

**2020 Questionnaire for Newport News City Council Candidates For the York River Group
of the Sierra Club**

Submitted by Tina L. Vick, Vice Mayor for City of Newport News

Candidate for Re-Election

Global Climate Change and Energy Solutions

Will you continue to empower the city staff, along with citizen members of the energy team to educate the residents of Newport News on ways to lower energy usage? **Yes**

Has a baseline inventory been completed, measuring the city's present energy usage? **Yes**

Recognizing that Newport News has taken a lead on addressing climate change, will you work to keep your city as a model to neighboring jurisdictions? **Yes**

Will you support sufficient funding in the city budget to carry out the sustainability program? **Yes**

Will you support the City of Newport News in developing a plan to move to 100% renewable energy by 2035, using programs like Ready for 100%? **Yes**

Newport News staff has begun to look at this program. Will you strongly consider its implementation in Newport News? **Yes**

Given the potential to save tax payer money, the ease of procurement and the need for the City of Newport News to move toward clean renewable energy, will you continue with more solar on schools and city government buildings? **Yes**

Water, Wetland, Land Use

As a councilmember, will you support and continue to comply with the Bay regulations, to include storm water regulations, which will bring the Chesapeake Bay back to sustainable health? **Yes**

How should we protect the remaining urban wetlands in Newport News?

It is important that we protect the wetlands. We should protect our wetlands by ensuring they are not taken over by developers. Our developers must abide by all of the rules to protect our wetlands. Also education for elected officials who will have to decide on development projects is necessary. All elected official should take the education day event sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation that explains information about our wetlands and what we can do to preserve them. The more knowledge the decision makers have, the better it will be for wetland preservation.

Will you strictly enforce a 100-foot buffer? **Yes**

Will you set guidelines for some building to be placed back even further, or to utilize elevated construction? **Yes**

With the exception of about 10 acres, which HRSD has proposed purchasing (all but 4.5 acres of which will be put into a permanent conservation easement) will you maintain public ownership and the present zoning of the City Farm and all of the Riverview Farm Park as parkland and not rezone to allow for any residential or commercial development there?

I want to have it as a park, but if there are situations for NN to get a restaurant on the water, or some aquatics program where some area of the zoning needs to be changed, I am in support of it.

Will you support the HRSD proposal to build trails on the City Farm land, including a trail along the waterfront and connecting back to existing trails in Riverview Farm Park, plus a trail connecting the City Farm to the Menchville Marina? **Yes**

Will you support the removal in the near future of old jail buildings, K-9 facilities, and other city facilities and equipment currently on the City Farm property? **Yes**

Will you support putting a substantial amount of money into the CIP as necessary to create a park for the people sooner rather than later? **Yes**

Will you support the creation of a citizen's advisory panel to co-develop with the Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism the details of the park? **Yes**

Will you promote our James River heritage through the education of our citizens and the preservation of natural areas in the Riverview and Deep Creek area? **Yes**

What is your position on the proposed housing development there Endview Plantation.

I do support the residential high end housing development on the Endview Development site. NN sent a request for qualification out to obtain an expert developer whose expertise is creating housing communities while at the same time preserving the history. I am looking forward to see what we can create in that area to attract people to Newport News with higher incomes.

Please explain your position on off-shore drilling. I am against off-shore drilling because of the negative impact it would bring on the waterways, particularly our marine life. Also reports show the impact of off shore drilling operations have negative effects to include drilling muds, brine wastes , deck run off water and flow lines and pipeline leaks. The harmful effects also include water and air pollution and on shore damage. Off-shore drilling is definitely not good for Virginia's Coast.

Please explain your position on off-shore wind energy. I agree with the position of your organization, the Sierra Club, and I am in total support of off-shore wind energy. It is proven that the winds from our Atlantic Coast can be harnessed through an offshore grid to supply 20% of our electric energy needs. It would definitely improve our economy and provide jobs for people in our workforce.

Solid Waste

What do you recommend to help improve recycling awareness for resident in Newport News?

My recommendation to help improve recycling awareness for Newport News residents is to have our Recycling Department continue with all of the marketing efforts that currently exist. Our Solid Waste Division Recycling Team does an excellent job in letting the residents know about recycling by having information at festivals, community fairs, school events and on all of our media outlets, our website, Newport News TV and other social media. They also visit local businesses to provide information. Newport News' recycling rate for 2018 was 57% which exceeded the State's mandatory recycling rate of 25%. That is a testament to us getting the word out and empowering our citizens about recycling. I'm very proud of how hard they work to inform citizens of the importance of recycling.

Will you support the drop off sites for glass effort? **Yes**

Will you set this ordinance in motion for Newport News? **Yes**

Air Quality & Environmental Justice

Will you support improving the bus system? **Yes**

Will you support installing additional (EV charging) stations? **Yes**

Will you support efforts to bring about the installation of air monitors? **Yes**

What measures will you take to protect these children and others?

As it relates to the coal dust, I have met with executives at Dominion Terminal Associates (DTA) and they have an impervious surface of storage areas, a system of runoff ditches, chemically balanced holding ponds and a computerized storage area water spray dust suppression system that all assist in minimizing the coal dust from spreading. Also all of the public housing units, Dickerson Court and Harbor Homes have been demolished because of the age of the properties, but NN will not place any housing in that area, close to the DTA. Several of the children who were in the data who were affected by the coal dust were from those two housing areas.

What environmental issue is of greatest concern to you? What do you recommend to address the problem?

The environmental issue I'm concerned about here locally is the Save Oyster Shells. It is an oyster shell recycling program sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Currently there is a critical shortage of oyster shells for reef restoration in the Chesapeake Bay. To help reduce the shortage, citizens and businesses are encouraged to recycle their empty oyster shells. To address the problem, I am working with Tanner Council, Grassroots Organizer Of Chesapeake Bay Foundation to get restaurants that sell oysters to give CBF their oyster shells. CBF's Oyster Restoration Centers will grow baby oysters, called spat, obtain the shells and use them as a natural substrate to construct reefs, restoring the oyster population that creates new habitat plus filters the Bays water. I absolutely love this effort!!

What actions have you taken in support of environmental protection? If you have served as an elected official or other public or private endeavor, describe specific measures you have initiated or supported related to environmental issues.

Efforts to support the Clean the Bay Day annually in Hampton Roads

Voted to support the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) for Stormwater Projects which have been completed in Newport News. The total 6 projects have totaled over \$10 million dollars which includes the grant money from the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund

100 percent supported the budgets for our recycling program Supported funding for key positions for NN Sustainability staff