

Thank you so much for your patience with me. I often joke that I feel like I have to write an essay every other night on top of working and campaigning with all of the questionnaires we receive. I am including all of my responses below:

1. Where do you rank climate concerns amidst your actionable priorities?
What would you rank higher?
 - a. It's in a tie for the top two priorities I have, and they are tied because they are linked: climate resilience and retaining quality Island County staff. Without robust and qualified staff members who remain employed by Island County, there is little likelihood of getting work done for any sector. By working internally to create a vibrant workplace culture, we will create the ability to address pressing climate concerns, such as aquifer and drought issues, water quality issues, and forest and prairie protections.

2. What have you done in your personal, professional and political life to respond to climate challenges?
 - a. Currently, I work for Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, which overlays Island County's sole historic district. During my tenure, I have worked to add board members with professional backgrounds that include the Whidbey Island Conservation District director and the Island County Public Health Natural Resources Manager so that there is institutional knowledge and awareness of natural resource protection, furthering a commitment to vibrant (central) Whidbey that can adapt to pressing climate concerns. There has always been agricultural representation on my board, as well, which helped prompt me to co-launch the Agricultural Resources Committee for Island County, a grassroots committee that is currently advocating for the establishment of an Island County Food Systems Plan (which includes a waste chapter, a topic I know is important WCA). Politically, I have had the pleasure of previously working on campaigns for Rep. Dave Paul and former Commissioner Helen Price Johnson, two individuals who have championed climate issues. Additionally, I launched my Commissioner campaign with the intent of addressing climate resilience at a much faster and serious rate than what is currently being done.

3. Are there any climate **mitigation** initiatives which you would **endorse** or propose to address the **causes** of climate change?
 - a. Our islands are particularly environmentally sensitive and we face unique challenges as an island. I don't claim to be an expert at climate

mitigation, but I do boast my intention to create a Climate Action Working Group that would include collaboration from County staff, citizen experts, and advocacy organizations (such as WCA!). It would be my intention to have this type of group work on bringing forward heavily-researched proposals for steps (including initiatives or policies) to build climate mitigation strategies and be the kind of leader who is able to make decisions based on science and fact to enact these solutions.

4. Are there any climate **adaptation** initiatives you would support or propose to minimize the impacts of climate change mentioned above?
 - a. This builds off of my previous answer to create a Climate Action Working Group that could collaboratively bring forward expert proposals to implement climate adaptation initiatives. Immediate areas of concern would include forest protection incentives and water quality/water resiliency planning. We need elected officials who know how to locate and rely on experts and advocates so that we can swiftly take action to address the climate crisis and build resilience for our community.
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. Yes, I am strongly in favor of the Climate Commitment Act.
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. Our aquifers and forests are getting a lot of local attention, which they deserve. The specific actions I hope to take as an elected official also include the components of public outreach and awareness combined with effective advocacy to higher and larger bodies of government. I will leverage the positive relationships I have with WA state legislators and US congressional representatives to make sure our community's needs are being addressed from all levels.
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. Local government will be the front line of response in the coming years; therefore, we need leaders passionate and experienced in climate issues and seeing solutions through that aim to lessen impacts and burdens on our community. I believe in addressing the climate crisis head on so that people like my partner and I have the opportunity to prosperously raise our family here in Island County. The time to act on climate mitigation plans is now. It will take a cross-sector approach to make our community more resilient, meaning that many of the solutions we pursue in other issue areas should consider environmental impacts.

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