

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION VOTERS

2012 Candidate Written Questionnaire

GOVERNOR

INTRODUCTION

Washington Conservation Voters acts in the public interest to elect, support and hold accountable state and local public officials to achieve responsible environmental policies in Washington State.

Washington Conservation Voters thanks you for taking time out of your busy campaign schedule to complete this questionnaire. Your responses on the questionnaire will be an important factor in our endorsement consideration. If we do not receive timely answers to this questionnaire, we will not be able to consider you for a Washington Conservation Voters endorsement.

As Governor, you will consider numerous environmental issues and have an opportunity to lead on important initiatives. The following questionnaire is designed to provide us with an understanding of your approach to these issues if you are elected.

Instructions: Please prepare and attach your answers as a separate electronic document. Please return the completed questionnaire to Brendon Cechovic, WCV Executive Director, by Monday, August 15. brendon@wcvoters.org

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

1. In the current economic climate what specific proposals or ideas do you have for adequately funding essential programs to protect clean air, clean water and Washington's critical natural resources?
 - a) What would be your top 3 environmental priorities for the Operating Budget?
 - b) What would be your top 3 environmental priorities for the Capital Budget?
 - c) What new dedicated funding mechanisms for environmental programs, if any, would you propose?

2. A healthy Puget Sound is a major economic driver for our state. Unfortunately, Puget Sound is in trouble, and the need to restore it represents one of the most daunting challenges we face. The Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda makes clear that without significant additional investment in infrastructure, Puget Sound will continue to decline.
 - a) If elected, what state funding sources will you propose to save the Sound?
 - b) What policies or actions would you promote to protect or restore Puget Sound and other waterways?

3. Do you believe that global climate change is caused by human action and that efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are necessary?
 - a) The Washington Legislature has adopted goals for reducing carbon emissions. California, the Northeast states, and virtually all developed nations have adopted legally binding limits on carbon emissions. How do you propose to limit carbon emissions to the amount scientists say is safe? Please explain your position in detail.
 - b) Are you familiar with proposals to ship coal from Montana and Wyoming by rail through the state to be exported out of Washington ports? What is your position on these proposals?
 - c) Washington has been a leader in developing clean energy alternatives. How would you grow the number of clean energy jobs in the state and solidify Washington's role as a leader in clean technology innovation?

4. In 2006, the environmental community placed on the ballot and passed I-937, the Clean Energy Initiative, to ensure that at least 15 percent of electricity we get from major utilities comes from new renewable sources. Since passage of the initiative, I-937 has come under attack in Olympia from utilities and businesses who seek to lessen or eliminate these requirements. We believe I-937 is working as intended. Most utilities are on track to meet the first step for renewable energy and energy efficiency in 2012.

As Governor, what will you specifically do to ensure that the state maintains the integrity of I-937 and that it is not weakened by the Legislature?

5. Toxic chemicals linked to cancer, infertility, birth defects, and learning problems can be found in items we use everyday, including products our kids use to play, wear, sleep, and eat. Washington has been a leader in passing laws to protect public health and the environment from toxic chemicals, including passing a landmark ban on toxic flame retardants and implementing the nation's toughest standards for chemicals in toys. Yet, these laws address only a small number of the many chemicals allowed in products in our homes and, as a result, we remain on a toxic treadmill.

Do you support putting in place policies that will require manufacturers of consumer products to consider safer alternatives to harmful chemicals in their products? Do you support the state phasing out chemicals found to be harmful to health or the environment when safer alternatives are available?

6. The framework of the Growth Management Act (GMA) calls for compact urban growth areas surrounded by much larger areas of rural, agricultural and forestry uses. With strong population and employment growth forecasted for the coming decades, implementation of the GMA will become more important than ever in order to preserve the quality of life in the Evergreen State.
 - a) As Governor, what improvements, if any, would you propose and advocate for the GMA in order to make it more effective?
 - b) What is your vision to help urban areas better accommodate growth and what will you do to ensure that vision becomes a reality?

7. Washington State faces a transportation crisis. Transit service is being slashed, leaving Washingtonians stranded. Gas tax revenues are losing buying power, leaving our bridges and roadways in a state of decay. Over half of our state's greenhouse gas emissions stem from transportation, but revenue challenges leave Washingtonians with fewer clean transportation choices.
 - a) Do you support the creation of new stable, state, local and regional revenue options to save existing and fund new transit services to meet growing ridership needs, increase system efficiency and add capacity to move more people?
 - b) Please explain in detail your position on the use of tolls and/or congestion pricing to increase transportation revenue and to encourage people to use alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles, including public transportation. Do you think toll revenue should remain flexible for the use on the entire transportation system (i.e. Transit)?
8. As our population increases and land values rise, Washington is rapidly losing critical forest habitat to development and sprawl. What programs or state expenditures do you intend to support that would limit development in critical forested areas? What other policies would you recommend to help preserve and maintain our "working forests" in Washington?
9. Four years ago the WWRP grant program received \$100 million in the capital budget. Last year the legislature funded it at \$42 million, funding less than 1/4 of the requests. Are you satisfied with the current level or would you work to restore the program to its pre-recession level?

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

1. Please provide an example of something you would propose as Governor to grow and strengthen Washington's economy by protecting the state's environment.
2. What specific environmental legislative initiative(s) will be your top priorities for your administration during your term?

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

In some respects, Washington's current environmental laws are strong enough to ensure the protection of our land, air, and water. Often, however, those laws cannot be fully or vigorously enforced by the Department of Ecology and other state governmental agencies.

As Governor, how will you improve and prioritize the enforcement of existing laws? Do you support efforts to increase state agency and local government enforcement budgets? Why or why not?