

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

The job of the County Commissioner is to ensure public safety and public benefit. Environmental protection issues, including climate change mitigation and resiliency actions, are critical to both of these. I regularly list these issues as my top four priorities: ensuring healthy marine and forest ecosystems, aquifer health, affordable housing, and transparency in government. Recognizing and responding to the impacts of climate change is a critical part of the first three of these priorities.

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

As Chair of the Board of County Commissioners in 2022, I negotiated a unanimous vote in favor of a Climate Resiliency resolution which is now a bedrock of the County's policy decisions in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update. I encouraged our Facilities department to retrofit our County buildings to become energy efficient, I regularly push for the installation of public EV chargers, and as an Island Transit Board Member I've avidly supported transitioning to zero emissions buses. In addition, because I know climate change is a driver in wildfire susceptibility, I have pushed for more wildfire preparation at the county and in the community, including drafting the recently-passed fireworks resolution.

In response to the 2022 king tide shoreline flooding, which I believe was exacerbated by climate change, I asked the MRC to make recommendations to the Board about the problem. This resulted in the highly-regarded [MRC White Paper on Climate Resiliency](#).

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

I believe one of the most important mitigation initiatives we can undertake locally is to increase our tree canopy. I have supported every tree-protection PBRS request and every Whidbey Camano Land Trust funding request that's been brought to me, I have fought against development plans that require clear cutting (see my actions on a property on Camano last month) and have been very vocal about our need to plant more trees instead of allowing them to be cut down. Personally, I pay to plant 25 trees every month.

I of course support the Climate Commitment Act and its goal to drive down greenhouse gas emissions in Washington State.

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

I endorse regenerative agriculture, ecosystem protections, solar projects, zero emission vehicles and the infrastructure to support them, actions to enlarge fish and wildlife corridors, and education to change resource over-consumption behaviors. I was an early founding member of rePurpose on South Whidbey; although I have not had time to become involved yet, I look forward to doing so.

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?

Absolutely in favor. In addition, as I mentioned above, we need to encourage citizens to change our behaviors. The problem is: right now people are pushing back against initiatives to ban natural gas stoves. If we can't convince them on something as basic as this, I fear other behavioral-change proposals will face a hard slog. It took years to get people to do basic recycling—and unless it's easy, most won't do it now. BTW: Over the years I have repeatedly urged our local trash hauler to offer curbside recycling, which hopefully will begin soon.

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?

I think birth control should be mentioned more often when we talk about climate change mitigation.

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?

As I said in my first sentence, our job is to ensure public safety and public benefit. It can be difficult to succeed in that unless we can get buy-in from our citizens that the actions we're taking are truly to their betterment. I need to continue to protect our islands as much as possible from the impacts of climate change—and I need to convince our citizens that this is what they want from me and from their other leaders.