

**To gain such knowledge we ask for specific answers to the following questions.**

Please note, we are totally non-partisan, believing that response to such an existential threat to all of us is anything but a political issue. We will not be endorsing political candidates but sharing your views within our network of Islanders.

1. Where do you rank climate concerns amidst your actionable priorities? What would you rank higher?
  - a. Climate is one of the top concerns for my campaign. Since I was a student leader in Student Action For the Environment (SAFE), environmental issues have been deeply important to me. They were a priority as a Commissioner and will be a priority as a State Senator. I look forward to working with groups like yours to work toward a greener future that helps create green jobs and supports a healthy future for all.
  
2. What have you done in your personal, professional and political life to respond to climate challenges?
  - a. As an Island County Commissioner, I led the effort on a county greenhouse gas emissions study and worked to pass our Climate Resolution, creating an action agenda through a “climate in all policies” lens for our local government. I supported a 2020 sea level rise study that informs our Shoreline Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan. I have been a consistent supporter of conservation through Conservation Futures Funding, shoreline restoration, and forest stewardship. Under my leadership we updated the Public Benefits Rating System to add forest stewardship and ended the loophole in county policy allowing a lifting of development moratoriums following timber harvesting. I have advocated at the state level for better protections against clear cuts on islands and climate resilient replanting strategies for sustainable forestry. In both my personal and professional capacity, I have worked with climate advocacy organizations such as Sound Water Stewards and the Puget Sound Partnership.
  
3. Are there any climate **mitigation** initiatives which you would **endorse** or propose to address the **causes** of climate change?

- a. As a state senator, I fully endorse expanding Washington's clean energy infrastructure, emphasizing green jobs and strong pathways to a future green economy. I will advocate for the electrification of transportation, including increasing the availability of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and supporting incentives for EV purchases, while also helping stabilize our power grid with new energy opportunities. Additionally, I propose enhancing shoreline and forest management practices for blue and green carbon sequestration. Lastly, I would back initiatives that promote sustainable farming practices, ensuring our agricultural sector contributes to climate resilience while supporting local food security.
4. Are there any climate **adaptation** initiatives you would support or propose to minimize the impacts of climate change mentioned above?
  - a. I support initiatives that strengthen Washington's resilience to climate impacts, particularly in communities most vulnerable to flooding, wildfires, and sea-level rise. I will advocate for increased funding for coastal restoration projects to protect against erosion and storm surges. On the issues of forest, here I support expanding wildfire prevention programs, including prescribed burns and forest thinning, to protect both rural and urban areas. For the agricultural sector, I would champion policies that ensure we can adapt to shifting growing seasons and more extreme weather events while promoting soil health and water conservation.
5. Are you in favor of the State Climate Commitment Act which created a market-based cap-and-invest program to require the state's largest polluters to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and which is on the ballot this fall? Do you have an alternate proposal to reduce emissions?
  - a. I am in favor of the Climate Commitment Act. I will be voting no on Initiative 2117 in November.
6. Do you have concerns about our climate crisis, not mentioned above, and what specific actions would you propose, endorse, and implement to address **your** most important climate issues?
  - a. I know that all of the policies I've championed as Island County Commissioner will play a role in reducing our carbon footprint. In Olympia, I want to expand on this work. I want to create a green

future that makes a tangible, positive impact on the lives of all Washingtonians. This is how we build the political will for more transformative change which is an important goal for my policy work. I will pursue greater density in our urban regions, recognizing the importance of urban tree canopies and better access to green transportation. Similarly, I believe there is more work to be done in carbon reduction through blue and green carbon sequestration and through transformational agricultural practices such as regenerative and conservation agriculture.

7. What do you think the government's responsibility should be and your desired role, as an elected public official – in addressing these climate and societal issues?
  - a. As an elected public official, my role is to champion legislation that mitigates climate change, protects our natural resources, and builds resilient communities. That includes supporting working families by promoting a green economy that strategically transitions to green jobs leaving no one behind. I will work to ensure that our state invests in clean energy, sustainable infrastructure, climate education, and green job pathways. Additionally, I believe it's essential to involve communities, particularly those disproportionately affected by climate impacts, in the decision-making process. My focus will be on creating policies that not only address environmental challenges but also promote economic opportunities and social equity, ensuring a transition to a sustainable future that leaves no Washingtonians behind.

**Please send responses (or questions) to [info@whidbeyclimate.org](mailto:info@whidbeyclimate.org) (or respond directly to this email). We anticipate answers to not exceed 150 words/questions.**