

Candidate + Ballot Measure

Climate Assessment Tool



**ELECTION
EARTH**

Welcome to the Candidate + Ballot Measure Climate Assessment Tool!

Climate progress depends on a functioning democracy, and the choices we make at the polls have never been more significant. Local leaders and policies play a crucial role in shaping our response to climate challenges, affecting the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we cherish, and the health and future of our communities.

This tool is here to help you vote with your climate values. It equips you to navigate local elections with a clear framework for assessing candidates' environmental commitments and the potential impact of ballot measures on your community.

Your vote is powerful. Use it to help protect public health, strengthen communities, and advance the climate solutions this moment calls for. Thank you for showing up informed, prepared, and ready to vote with your values.

Ashley Lane

Senior Director, Network Activation

ecoAmerica

electionearth.org



Candidate Climate Assessment

Elected leaders shape the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the future of our communities. **Use this tool to evaluate candidates' climate leadership and environmental priorities in elections.**

Step 1: Preview Your Ballot

Before voting, visit [Election Earth to review your ballot](#). For each candidate, gather information from their website, public statements, voting record, and media coverage.

Step 2: Criteria

Assess each candidate based on their demonstrated leadership and policy commitments in the areas below. **Each category can earn 0–3 stars, for a maximum total of 30 stars.**

- ★ **Climate Leadership:** Does the candidate recognize and prioritize climate action as a critical issue? (e.g., *lists climate change as a concern, has a Climate Action Plan*)
- ★ **Fossil Fuel Independence:** Has not accepted money from [fossil fuel interests](#) and has signed the [No Fossil Fuel Pledge](#).
- ★ **Environmental Track Record:** If previously in office, has supported comprehensive environmental protection measures.
- ★ **Climate Investment:** Prioritizes funding for clean energy, green infrastructure, sustainable food systems, transit, electrification, efficiency, composting, conservation, and/or climate-ready infrastructure.
- ★ **Renewable Energy Support:** Explicitly supports transitioning to renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and geothermal.
- ★ **Sustainable Land Use:** Supports development and zoning policies that lower emissions, protect natural spaces, and advance walkable, transit-oriented communities.
- ★ **Resilience + Adaptation:** Advocates for measures that strengthen community resilience, including nature-based solutions, cooling centers, flood protection, fire preparedness, and climate risk planning.
- ★ **Climate Equity + Environmental Justice:** Prioritizes including and protecting vulnerable communities and addressing inequities in climate impacts and solutions.
- ★ **Climate + Public Health:** Recognizes climate impacts on public health and supports policies that reduce pollution and improve community well-being.
- ★ **Community Engagement:** Actively engages with the community (*forums, town halls, events*) and works collaboratively with local environmental organizations to address climate challenges.

Step 3: Candidate Scorecard

Score each category based on how well the candidate meets the criteria. **Each category can earn 0–3 stars, for a maximum total of 30 stars:**

0 Stars: No clear position, unclear stance, or evidence of opposition.

★ **1 star:** General support with limited detail or commitment.

★★ **2 stars:** Clear policies, measurable goals, or a consistent record.

★★★ **3 stars:** Strong leadership demonstrated through concrete action, funding commitments, or a proven track record.

Candidate Name:			
Position Running For:			
Criteria	Score	Criteria	Score
Climate Leadership	☆☆☆	Sustainable Land Use	☆☆☆
Fossil Fuel Independence	☆☆☆	Resilience + Adaptation	☆☆☆
Environmental Track Record	☆☆☆	Climate Equity + Environmental Justice	☆☆☆
Climate Investment Priorities	☆☆☆	Climate + Public Health	☆☆☆
Renewable Energy Support	☆☆☆	Community Engagement	☆☆☆
		TOTAL: ____ / 30	

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Ballot Measure Climate Assessment

Understanding the implications of county and state-wide ballot measures related to environmental issues is crucial before casting your vote. **This section helps evaluate the impact of these measures on sustainability, climate resilience, mitigation, and environmental justice.**

Step 1: Directions for Assessing Ballot Measures

- ★ **Preview Your Ballot:** Visit [Election Earth](#) to access a preview of your ballot and review all related ballot measures.
- ★ **Identify Relevant Measures:** Focus on measures that address emissions reduction (electricity, food & agriculture, industry, building, transportation), nature protection and restoration, and promote equity.
- ★ **Gather Information:** Review the measure's text, arguments for and against, and endorsements from trusted organizations.

Step 2: Criteria

Assess each relevant ballot measure based on its potential impact in the following areas.

- ★ **Environmental Impact:** Does the measure contribute significantly to environmental sustainability and natural ecosystem health?
- ★ **Resilience Building:** Does the measure enhance local resilience to environmental disasters and climate change?
- ★ **Justice and Equity:** Does the measure promote environmental justice and equity, particularly for historically marginalized communities?

Step 3: Ballot Measure Scorecard

Score each impact area based on how well the measure meets the criteria, using a scale of 0-5 stars:

- ★ **0 Stars:** Does not meet the criteria or may have negative impacts.
- ★★ **1-2 stars:** Partially meets the criteria with some beneficial aspects.
- ★★★ **3-5 stars:** Fully meets the criteria with significant positive impacts.

Ballot Measure:	
Criteria	Score
Benefits the local environment or climate.	☆☆☆☆☆
Contributes to local resilience against environmental challenges.	☆☆☆☆☆
Addresses environmental justice and equity issues.	☆☆☆☆☆
TOTAL:	___ / 15

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[Election Earth](#) is a program of ecoAmerica, a non-partisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We do not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office. This information is provided to empower individuals to exercise their right to vote and make informed voting decisions.