



Questionnaire for Candidates Running for Board of Commissioner Seats for Districts 3 and Super District 7

Specific Roles and Responsibilities Regarding Environmental Racism

Candidate Information:

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1. Recognition and Acknowledgment

a. **Identifying Issues:**

How do you plan to identify and acknowledge the presence of environmental racism within Districts 3 and 7?

Response:

To identify and acknowledge the presence of environmental racism within DeKalb County, I will start by conducting a comprehensive environmental audit in collaboration with local organizations such as the South River Watershed Alliance (SRWA) and the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club. This audit will map out the areas most affected by pollution, landfills, and inadequate infrastructure, focusing on predominantly Black and low-income neighborhoods. I will also engage directly with community members through town hall meetings and listening sessions to document their experiences and concerns, ensuring that those most affected by environmental racism are heard and their issues are recognized at the county level.

b. **Raising Awareness:**

What initiatives will you undertake to educate the public and other government officials about the impacts of environmental racism?

Response:

I will launch a series of public education campaigns in partnership with local schools, community centers, and faith-based organizations to raise awareness about the impacts of environmental racism. Additionally, I will work with the DeKalb County Commission to organize workshops and training sessions for government officials and policymakers to ensure they understand the severity of these issues and the need for immediate action. Leveraging social media and local news outlets, I will amplify the voices of affected communities and highlight the importance of environmental justice.



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2. Policy Development and Implementation

a. Environmental Justice Policies:

What specific policies will you advocate for to prevent and mitigate environmental racism?

Response:

I will advocate for the implementation of strict environmental justice policies that prioritize the needs of vulnerable communities. These policies will include the enforcement of existing environmental regulations, the establishment of buffer zones around industrial facilities, and the development of new standards to limit pollution in residential areas. Additionally, I will push for legislation that requires comprehensive environmental impact assessments for all new developments, particularly in areas that have historically suffered from environmental injustices.

b. Land Use and Zoning:

How will you ensure equitable land use and zoning practices in our community?

Response:

To ensure equitable land use and zoning practices, I will work to reform the current zoning laws to prevent the placement of landfills, hazardous waste sites, and industrial facilities near residential areas, especially in communities of color. I will propose the creation of a DeKalb County Environmental Justice Task Force that will review all land use and zoning decisions to ensure they align with principles of environmental equity. Moreover, I will advocate for the implementation of community benefit agreements that provide protection and resources for residents when new developments are proposed.

3. Health and Safety Regulations

a. Environmental Health Standards:

What measures will you propose to protect the health and safety of residents, particularly in vulnerable communities?

Response:

I will propose the establishment of enhanced environmental health standards that include stricter limits on air and water pollution, particularly in areas near landfills and the South River. These standards will be developed in consultation with public health experts, environmental scientists, and community organizations. I will also support regular health impact assessments to monitor the effects of environmental conditions on residents' health and advocate for increased funding for healthcare services in affected communities.



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b. Pollution Control:

How will you implement and enforce measures to control pollution and reduce environmental hazards?

Response:

To control pollution and reduce environmental hazards, I will push for the expansion of monitoring systems that track air and water quality in real-time, particularly in vulnerable areas. I will also advocate for the enforcement of penalties against companies and facilities that violate environmental regulations. Additionally, I will work to secure funding for pollution prevention programs and support initiatives that encourage the adoption of green technologies and sustainable practices within the county.

4. Community Involvement and Advocacy

a. Inclusive Planning:

How will you involve affected communities in planning and decision-making related to environmental issues?

Response:

I will ensure that affected communities are at the center of planning and decision-making processes related to environmental issues by establishing a Community Environmental Advisory Board. This board will include representatives from the most impacted areas and will be empowered to provide input on all major environmental decisions. I will also implement regular community consultations and ensure that public meetings are accessible and inclusive, allowing for broad participation from all residents.

b. Advocacy:

What steps will you take to advocate for state and federal resources to address environmental injustices?

Response:

I will take proactive steps to advocate for state and federal resources to address environmental injustices by forming coalitions with other local officials and community leaders. I will actively engage with state legislators and federal agencies, such as the EPA, to secure funding and support for remediation projects, infrastructure improvements, and public health initiatives in DeKalb County. Additionally, I will work to build partnerships with other counties facing similar challenges to amplify our collective voice on the state and national levels.

5. Monitoring and Accountability



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a. Data Collection and Analysis:

How will you ensure data is collected and analyzed to monitor environmental conditions and identify areas of concern?

Response:

I will establish a comprehensive environmental monitoring system that includes regular data collection and analysis of air, water, and soil quality across DeKalb County. This data will be publicly accessible and used to identify emerging environmental issues and track the effectiveness of mitigation efforts. I will also support the creation of an independent environmental audit office to oversee data collection and ensure transparency in reporting.

b. Accountability Mechanisms:

What mechanisms will you establish to hold polluters accountable and ensure compliance with environmental regulations?

Response:

To hold polluters accountable, I will propose the implementation of stricter enforcement measures, including higher fines and penalties for violations of environmental regulations. I will also advocate for the establishment of a public registry of environmental offenders, ensuring that companies and facilities with a history of non-compliance are held accountable. Additionally, I will support the expansion of citizen-led oversight committees that can monitor and report on environmental conditions in their communities.

6. Remediation and Revitalization

a. Cleanup Programs:

What programs will you initiate or support to clean up contaminated sites in affected communities?

Response:

I will initiate and support programs aimed at cleaning up contaminated sites in affected communities, prioritizing areas near the South River and around existing landfills. These programs will involve collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, to secure the necessary resources and expertise. I will also advocate for the use of sustainable and community-driven approaches to site remediation, ensuring that residents are involved in the process.

b. Community Revitalization:

How do you plan to invest in the revitalization of communities negatively impacted by environmental racism?

Response:



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To invest in the revitalization of communities negatively impacted by environmental racism, I will propose the creation of a DeKalb County Environmental Justice Fund. This fund will support initiatives such as affordable housing development, green space creation, and infrastructure improvements in affected areas. I will also work to attract investment in clean energy projects and green businesses, providing economic opportunities for residents while improving environmental conditions.

7. Partnerships and Collaboration

a. Working with NGOs:

How will you collaborate with non-governmental organizations, advocacy groups, and community organizations to address environmental racism?

Response:

I will actively collaborate with non-governmental organizations, advocacy groups, and community organizations such as the South River Watershed Alliance, the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club, and the Partnership for Southern Equity to address environmental racism. These partnerships will involve joint advocacy efforts, shared resources for community education, and coordinated actions on policy initiatives. I will also support the creation of formal partnership agreements that outline specific roles and responsibilities in our collective fight against environmental injustices.

b. Interagency Coordination:

What efforts will you make to coordinate with state and federal agencies to leverage additional resources and expertise?

Response:

To leverage additional resources and expertise, I will work to enhance coordination between DeKalb County and state and federal agencies, including the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and the EPA. I will advocate for the establishment of interagency working groups focused on addressing specific environmental challenges, such as sewage overflows and landfill regulations. By fostering these collaborations, we can ensure that DeKalb County receives the support it needs to effectively combat environmental racism.

8. Public Education and Outreach

a. Educational Programs:

What programs will you support to educate the public about environmental justice issues?



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Response:

I will support the development of educational programs that raise awareness about environmental justice issues among residents, students, and local businesses. These programs will include school curricula, community workshops, and public awareness campaigns that highlight the importance of environmental stewardship and the impacts of environmental racism. I will also advocate for the integration of environmental justice topics into the broader educational framework within DeKalb County.

b. Resource Provision:

How will you provide resources and information to help communities protect themselves from environmental hazards?

Response:

To help communities protect themselves from environmental hazards, I will work to provide accessible resources and information, including guides on pollution prevention, legal rights, and health protection strategies. I will also support the creation of community resource centers that offer technical assistance, legal support, and health screenings for residents in affected areas. These centers will serve as hubs for education, advocacy, and community empowerment.