bins through the city to lessen the amount of litter as well as pollution. Illegal dumping has to be taken more seriously than in the past, it has made conditions in the neighborhood undesirable for residents. I believe investing in housing, which would give people a sense of ownership and communal pride, could cause a huge decline in unreported and unwanted dumping.

Jobs

Q: What steps would you take to prepare the local workforce to take advantage of and be part of the movement toward a green economy, through qualifying for good paying infrastructure and clean energy jobs, amongst others?

A: I would work to partner with "green" organizations as well as our local colleges and trade schools to provide training for these "green" jobs, and ensure that Detroiters are majority recruited and hired.

Water

Q: How will you ensure that clean water is accessible and affordable to all Detroiters?

A: Much of the issue to access clean water is the need for expensive repairs for pipes, ensuring that residents have access to resources to get these costly repairs would keep water, pollutant free and cost down.

Q: How will you help municipal agencies and property owners integrate Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) across the city to manage stormwater and reduce drainage charge fees for property owners?

A: I believe that first reaching out to business owners and giving them information on the GSI program would bring awareness that many times small business owners especially are not aware of.

Optional

Q: Please identify the top environmental concerns to you personally. Identify the environmental issue in your community that is the most pressing, and what you would like to do as an elected official to address this most pressing concern.

A: Being a resident of East English Village, and serving within D4 over the last 14 years, I am constantly being made aware of the constant issue with flooding and how it especially has affected the foundation of homes. Addressing this is at the top of my priorities.





M.L. Elrick

Q: Where can people go to learn more about your biography? If not readily available online, please describe in 150 words or less, your relevant experience, public offices held (if any), involvement in environmental causes, and membership in any environmental organizations. If you currently hold office, describe any votes or actions demonstrating concern for the environment.

A: I have been a newspaper and television reporter for the past 30 years, so I was limited to joining only professional organizations and apolitical entities like my children's school board (I was a school commissioner at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic School), my neighborhood association (I am the East Outer Drive street representative, a member of the East English Village Neighborhood Association board here in Detroit, and the Clark Park Winter Carnival Committee (I created an outdoor charity hockey game at Clark Park that has raised more than \$125,000 for Detroit children since 2015). The only offices I have held have been in unions to which I belonged. I was an activist, organizer, steward, negotiator, and vice chairman of the Detroit Free Press unit of the Newspaper Guild of Detroit.

Community

Q: If elected, how will you work with Detroit residents to ensure that they benefit from and partake in the decision-making surrounding local development projects and that potential adverse

impacts of those projects are identified, measured, monitored and mitigated? Moreover, how would you work to put more power into the hands of residents to maintain and revitalize their own communities and to access vacant land through the DLBA?

A: I plan to be the most responsive Councilman the City has ever seen! This is in part because I believe in listening to the concerns of others and also because, as a reporter, I am trained to listen to and respond to the concerns of others. My office will be a vigorous and relentless advocate for constituents in their dealings with the DLBA. Persuasion and persistence are powerful forces, when properly applied.

Q: If elected, what budget appropriations would you propose to increase investment in needed social and environmental services to help improve the quality of life and health of Detroit residents?

A: I would increase the amount of funding to create natural ways to retain and treat water runoff before it enters the stormwater treatment system, provide funding to support a non-profit that would help needy families keep their water from being shut-off, increase funding for therapeutic services to help the homeless and needy get access to mental health services and build solar fields in vacant lots to generate energy that can be sold back to DTE and the credits used to offset bills generated by Detroiters who cannot afford to pay their gas and electric charges.

Public Health

Q: What long-term solutions do you see for addressing vehicle speeds and making our streets safer?

A: The installation of speed humps on blocks that request them are a short-term solution. I hope to increase the number of traffic enforcement officers in neighborhoods.

Q: How will you work to reduce the negative health impacts of air quality on the residents of Detroit?

A: By working with local, county and state regulatory agencies to stay current on air quality data and to scrutinize all development proposals for their potential impact on the environment. I will also support and facilitate mitigation projects, such as creating green spaces and converting abandoned lots into urban gardens and farms.

Q: If elected, what actions will you take to work toward safer, healthier, and more affordable housing for all Detroiters?

A: I will work with neighborhood associations, block clubs, nonprofits, churches, CDCs, and the city's building department to make sure that housing meets safety codes and that unscrupulous landlords are identified and held accountable for providing housing that is fit for habitation. I will also consider whether projects seeking city approval include affordable housing units in their overall plan before deciding whether to support them. And I will work with the City's housing department and Detroit Land Bank Authority to help find ways to reduce the backlog of families seeking affordable housing.

Energy

Q: What are your priorities to reduce emissions and lessen the impacts of climate change in Detroit during your term in office?

A: I will work to replace the City's fleet of vehicles with hybrids and full-electric vehicles, increase funding to create natural ways to retain and treat water runoff before it enters the stormwater treatment system and build solar fields in vacant lots to generate energy that can be sold back to DTE.

Q: What are your plans for helping the city transition to renewable energy and how will you ensure that the cost-benefits and increased resilience that come from the use of renewables, are made accessible to low-income and vulnerable communities across Detroit?

A: I converted my home to solar power a couple years ago and will work through the City's land process to increase the City's use of solar power by looking for opportunities to convert vacant land into solar fields and wind farms. I will work through the budget process to transition our vehicle fleet to hybrid and electric vehicles. I will work with neighborhood associations, nonprofits, foundations, churches and CDCs to build solar fields that will provide energy to nearby residents. Some of this is already happening in the Jefferson-Chalmers area, and I would like to see if that is a model that can be replicated throughout the district and, ultimately, the entire city.

Recycling

Q: How can the city increase recycling, composting, and the use of post-consumer recycled materials, while addressing the city's litter and illegal dumping problem?

A: Education and communication are key. People like recycling, but if they are confused or it is too difficult, they will not make the effort. Enforcement and encouragement are keys to fighting litter and illegal dumping. Stressing personal responsibility and a public service campaign, as well as the placement of attractive and convenient trash and recycling receptacles, will help reduce litter. Cameras placed in dumping "hot spots" will help catch the offenders. I propose publicizing the names of dumpers to help discourage others who would turn our city into a landfill.

Jobs

Q: What steps would you take to prepare the local workforce to take advantage of and be part of the movement toward a green economy, through qualifying for good paying infrastructure and clean energy jobs, amongst others?

A: I would like to see the public school system create a high school or academy focused on preparing students for jobs in the

green economy. I will also work with unions to ensure that their apprenticeship programs are geared to take advantage of job opportunities in the green economy.

Water

Q: How will you ensure that clean water is accessible and affordable to all Detroiters?

A: I will work with the water department, foundations, nonprofits, corporations, churches and appeals to citizens to create a non-profit similar to THAW (The Heat and Warmth fund) that provides assistance to needy residents who cannot afford their water bills.

Q: How will you help municipal agencies and property owners integrate Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) across the city to manage stormwater and reduce drainage charge fees for property owners?

A: I want to help keep fresh water out of the city's system by encouraging and providing incentives for residents to install rain barrels (as I have) and for large customers to install rain gardens, bioswales and other alternatives to allowing millions of gallons of water from entering our costly and chemical and energy intensive treatment system. As an elected official, I would call for an informational campaign to make people aware of these options, as well as provide financial assistance and incentives to encourage customers to take advantage of these earth and money saving opportunities. I would work with neighborhood groups and residents to create gardens on vacant properties. Last, but not least, I will lead by example. I already have a car charger, solar panels, and rain barrels at my home.

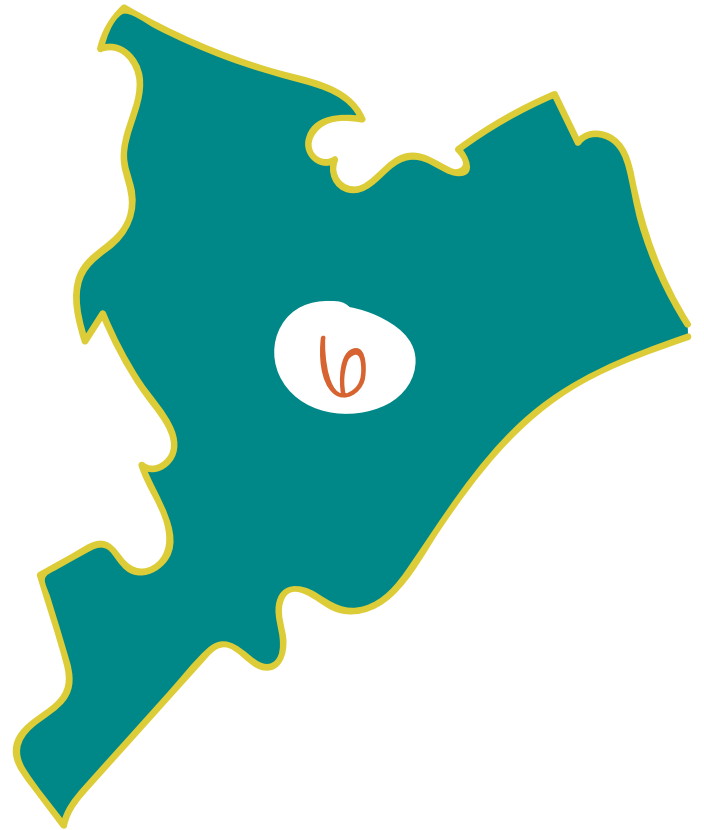
Optional

Q: Please identify the top environmental concerns to you personally. Identify the environmental issue in your community that is the most pressing, and what you would like to do as an elected official to address this most pressing concern.

A: Reducing the use of carbon-emitting technology is my top environmental concern. I converted my home to solar power, I have a car charger and a hybrid vehicle, we use a tankless water heater and rain barrels. Providing grants, credits and other incentives for rain barrels, rain gardens, bioswales, community gardens/farms and solar arrays are top priorities. The government can create policies and regulations that encourage and even mandate sound policy, but I think we can also educate, encourage and incentivize constituents to meet and exceed those targets on their own. Besides recycling and replacing inefficient machines, the government can insist that new projects meet LEED certifications and convert vehicle fleets to hybrid and electric power plants.



District 6





Hector Santiago

Q: Where can people go to learn more about your biography? If not readily available online, please describe in 150 words or less, your relevant experience, public offices held (if any), involvement in environmental causes, and membership in any environmental organizations. If you currently hold office, describe any votes or actions demonstrating concern for the environment.

A: Growing up in Southwest Detroit, I learned the value of faith, community, treating others with respect, and hard work as the oldest of four kids. A graduate of Western High School, I excelled in the classroom and on the baseball field and was the first in my family to attend college. I am currently helping care for my father on dialysis, an experience that has given me a firsthand understanding of the importance of healthcare access.

Following a nonviolent offense charge, I qualified for the city's Project Clean Slate program and successfully obtained expungement, giving me the opportunity of a second chance and inspired me to pursue public service. For nearly a decade, I've led a workforce development program dedicated to improving residents' quality of life, job training, and expanding youth education opportunities for Detroiters. My direct work with returning citizens has helped hundreds of people overcome barriers to employment and get a second chance when most had counted them out of society.

In my spare time, I coach youth baseball, mentor in conflict resolution, and teach Sunday school. For me, the challenges facing Southwest aren't just rhetorical — they are deeply personal. I am running for Detroit City Council to bring people together and get results for the community I am proud to call home. My fresh perspective, lived experience, and commitment to economic and social justice ensure I will be a strong voice for the people. I am running for Detroit City Council now because I want to do all I can to help the city that has never turned its back on me.

www.hecctorsantiagofordetroit.com

Community

Q: If elected, how will you work with Detroit residents to ensure that they benefit from and partake in the decision-making surrounding local development projects and that potential adverse impacts of those projects are identified, measured, monitored and mitigated? Moreover, how would you work to put more power into the hands of residents to maintain and revitalize their own communities and to access vacant land through the DLBA?

A: I am a firm believer that Detroiters need to be centered in anything going through city government. Municipal leaders are elected by Detroit residents and ought to be working for the people. More must be done to elevate Detroit-based and minority- and women-owned businesses in the contract process. There are also tough conversations to be had throughout the decision-making process to make sure Detroiters' voices are heard. Rather than more backroom deals on major development projects, Detroit residents, who have proudly called our great city home for decades, deserve first priority access to the vacant land in the community in which they live, play and work. The people deserve a champion, and I am running to be that champion.

Q: If elected, what budget appropriations would you propose to increase investment in needed social and environmental services to help improve the quality of life and health of Detroit residents?

A: I want to work with my colleagues to get the funding needed for environmental services, I want to finally bring people together to get real results.

Public Health

Q: What long-term solutions do you see for addressing vehicle speeds and making our streets safer?

A: Public safety is a main priority of mine as everyone deserves to live and work in a community that is safe. I am a father of two girls and know what it's like to panic when I hear a car speed down our residential street while my daughters are playing outside. I support adding speed bumps, especially in neighborhoods that are disproportionately at a disadvantage and don't have strong voices fighting on their behalf. Lower income neighborhoods and areas with high levels of seniors and young people need to be prioritized.

As someone who was born and raised in Southwest, I also know firsthand the damaging impacts large commercial trucks have on our local streets. We need to hold bad corporate actors accountable and get these trucks out of residential areas. Beyond the devastating air and noise pollution they leave behind, they also speed up the wear-and-tear of our roads that are already pothole ridden and increasingly unsafe.

Q: How will you work to reduce the negative health impacts of air quality on the residents of Detroit?

A: As a father of two and youth baseball coach, air quality is a top concern of mine. I have also spent the last decade working at an environmental nonprofit and leading a workforce development program connecting people to good-paying green jobs. To say

our air quality is a top priority of mine is an understatement as it's what gets me out of bed in the morning. My experience in workforce development gives me an interesting perspective as I know how to bring environmental advocates and private sector groups together to find creative, thoughtful solutions that work for District Six residents and Detroiters as a whole.

Q: If elected, what actions will you take to work toward safer, healthier, and more affordable housing for all Detroiters?

A: We need affordable housing in the city. If I have the honor to serve, I will work with my colleagues on the Detroit City Council to secure resources for housing programs and initiatives through city, state, and federal funding. I am a firm believer that every person has a right to safe, quality, affordable housing, and it's long past time for the city to make real change on this issue. Beyond funding and smart investment to expand affordable housing options, there must also be greater energy put towards holding shady landlords accountable so that residents are not taken advantage of. I've heard countless stories from residents who are renters about exorbitant fees, unsanitary living conditions, and little if any action from the city. That must change.

Energy

Q: What are your priorities to reduce emissions and lessen the impacts of climate change in Detroit during your term in office?

A: I want to work with the Green Task Force and bring businesses, environmental groups, and the City Council together to meet these goals and set ambitious ones after we meet them. Doing the bare minimum is insufficient -- everyone must do their part to harness renewable energy's potential, and make utilities more sustainable and affordable in the process.

Q: What are your plans for helping the city transition to renewable energy and how will you ensure that the cost-benefits and increased resilience that come from the use of renewables, are made accessible to low-income and vulnerable communities across Detroit?

A: While we have made some progress in recent years, there is a long way to go in making our community more resilient and renewable-friendly. On City Council, I will be a vocal champion for renewable energy in Detroit, especially in our most vulnerable neighborhoods. Too often, the top barrier to entry when it comes to energy efficient and renewable appliances and other technology is cost. But such investments pay for themselves over the long run, and it's up to city, state, and federal leaders to lower those barriers for consumers and work with public and private partners to expand renewables' footprint in Detroit. Incentives, including tax credits and rebates, help, but still leave out a big part of the population who live paycheck to paycheck, are below the poverty line, and cannot afford large purchases with the latest technology. Costly and predatory financing schemes are also not the answer, so I would ensure consumer advocates have a seat at the table as well.

Recycling

Q: How can the city increase recycling, composting, and the use of post-consumer recycled materials, while addressing the city's litter and illegal dumping problem?

A: We need the city's recycling to expand. I recently talked with a resident who shared that many who live in apartment buildings do not get the opportunity to recycle. We need to change that by incentivizing recycling, block by block. There also needs to be education on the issue because beyond the positive environmental benefits, there is an information gap on the economic upsides of when people reduce their use of single-use items and dispose of materials properly.

Jobs

Q: What steps would you take to prepare the local workforce to take advantage of and be part of the movement toward a green economy, through qualifying for good paying infrastructure and clean energy jobs, amongst others?

A: I've spent the last decade doing just that at the Greening of Detroit. Through our program, we connect participants with training and enrichment opportunities in the community. All of our projects are identified with sustainability and building a greener, cleaner city as a core goal. Another key objective is equipping participants with the skills and experience needed to prepare them for green jobs. Our workforce training and educational programs help set Detroiters of all ages, from high school students up, up for success in the environmental sector. If elected, I would continue that work and leverage my relationships in the space to grow mentorship and development programs, expand visibility of these types of programs, and scale to schools across the city. Our young people cannot be what they cannot see, but when we show people what is possible for our shared future, the potential is unlimited.

Water

Q: How will you ensure that clean water is accessible and affordable to all Detroiters?

A: I will always fight for clean, affordable water for Detroiters because the ability to pay one's bill shouldn't determine one's access to an essential need. The quality of our infrastructure must be a top priority, and the challenges presented by lacking investment are only further exacerbated by the climate crisis. Water affordability has been an issue for years in Detroit, and the cost of inaction to repair and replace our crumbling infrastructure will only cost us more in the coming years.

Q: How will you help municipal agencies and property owners integrate Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) across the city to manage stormwater and reduce drainage charge fees for property owners?

A: We need to prioritize green, sustainable infrastructure to make Detroit more resilient in the face of climate change, the existential crisis of our time, and pollution. Costly maintenance, inconsistent funding, and changing weather patterns are just a few of the factors that have contributed to our infrastructure crisis. As a result, too many residents are forced to confront flooding challenges, year after year, and the property damage that comes along with it.

If elected, I will look to other municipalities in the United States and elsewhere that have been leaders in this space to learn more about their experiences and best practices. Beyond adopting solutions from models elsewhere, Detroit is home to innovative minds, and I would look to community members as well to hear from residents about their ideas. The people in our neighborhoods know their blocks best, so may have solutions that are well suited to scale across the city.

Optional

Q: Please identify the top environmental concerns to you personally. Identify the environmental issue in your community that is the most pressing, and what you would like to do as an elected official to address this most pressing concern.

A: As a father and youth baseball coach in our community, I am very concerned about air and water quality. Not only do these issues impact our daily lives in a real way, especially for people with compromised immune systems, but they also have lasting consequences. It of course impacts public health when significant portions of our populations battle asthma or are exposed to toxic carcinogens on a daily basis. Beyond health, there is also

an economic price. When small businesses are assessing where to set up shop, it isn't necessarily a wise business decision to invest in neighborhoods with questionable air or water. That means less economic opportunity, lower quality of life, and other harmful results. These factors cause a domino effect that impacts everyone in big and small ways.

When it comes down to it, the air we breathe and the water we drink shouldn't be determined by the zip code we live in -- clean water to drink and air to breathe ought to be a human right. I'm often kept up at night by the disturbing fact that our community is home to the most polluted zip code in the state thanks to years of environmental injustice, further hurting our most vulnerable residents.

If elected, I will prioritize environmental considerations, including assessments, reporting, and monitoring, as part of any decision that comes before the City Council. I would also look to convene local environmental nonprofits, corporate partners, academic experts, other leaders, and community residents to ensure every voice is at the table and engaged. We need to simultaneously focus on both addressing the issues that currently exist due to mismanagement and also proactively mitigate future environmental catastrophe. Our natural resources, lands, and waterways are fragile and precious, and I will always protect them.



Gabriela Santiago-Romero

Q: Where can people go to learn more about your biography? If not readily available online, please describe in 150 words or less, your relevant experience, public offices held (if any), involvement in environmental causes, and membership in any environmental organizations. If you currently hold office, describe any votes or actions demonstrating concern for the environment.

A: gabrielasantiaigoromero.com/en/about

Community

Q: If elected, how will you work with Detroit residents to ensure that they benefit from and partake in the decision-making surrounding local development projects and that potential adverse impacts of those projects are identified, measured, monitored and mitigated? Moreover, how would you work to put more power into the hands of residents to maintain and revitalize their own communities and to access vacant land through the DLBA?

A: I will provide strong leadership and drive forward advancements through mutual partnerships, community agreements and fund development to sustain prosperity for the people who call Detroit home. Additionally, I promise to run a transparent office that has an open line of communication with local leaders and the public at large. I'm a community organizer and value relationships. As I campaign I'm working together

with unions, community leaders and progressive elected officials to begin to get a sense of what are the issues and solutions people want. I will continue to organize with our people and hear from you what the issues are to get to our needed solutions. I'm knocking on doors and I'm hearing the Detroit Land Bank is a huge obstacle to navigate. Evaluating our Land Bank processes to provide needed changes is one of the first things I want to dive into while on city council.

Q: If elected, what budget appropriations would you propose to increase investment in needed social and environmental services to help improve the quality of life and health of Detroit residents?

A: I will support appropriations that support our need for clean air, clean water, affordable housing, and safe neighborhoods for families to grow and thrive. I will suggest that we take money from our already inflated police budget to allocate funding for needed social and environmental services. I'm also going to advocate for some of our ARP funding to be put towards long term solutions towards climate change and affordable housing.

Public Health

Q: What long-term solutions do you see for addressing vehicle speeds and making our streets safer?

A: Detroit neighborhoods need a combination of more traffic lights, stop signs and speed bumps on side streets where accidents frequent. The lights and the signs will help manage traffic while the speedbumps will also help prevent danger in major ways. While on doors stop signs and street lights are common requests from residents who have seen a number of accidents over the years.

Q: How will you work to reduce the negative health impacts of air quality on the residents of Detroit?

A: I would support investing in our environment and holding corporations accountable who may be polluting our air and water. I support environmentally sustainable solutions for trucks and equipment that these companies use on a daily basis throughout our neighborhoods. I'm in support of our Detroit Water Ordinance and believe we should have one to protect our air quality.

Q: If elected, what actions will you take to work toward safer, healthier, and more affordable housing for all Detroiters?

A: I would support ensuring that residents have access to affordable housing, and housing grants that allow them to stay in their homes. As a community organizer I currently work with Detroit People's Platform, Detroit Action, United Community Housing Coalition, Senator Chang and more to address our housing crisis in Detroit. I will continue my partnership with these organizations and leaders as I work on local policy and budgeting solutions that promote safe, accessible and affordable housing.

Energy

Q: What are your priorities to reduce emissions and lessen the impacts of climate change in Detroit during your term in office?

A: My priorities are to create measures of accountability for local corporations. We need water, air and land ordinances that protect our environment and our residents. I will work together with local organizations to set up systems and processes of accountability that we need.

Q: What are your plans for helping the city transition to renewable energy and how will you ensure that the cost-benefits and increased resilience that come from the use of renewables, are made accessible to low-income and vulnerable communities across Detroit?

A: I plan to advocate for creative solutions to invest in long-term energy solutions for our communities. I want us to provide solar panel grants for homeowners or block clubs that can create their own renewable energy. I'm willing to fight through whatever obstacles this may bring knowing we have big corporations that may fight back on these sustainable solutions.

Recycling

Q: How can the city increase recycling, composting, and the use of post-consumer recycled materials, while addressing the city's litter and illegal dumping problem?

A: There should be no fees for recycling and all residents should have easy access to recycling programs and education in their neighborhood. I support my office providing public education on how to recycle and how to access recycling bins. I would support partnering with different organizations to amplify our message and outreach.

Jobs

Q: What steps would you take to prepare the local workforce to take advantage of and be part of the movement toward a green economy, through qualifying for good paying infrastructure and clean energy jobs, amongst others?

A: I plan on continuing to connect and invest in job training and workplace development programs. The city should continue to communicate and partner with educational institutions to make sure the proper courses are being offered will help to train a skilled workforce. I know that engaging our EJ leaders and business partners with these educational and training efforts will be crucial. I'm seeking the endorsements of local unions and hope to talk to them about seeking green infrastructure projects and advocating for a transition from fossil fuel industries to renewable energy.

Water

Q: How will you ensure that clean water is accessible and affordable to all Detroiters?

A: I will support the city charter that makes it so no Detroiters are allowed their water to be shut off. I support the charter's policy on Detroiters spending no more than 3% on their water bill. I will support enforcement of codes and update current policies to maintain access to clean, affordable and accessible water.

Q: How will you help municipal agencies and property owners integrate Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) across the city to manage stormwater and reduce drainage charge fees for property owners?

A: I will support the Green Stormwater Infrastructure efforts by outreaching and educating residents about the benefits of adopting these efforts into their lives. I will advocate for the city to allocate funds to grants that waive the fees to property owners.

Optional

Q: Please identify the top environmental concerns to you personally. Identify the environmental issue in your community that is the most pressing, and what you would like to do as an elected official to address this most pressing concern.

A: There are a lot of issues and creative solutions I want to dive into. One issue we're addressing in 48217 is the pollution from Marathon Refinery. We need to add green vegetation walls or trees that can help mitigate the pollution and help the ugly site residents have to see living next to a refinery. Around Clark Park residents are dealing with increased truck traffic and noise pollution because of it. Trucks are dangerous and ruin our roads. I will advocate for different routes that don't cut into our neighborhoods and for more accountability from our trucking

companies. Lastly, sustainability and green tech - I would invest in green tech and environmental improvements to support healthy neighborhoods and create union jobs through clean energy projects. An example of these services could be adding more streetlights and alleviating light pollution.



District 7





Fred Durhal

Q: Where can people go to learn more about your biography? If not readily available online, please describe in 150 words or less, your relevant experience, public offices held (if any), involvement in environmental causes, and membership in any environmental organizations. If you currently hold office, describe any votes or actions demonstrating concern for the environment.

A: Hon. Fred Durhal III is a former member of the Michigan House of Representatives. He has served as the Assistant Democratic Leader of the House and the Minority VC of the House Appropriations Committee (Ranking Democrat). Additionally, Durhal served on the Appropriations Committee on the Department of Natural Resources. Durhal has always been an advocate for environmental justice, clean air and water, and has worked to improve the lives of those affected by the Flint Water Crisis. He has worked closely on legislation with the Sierra Club and Michigan League of Conservation Voters.

www.durhalfordetroit.com/about-fred
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred_Durhal_III

Community

Q: If elected, how will you work with Detroit residents to ensure that they benefit from and partake in the decision-making surrounding local development projects and that potential adverse

impacts of those projects are identified, measured, monitored and mitigated? Moreover, how would you work to put more power into the hands of residents to maintain and revitalize their own communities and to access vacant land through the DLBA?

A: When elected, I will collaborate closely with residents to ensure the success of community benefit agreements that are already established and work to improve them to ensure a better community for citizens. As it relates to demolition and development projects within our community, I will support and sponsor an ordinance that creates transparency, encourages environmental studies before projects commence, and creates an accountability standard for those who do not perform work in a responsible and safe manner for our residents. Additionally, as it relates to land bank owned properties, I will introduce three ordinances; The first ordinance established will provide a quarterly report from the Land Bank Authority on the maintenance of properties owned that will be disseminated to the public for transparency. The second ordinance would give preference to legacy Detroiters who have resided in the city for at least 10 years, particularly those who have lost their homes to foreclosure due to the \$600 Million Dollar over-taxation and assessment of properties that were owned. Finally, I will work to create a Reimbursement Fund in which a percentage of revenue from purchased Detroit Land Bank-owned properties is distributed to those affected by the over-assessment and taxation.

Q: If elected, what budget appropriations would you propose to increase investment in needed social and environmental services to help improve the quality of life and health of Detroit residents?

A: When elected I will propose appropriations that build a Health and Wellness Recreational Center in District 7, that provides programs and services for residents. This center will allow access to City Health Department Services, health education and preventative care, and fitness creating better health outcomes for our residents. Additionally, the appropriation would develop

programs that provide wrap-around services for citizens who are low-income and affected by intergenerational poverty. As it relates to the appropriations to improve environmental services, I will propose an increase in funding to create quarterly reports and annual studies on the environmental impact of providing city services to our residents. These studies include but are not limited to the testing of water, air emissions, and soil from commercial properties and businesses that operate in the City of Detroit.

Public Health

Q: What long-term solutions do you see for addressing vehicle speeds and making our streets safer?

A: There are three long-term solutions that will address vehicle speeds in our City. The first solution is the increase of police presence and traffic control not only on main streets, however in our residential areas. To ensure the success of this solution means that we need to attract more officers to join the department, hire more officers, and retain the officers we have. This solution will require an increase in pay that is commensurate with other localities in our state and large municipalities around the country. The second solution would be to invest and deploy speed bumps in all our residential areas, particularly in areas where there is a high concentration of Seniors and Youth. Finally, the last solution would be to work closely and advocate with members of our State Legislature to increase the fines and penalties of residential speeding.

Q: How will you work to reduce the negative health impacts of air quality on the residents of Detroit?

A: As a member of the Detroit City Council I will support and sponsor an ordinance that requires safety specific zoning, better air emissions standards, and create studies on the negative impact that air quality has on our residents. Additionally, I will work closely with our industrial and manufacturing corporations

to encourage better standards and practices to reduce the effect their products and material have on City residents. Finally, I will work within our city budget to provide home air filters and filtrations systems for those who live close to our industrial and manufacturing communities.

Q: If elected, what actions will you take to work toward safer, healthier, and more affordable housing for all Detroiters?

A: As a member of the Detroit City Council, I will advocate for more affordable housing units and development within the City of Detroit and work to create programs that assist renters in becoming homeowners from the use of federal and state funding. Partnering with our State Housing Development Authority, I will work to duplicate homeownership, neighborhood enhancement, and property improvement programs that have proved successful. Additionally, I will work to establish ordinances that encourage developers to guarantee at least 35% of housing projects include space for low income families, even if the properties are not developed with LIHTC funds. Finally, I will work closely with our energy provider to advocate and create education programs that focus on energy efficiency and best practices.

Energy

Q: What are your priorities to reduce emissions and lessen the impacts of climate change in Detroit during your term in office?

A: My priorities to reduce emissions and lessen the impacts of climate change are to continue the advocacy for better air emissions, ensure the enforcement of the Greenhouse Gas Ordinance and standards set for 2024, and work to increase the use of solar power and energy on all city owned structures. Additionally, I will work to ensure there is an established educational component available to residents about the effects of air emissions on climate change and how to create better habits as an individual to reduce its effects. Finally, I will work

closely with our energy provider to establish better partnerships and more energy efficient ways to promote the health, financial stability, and environmental success of our communities.

Q: What are your plans for helping the city transition to renewable energy and how will you ensure that the cost-benefits and increased resilience that come from the use of renewables, are made accessible to low-income and vulnerable communities across Detroit?

A: My plans to assist with the City's transition to renewable energy are to start with our government buildings and city-owned structures first. This means working to utilize more solar power, energy efficient lighting and heating sources, energy-efficient city owned vehicles, and best practices on how to conserve energy within city buildings with simple practices such as turning the lights off in unused offices and buildings. To ensure the use of renewables and its accessibility to low-income families, I will work to create grant programs for low-income families to purchase renewables, build partnerships with local corporations and nonprofits to establish philanthropic funding, and create tax credit and rebate programs for Detroiters to make the transition.

Recycling

Q: How can the city increase recycling, composting, and the use of post-consumer recycled materials, while addressing the city's litter and illegal dumping problem?

A: The City of Detroit must provide a City-Wide campaign encouraging responsible recycling. This campaign must include an educational component on how to effectively recycle, what to recycle, and how the use of composting can be beneficial to the community, particularly in the growing trend of urban gardening. There could also be a tracking mechanism that is created for those who recycle, allowing a specific tax-credit for the amount of materials recycled responsibly in a calendar year. Finally, there

should be a monetary reward program established for citizens who report illegal dumping upon the ticketing or conviction of the offender.

Jobs

Q: What steps would you take to prepare the local workforce to take advantage of and be part of the movement toward a green economy, through qualifying for good paying infrastructure and clean energy jobs, amongst others?

A: The steps that I would take to prepare the local workforce are advocacy, educational components, and the creation of a comprehensive environmental job task force which is solely focused on making the transition to the jobs of the future. The City of Detroit can be a leader as we rebuild our infrastructure to promote clean energy. To create the pipeline to achieve this goal, the creation of city jobs that pay high salaries to modernize our infrastructure would incentivize Detroiters to apply for these jobs. Additionally, the creations of training programs that prepare our residents for these jobs, can be partnered in conjunction with our local community college, unions, and business leaders.

Water

Q: How will you ensure that clean water is accessible and affordable to all Detroiters?

A: I will support the extensions of a moratorium for water shut-offs . Additionally, I will work to require water testing transparency for citizens. Finally, I will work to establish in our City budget and through the help of philanthropic partnerships a water amnesty program for low-income families who qualify and will never be able to resolve their overdue water bills.

Q: How will you help municipal agencies and property owners integrate Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) across the city to manage stormwater and reduce drainage charge fees for property owners?

A: I will work with our City Water Department to overhaul antiquated water systems and create new infrastructure to curtail leakages that increase water rates. I will also work to create infrastructure that diverts and transfers storm water to a dedicated community reservoir that can be utilized for community gardens, lawn maintenance, and repurposed irrigation.

Optional

Q: Please identify the top environmental concerns to you personally. Identify the environmental issue in your community that is the most pressing, and what you would like to do as an elected official to address this most pressing concern.

A: One of the top environmental concerns in District 7 is the illegal dumping that takes place within our residential communities. When elected, I will focus on eliminating this illegal dumping by establishing reward programs for citizens who identify culprits. Additionally, in areas that have been traditionally used for illegal dumping, I will work to create surveillance mechanisms to minimize repeated violations.



2021 Primary Voter's Guide

Detroit
Environmental
Agenda

