

REDACTED*

**The interest group that sent me this questionnaire has asked that their name and questions be redacted. However, the following topics are discussed: global warming, sustainability, and my general background.*

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In the absence of leadership from Washington, cities need to step up to address the grave challenge of climate change. While cities cannot be signatories to the Paris Climate Agreement itself, I will push for Peoria to strive for the goals and ideals identified in the Paris Climate Agreement by working with organizations and agreements that hold cities accountable for addressing climate change, such as the Chicago Climate Charter, the We Are Still In campaign, Climate Mayors, the Global Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy, and America's Pledge. Crucial to meeting these goals is making local government data open and easily accessible, so elected leaders, staff, and the public understand the impact we have on the environment (the efficiency of our buildings, vehicles, and infrastructure, the types/sources of energy that we purchase). This data will help us set goals to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and do our part to combat climate change.

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Absolutely. We need an actionable plan to reduce carbon emissions in our City. We must be active in setting goals for our community to deal with the realities of climate change.

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Our riverfront is a precious asset that needs to be protected. I support protecting its natural qualities and finding ways for Peorians to enjoy nature on the river. It seems like the Peoria Park District is the natural candidate for overseeing this land, but they don't have much of a financial incentive to take on another asset. However, I think a broad discussion about our

riverfront, that includes public-private partnerships, might create an opportunity for private funds to be brought in and ensure that the land is not a major liability. For example, if there was a comprehensive effort to plan the park space in a way that served the community, downtown businesses, and visitors (without compromising the riverfront's natural beauty and ecosystem), the major employers in the area might chip in for the development - maybe even pay the Park District for its maintenance?

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I believe that any restoration needs to involve a broad group of stakeholders, including conservationists, residents, government agencies, business, and tourism agencies. We should avoid jumping into rushed development deals that might bring short-term revenue gains but sacrifice conservation, sustainability, and public access. Peoria's Riverfront is a natural treasure that needs to be protected to ensure that the native biodiversity can thrive. The Riverfront has the opportunity to be a regional draw for Peoria if its natural elements are preserved with intentional spaces and programming that make the space accessible to the public.

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I believe we need to work expediently to resolve the consent decree that is a result of federal and state EPA lawsuits against the City of Peoria. I support a 100% green infrastructure solution to remediating the combined sewer overflows that discharge raw sewage into the Illinois River. When I worked on the City's Innovation Team, I contributed to the City of Peoria's Complete Green Street Pilot Project on SW Adams St. that shows we have the capacity to implement a 100% green solution. Not only is this critical to protecting our environment and public health, but it will serve as a much-needed investment into the disinvested neighborhoods that make up the area of the City with combined sewage systems.

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PeoriaCorps was a brainchild of the City of Peoria's Innovation Team and as part of that team, I worked with other city employees in the program's creation. If the City of Peoria pursued a 100% green solution to our combined sewer overflow challenge, those green infrastructure projects would be a major source of programming and revenue for sustaining PeoriaCorps. In the meantime, I would advocate for matching PeoriaCorps members with existing Public Works projects, as well as private fee-for-service contracts to ensure the program continues on and connects opportunity youth in our community with the ability to skill up in 21st century

infrastructure maintenance skills.

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Resolving childhood lead exposure is tackled largely by the Peoria City/County Health Department. While the Health Department does well with the resources it's allotted, I am in support of more resources being directed towards remediating homes with lead. This is not only an issue of public health, but it's essential to ensuring equitable opportunities for all Peorians. Across local government, we need to be smarter about using the resources that we have. When I worked for the City of Peoria, I created a Data Science Fellowship that trained City and Health Department staff in data science, exploring applications of data science that could provide for better targeting of homes with lead that are likely to have children that would be exposed.

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When I was a Project Manager on the Innovation Team at the City of Peoria, I was involved in the following municipal projects:

- Complete Green Street Pilot on SW Adams
- Well Farm at Voris Field
- PeoriaCorps
- Rain Garden training for City Staff and master gardeners in Peoria, in collaboration with University of Illinois and Purdue University Extension
- I regularly attended meetings of the Peoria Urban Forestry Advisory Board (PUFAB)

I also produced several videos that highlighted the possibility of green solutions to our combined sewer overflow:

- Video on Well Farm: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiovvd3Awbs>
- Video on PeoriaCorps: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brlltTKEclA>
- Video on Complete Green Street Pilot: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SN0s0wuYGAU>

As a resident, I organized a rain barrel construction and painting party for my neighbors and friends, in which I sourced recycled food-grade containers for rain barrels and showed participants how to install them on their homes and created an opportunity to paint them to make the process more fun and engaging.



*Member, Forest Park Nature Center
Member, Ecology Action Center (Bloomington, IL)
Member, Arbor Day Foundation*

On a personal level, I recycle and compost at my home in Peoria, with a goal of reducing the amount of plastics that I purchase and diverting as much waste from the landfill as possible.

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I would like to reconsider the way in which the City constructs its strategic plan, with an emphasis on simplification and setting measurable goals, so that City staff and the community can understand the direction Peoria is heading. In its creation, I will be an advocate for considering how the City can address environmental issues and become a leader in our region, state, and country for battling climate change and being socially responsible in environmental matters. As someone who composts at home, I would also like to explore opportunities for the City to encourage composting city-wide.

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