

## Sample questions for gubernatorial candidates based on the PROJECT 2022 platform document

THANK YOU for helping advance a common-sense and workable environmental agenda by participating in candidate Q&A. These questions are meant to be guidelines and contain a little context in simple language. **Your own words and experience will make these even better.** You may want to raise your hand or get in line early, to ensure your question gets asked. Please listen to make sure the question you want to ask hasn't already been answered, but feel free to ask a similar question as a follow up, especially if you feel the candidate didn't answer the question fully. You may also want to choose a question based on one of these issues making the news recently, or based on where in the state the campaign event takes place. You can also draft your own questions from the document, which you can find online at <https://theoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018-Candidate-Education-GOV.pdf>

### FORESTS AND LAND CONSERVATION

- My family and I use and enjoy our state forests and parks. I'm concerned that nearly 90% of our state forest system is in commercial timber rotation. How will you ensure that these lands are preserved for my kids and grandkids to enjoy with their families?
- The decline of Ohio's manufacturing base has left thousands of abandoned contaminated sites. These hazards threaten our communities until they are cleaned up and made ready for redevelopment. Will you restore funding for the Clean Ohio Brownfields program?
- We have a great opportunity to increase our public lands by 10% in just one purchase of the AEP ReCreation Land. If the state doesn't purchase the full 60,000 acres AEP might sell to private owners who will halt access the public's enjoyed for 50 years. Will your administration purchase this land?
- Landowners currently face penalties when they decide to conserve their land instead of farm it. Will you support landowners' rights by waiving the CAUV penalties?

### ENERGY & AIR QUALITY

- Ohio has greater potential for wind power than most of our neighbors, but we've fallen behind. Even West Virginia, the capitol of Coal Country has more installed wind generation than we do. Will your administration create jobs, reduce pollution and secure our energy independence by tapping this potential?
- Do you support mandatory renewable energy standards or do you believe that utility companies hurting for money from bad investments in coal and nuclear power will voluntarily invest in renewable energy projects?

- The energy market is definitely moving away from coal and nuclear power. Do you think my neighbors and I should have to subsidize older, more polluting power plants because they can't compete with newer plants and renewable energy?
- Enthusiasm for solar power is growing in Ohio, both privately-owned and community-owned systems. Will you encourage finalization of net metering and virtual net metering rules to make it easier and more attractive for people to go solar?
- Saving energy and saving money are practically the same thing, yet our energy efficiency standards have been under attack in Ohio for the last four years. Will you put a stop to this and keep us on track to meeting the 22% efficiency standard by 2027?
- Do you support letting industrial energy users off the hook for paying for energy efficiency investments, when it clearly shifts that burden to residential and small business customers?
- I would love to buy an electric car, but I'm worried I can't keep it charged, especially on longer trips. What would you do about EV charging infrastructure in Ohio?
- I'm pro-clean energy and I've learned that the reason we haven't had new wind power projects in Ohio is a rule change about the distance a turbine has to be from a property line or dwelling. Will you fix Ohio's wind setbacks so we can get back on track?
- With big commercial users like Amazon and even regular people providing more of their own power, the days of the large, centralized power plant are clearly coming to an end. The benefits of this distributed generation include more secure and reliable power, greater efficiency and less pollution. Will your administration end subsidies to legacy generation and level the playing field for independent power providers?

#### OIL AND GAS

- The fracking boom in Ohio and Pennsylvania has meant a huge increase in fracking waste going into Ohio's injection wells. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources just doesn't have the resources to keep up with inspections. Will you ensure adequate funding for **all** ODNR divisions to deal with staffing issues, maintenance backlogs and enforcement?
- We've seen more than 2,000 oil and gas wells drilled in Ohio since 2011. Now we're seeing federal rollbacks on methane emission standards too. Will you establish state standards for methane pollution from oil and gas drilling?
- Every chemical-intensive industry has to report chemicals they use to the state so first responders can be safe and drinking water protected in an emergency, except the oil and gas industry. Will you close the chemical reporting loophole for oil and gas?
- There are no dedicated resources for communities that have suffered environmental or infrastructure damage from oil and gas drilling. Will you remedy this by creating a community impact fund in your first budget?

#### WATER

- Agriculture is a huge part of our economy, but runoff from farmland leads to algae blooms that threaten sport fishing and recreation in our waterways – another huge part of our economy. And that’s not to mention the threat to drinking water. Will you require farmers to create nutrient management plans and then audit them for effectiveness?
- We had our own version of the Flint drinking water crisis here in Sebring Ohio and it highlighted problems with lead pipes in schools, daycares and homes throughout the state. Will you increase infrastructure funding – including grants to homeowners- to get lead pipes out of that “last mile” from the water utilities?
- Lake Erie is threatened not only by alae blooms each summer, but by wastewater, industrial pollution and soon Asian Carp. The Clean Lake 2020 Fund was proposed to address these issues, but it’s seriously underfunded. Would you support funding at \$100 million for the next five years to protect Ohio’s crown jewel?
- Toxins from algae blooms and PFOA from Teflon are just some of the unregulated chemicals in Ohio drinking water. Will you set aside money to monitor unregulated toxins and direct Ohio EPA to develop public health advisories with the end goal of regulating these harmful chemicals?

#### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & JUST TRANSITION

- Communities of color and low-income Ohioans have historically suffered higher environmental risks than others. State laws and policies have sometimes made this worse. Will you pledge to create a state environmental justice plan to correct existing laws and policies and engage affected communities in the process of more equitably distributing the burdens of manufacturing, agriculture and energy production?
- More than a dozen coal plants have been retired in Ohio since 2009 with more closures likely. These plants provided good-paying jobs and key support for local economies and schools. As our energy landscape changes and we transform our economies to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century reality, will you reform fossil fuel related taxes to fund workforce development programs for a just transition?
- From East Liverpool to Tremont to Winton Place, generations of low-income and minority families have dealt with toxic fallout from local industry. We can’t unmake that history, but as governor will you incorporate environmental justice considerations into future permitting, compliance and enforcement decisions?