

1. Where do you rank climate concerns amidst your actionable priorities? What would you rank higher?

Climate concerns are one of my highest priorities given the disproportionate effect here on Whidbey of our actions to our oceans. You cannot separate out the issues the island is facing from the climate concerns, as they are directly intertwined. For example, new housing needs new water lines which strain our aquifers, and new septic systems which damage our shoreline if not engineered correctly.

While a housing shortage can be temporary, a climate crisis is not. In my immediate term, I am prioritizing workforce housing above all other issues except climate concerns— that is, it may be more expensive to pursue sustainable development but I believe we can consciously have both *more* workforce housing, *and* an environment that is not irreparably and permanently damaged in the process.

2. What have you done in your personal, professional and political life to respond to climate challenges?

In my personal life, my husband and I are childfree because we are very concerned about the climate a child would live in 25, 50 or 100 years from now. As you can imagine, this is a difficult decision we still struggle with. Additional efforts to mitigate my own environmental impact include driving an EV, converting everything I could in our house to electric, and scheduling the biggest pulls on that electric between 11pm to 7am each night (car charging, cleaning appliances, etc.).

Just yesterday, I saw a neighbor carrying a gallon of roundup out of her car, and it's difficult to describe the rage I felt knowing how it impacts this island and the bees I work so hard to cultivate and provide food for through my mostly native-plant garden.

In my professional life, I try my best to always support companies who share my environmental values. I encourage work-from-home initiatives when possible, especially in light of the statistical significance of reduction in greenhouse gas emissions during Covid's quarantine era.

I have always had a strange and inexplicable connection to orcas. In my political life, I will continue to be a voice for them, and encourage litigation and efforts to remove the dams on the Snake and Columbia rivers that are literally killing them (and— no pun intended— the downstream effects of their impending extinction).

3. Are there any climate mitigation initiatives which you would endorse or propose to address the causes of climate change?

I will work to maintain initiatives like the Climate Commitment Act by encouraging residents here to vote “no” on the ballot.

I understand the current permitting challenges and concerns in Island County– namely, that permits are taking too long here on the Island. However, from the meetings I’ve attended, it seems like the issue is the developers or entities requesting the permits fail to come to the Board with environmental and engineering studies already prepared. When the Board requests these things, it draws out the permitting timeline, making the County the bad guys when they are not engineers nor environmental experts, and therefore are asking for reasonable information the developer is unable to provide until a later date.

I would like to expand the Planning Commission or create a Climate Commission to create environmental permitting guidelines to have in place in order to expedite the permitting process. The developers could then go through the committee to make sure they have everything the Board needs to make a decision, without the Board feeling the need to remand the developers back to consultants and engineers before making their final decision.

4. Are there any climate adaptation initiatives you would support or propose to minimize the impacts of climate change mentioned above?

An initiative I will not let go of so long as I am commissioner is making a Pass to Ferry trail that allows cyclists and pedestrians to travel sans automobile. The county has done an excellent job at expanding county-wide transit in a functional way. And in my position, I am going to do everything I can to address the absolute dearth of cycling and pedestrian trails around Oak Harbor.

Not everyone can afford a car, and on an Island this beautiful, we should not default to serving cars as the main source of transportation when e-bikes, scooters and many other alternative means of transportation exist.

Finally, we have many disabled veterans and residents here. The paths I'm proposing would eliminate their need to travel in busy roadways without proper safety equipment. For example, I saw a handicapped person in their motorized wheelchair forced to leave the sidewalk and enter the roadway where Loerland turns into Whidbey Ave as they traveled into town and the sidewalk there ends.

This is unacceptable, and dangerous to both the drivers who aren't expecting an obstacle like a slow moving wheelchair in the roadway, and obviously the disabled individual who presumably has no better way to travel seeing as they had used the sidewalk for as long as they could.

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?

Yes, I am voting “no” to 2117 and encouraging others to do so. I do not have an alternate proposal to reduce emissions and I do not see a reason to regress backwards by repealing this measure.

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?

Thank you for the opportunity to elaborate. I feel I've covered this sufficiently in my previous responses.

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?

Kurt Vonnegut stated, “We’ll go down in history as the first society that wouldn’t save itself because it wasn’t cost-effective.” In our capitalistic society, the government tends to stay out of marketplaces until it can no longer ignore them. There are many instances where this intervention has benefited us, regardless of our politics (safety services like EMS and police, housing, utilities, finance/credit cards, pharmaceuticals, transportation, etc.)

Climate change impacts all humans everywhere, regardless of their willingness to acknowledge it. My job as a public servant is to serve the public, and like a parent taking away a kid’s halloween candy, my job isn’t to listen to the ensuing tantrum when I know (not from “beliefs,” but from researched science, engineering reports, statistics I learned how to interpret and understand at an advanced level from my background) what is best for the general public. Don’t tread on me goes both ways.

Finally, reader, I leave you with one more quote: “The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it,” from Robert Swan, a prolific polar explorer and researcher. I am running for this position because until this year, I felt the same way– about every issue I cared about. I finally looked in the mirror and said, “why not me? Why not now?” and here I am.

Amplify your power by voting for me and enhancing your views if we share similar perspectives.

Thank you for your time and consideration today.