

2020 Candidate Climate Justice Questions

In practice, we can't usually ask candidates this many questions. Just pick whichever one you like and adapt as needed. Find out the format of an event beforehand! This will help you be adequately and responsively prepared. Sometimes there are no questions from the audience; they come from the moderator alone. Sometimes they may take questions in the chat or directly to the moderator. Rarely will you get to ask a question without some sort of registration process.

CORE QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES

What is your position on the concept advanced by scientists that a phase out of fossil fuels, including natural gas, and home heating oil by 2030 is necessary for our state?

Legislation that recognizes tribal sovereignty and historic water rights of Maine's tribes is currently under consideration. Where do you stand on this issue? How should Maine ensure that tribal views are included in the state Climate Action Plan and other public policy impacting our Indigenous neighbors?

How will those who are most vulnerable (low or moderate income, homeless...) be supported as Maine undergoes a transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy?

Would you support creating a publicly owned and controlled utility that can invest in renewable energy at lower costs than current investor controlled utilities such as CMP?

Do you agree to the establishment of a Maine Clean Energy and Climate Resilience Bank (a 'Green Bank'), seeded with revenue bonds and private capital, to modernize Maine's electrical grid, fund expanded energy efficiency, stimulate increased clean energy generation and storage

Are you familiar with the Maine Climate Council and the strategies recommended by the Working Groups to draft a Climate Action Plan? Which are the top strategies that you want to see in the Plan?

Hosting a Candidate Forum? Here are some further questions to consider:

ENERGY

Do you agree a phase out of fossil fuels, including natural gas, and home heating oil by 2030 is necessary for our state?

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

As we are in the COVID economic crisis, how do you see the Green Economy assisting in the recovery? How do we make sure that this protects the interests of the most economically vulnerable in our communities?

Some communities are more vulnerable to climate change than others. Some communities depend on fossil fuel industries more than others. What will you do to ensure that vulnerable communities are protected during the transition to clean energy.

#VOTE CLIMATE JUSTICE

TRANSPORTATION

Do you support joining the Transportation Climate Initiative? If you do not support the cap and trade model, what is your preferred strategy to reduce emissions from transportation, the largest contributor to Maine's greenhouse gases at 54%?

What is your view as to public transportation for Maine? Are you open to an increase in funding investing \$12 per capita/year like Vermont?

HEALTH

The pandemic has exposed weaknesses in Maine's public health infrastructure. The climate crisis is adding new challenges to Maine's health system. How can you as an elected representative help us respond to these new and future threats?

BUILDINGS

For new construction, would you support updating building codes to make sure all new homes are of an energy saving design since heating, cooling and lighting of buildings is responsible for 30% of Maine's greenhouse gas emissions?

LAND MANAGEMENT

Would you support the creation of a dedicated, sustained public funding source that generates at least \$15 million annually to conserve working forest, agricultural, and ecologically significant lands?

What is your plan to increase farmers' resilience to climate change, increase food security, and revitalize our rural communities?

Regenerative Agriculture has been touted as a way to increase local food resiliency, while helping to draw down carbon from the atmosphere. How would you promote the expansion of climate-friendly agriculture?

