

Diana DiZoglio
Sierra Club/350 Mass Questionnaire

Please enter your responses into this file next to the question. No one will have access to your answers until you let us know that they are ready to be seen. When finished, please inform Steve Miller at 350 Mass Action (email: semiller@gmail.com)

A candidate's answers to our questionnaire will NOT be the only criteria for endorsement. We will also take into account a person's past engagement with climate (and/or other) issues, whom they are running against, their base of support and level of campaign organization, and evaluations made by partner/allied groups focusing on other issues. While gaining 350 Mass Action's and Sierra Club's endorsement requires agreement with our general outlook and principles, it does not require total alignment with every position espoused by the organization.

350 Mass Action supports the Green New Deal's priorities:

- Rapidly eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from all sources.
- Rebuilding our economy on an environmentally sustainable basis.
- Creating a just transition to these goals and promoting environmental justice by prioritizing the needs of those most impacted by past discrimination as well as workers in affected industries.

Sierra Club Massachusetts:

- Pushes for a just transition to an equitable clean energy economy.
- Advocates for efficient, clean transportation for all.
- Works to reduce toxic pollution and to move toward zero waste.
- Fights back against threats to our communities' health and environment.
- Believes in helping people explore and enjoy the natural world.
- Advocates with the understanding that the crises of income inequality and racial justice are inextricably linked with climate justice

I. GENERAL PRIORITIES

Please describe the most important aspects of your past activity and commitments to climate and environmental protection and to creating a more equitable and just society. In particular, we are interested in membership and leadership in environmental organizations, work on environmental campaigns, public positions you have taken, and activities you have initiated or actively supported.

Comment:

I am proud of the votes and actions I have taken as a legislator to further our efforts to combat climate change broadly while fighting for environmental justice in the communities I represent. I strongly support investments in public transportation, walking, and biking infrastructure, which will not only reduce emissions, but also improve public health and safety. I also filed a bill to prevent the disposal of hydraulic fracturing wastewater.

I am the lead sponsor of *An Act to update the Massachusetts rideshare program*, which requires that the Department of Environmental Protection revise the regulations governing the rideshare program. Under my proposed legislation, The Department of Environmental Protection shall consolidate reports on the ridesharing program and release to the public, at a minimum, the following information: the statewide drive-alone rate, the percentage of affected facilities that have drive-alone rates below 75%. It is imperative that we work to not just count carbon but forcefully advocate to reduce it.

My commitment to supporting the clean-up of the Merrimack River enabled me to see first-hand how important it is for state agencies to have sufficient resources to protect the environment. In a multi-year effort, I successfully led efforts to secure funding for Greater [Lawrence Sanitary District](#) to prevent sewage discharges during power outages and create a pilot program to implement a pre-notification alert system for CSOs in the Merrimack River – leading to [successfully passed legislation](#) and the creation of the [Merrimack River District Commission](#). The Commission brought together a variety of stakeholders along the river – including environmentalists and elected officials to address issues around pollution of the river, advise on next steps and develop a plan to clean and maintain the river moving forward. This work eventually became a statewide model for the Combined Sewage Overflow (CSO) Notification Bill that I was proud to champion alongside my colleagues in the legislature. I was invited to speak at the [bill signing](#) for my work on this bill's passage. We have a long way to go to realize infrastructure updates and ensure our mission of clean rivers across the Commonwealth. That's why, as your State Auditor, I am committed to auditing ARPA and making sure that our recovery funds are spent the way they were intended and our policies are being fully implemented by relevant state agencies.

Please tell us in your own words how the State Auditor's office plays a significant role in protecting the environment in Massachusetts.

As part of my [Social Justice and Equity Audit Plan](#), I will audit relevant state agencies such as DPU to shine a light on whether Massachusetts is meeting its climate commitments, ensure the Commonwealth provides equal opportunity for working class and environmental justice communities, and set the stage for greater action on climate.

When it comes to climate change, I am proud of the votes and actions I have taken as a legislator to further our efforts to combat the climate crisis globally while fighting for environmental justice locally. Whether it is my enthusiastic support for both the recently

passed *Act Driving Climate Policy Forward* and last year's passage of *An Act Creating a Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy*, taking on Columbia Gas after the devastating Merrimack Valley Gas explosion, or fighting against a new natural gas plant in my hometown of Methuen - I have backed up my words with action that has made a difference in residents' lives. But I know there is so much more our elected leaders can do to set the stage for a true clean energy future. I will be a dedicated partner to you and all of our environmental champions in this mission. I also applaud your work to hold the administration accountable through netzeroma.org. This is exactly the kind of spotlight we must place on state government, and I hope to lean on you as we expand and strengthen this work.

Do you agree to make working for those Green New Deal policies a priority for yourself and all public agencies?

Yes: X No

Comment:

How do you plan to ensure a voice for, and protect the specific interests of, often marginalized stakeholders -- low-income families, people of color, immigrants, unorganized workers, youth -- when setting your office's agenda, shaping the types of issues you investigate and report on, and in evaluating the findings?

Comment:

I will bring to the Auditor's Office a commitment to social justice and equity so that no one — no matter their background, bank balance or zip code — receives different treatment on Beacon Hill. That is why I have released a [17-point Social Justice and Equity Audit Plan](#) that focuses on the pressing challenges facing underserved and marginalized communities. Part of that plan includes my commitment to report on inequities in the MassSave program, which has been known to take from lower-income households and communities and disproportionately distribute those funds to wealthier communities. As the original New Deal disproportionately negatively impacted minority communities of color, we need to make sure that's not the case for the green new deal and analyze climate policies here in Massachusetts from an economic justice lense. The Mass Save program, for instance, too often benefits wealthier communities while low-income neighborhoods are overlooked and ignored. The utility companies should be held accountable, and we must ensure equitable access to the program for underserved communities. Mass Save's stated goal is to help "residents and businesses across Massachusetts save money and energy, leading our state to a clean and energy efficient future." These are laudable goals, however, we must ensure environmental justice is not taking a backseat to the well-intentioned stated priorities of the program. A clean energy future and economic justice can and must BOTH be achieved.

As a legislator for the last decade who has represented such marginalized communities, my priorities and actions have been informed by the activists and everyday constituents I

have fought for and fought beside on issues ranging from economic justice to environmental justice. They have always had a seat at the table in my decision-making and will continue to in the Auditor's office.

Will you make inclusion of disparate impact of climate and environmental issues a priority for your office?

Yes: X No _____

Comment:

That is why I have released a [17-point Social Justice and Equity Audit Plan](#) that focuses on the pressing challenges facing underserved and marginalized communities.

What other endorsements have you received? Who are your major financial supporters?

Comment:

Emily's List, Massachusetts AFL-CIO, Massachusetts Teachers Association, American Federation of Teachers, Massachusetts Nurses Association, National Association of Government Employees (NAGE), Massachusetts Building Trades Union, UNITE HERE 26, IBEW Local 223, Boston Carmen's Union, Iron Workers Local 7, Machinists District 15, the MBTA Inspectors Union, Operating Engineers Local 4, the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, Teamsters Local 170 and 25, and the Puerto Rican PAC of Lawrence.

II. THE ISSUES

A. Climate Priorities

What are your top two priorities you would pursue if elected related to climate and environment?

Comment:

As part of my [Social Justice and Equity Audit Plan](#), I will audit relevant state agencies such as DPU to shine a light on whether Massachusetts is meeting its climate commitments, ensure the Commonwealth provides equal opportunity for working class and environmental justice communities, and set the stage for greater action on climate. I will work to help ensure the Mass Save program is equitable by analyzing and reporting on disparities between services provided to low-income residents and underserved communities, and residents in more affluent communities. It is work I have already started in the Senate, where my amendment to bolster transparency, accountability and equity in the MassSave program was passed unanimously as part of 2022's *An Act Driving Climate Policy Forward*.

Are there any particular programs, agencies, or types of public and quasi-public organizations that you will make your initial focus?

Comment:

See above answer relative to DPU and Mass Save program.

Will you include the cost and impact of inactivity on climate, environmental, and equity issues as part of your evaluation of programs' and offices' work?

Yes: X No _____

Comment:

When making decisions on how we are meeting target reductions of emissions, there should be accountability if we're not meeting the targets we set. If we're passing laws and not taking the steps to actually move us in the right direction, it's irresponsible and doesn't actually solve the problem.

How do you plan to take advantage of the insights and knowledge of climate, environmental, and justice advocates when setting your office's agenda, shaping the types of issues you investigate and report on, and in evaluating the findings?

Comment:

In my 10 years in the legislature, I have made a point of listening to and learning from environmental experts and activists both at the State House and in my district. I will have a similar open-door policy as Auditor, and those fighting for environmental justice and a clean energy future will always have a seat at my table.

How will you maximize the role of the Auditor in oversight of federal funds with relation to climate and environmental sustainability?

Comment:

As Auditor, I have committed to actively analyzing, auditing and reporting on the expenditure of federal stimulus, ARPA and other COVID-related funding – including those distributed to climate initiatives – to ensure they are used effectively and efficiently. In fact, I am the only candidate in this race with a legislative voting record of leading on this issue and have already begun addressing transparency and accountability surrounding ARPA funding in the legislature. I co-sponsored an amendment that would provide a user-friendly tracking system and website through which the public may access, in near real-time, the amount and percentage, by spending category, of funds appropriated under this act spent in communities that were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. It is critical that the Auditor audit and report on the expenditure of these funds. Where errors are found, we must take steps to correct them and prevent them from occurring again. But we must also report on all the positive results so that the public knows its money is being spent well. This includes expanded use of performance audits to show how effectively taxpayer resources are being expended. It is not enough for us to know that money moved from one place to another. The Office of the State Auditor needs to

adopt a taxpayer's mindset and report on efficacy and benefits of important climate initiatives or the public.

How will you maximize the role of the Auditor in oversight of implementation of the Next Gen Climate and subsequent state climate laws?

Comment:

As the only candidate in this race to work on this legislation in the Senate alongside of my colleagues and pass it into law, overriding the Governor's vetoes multiple times, this is a priority for me. That's why I have made it a main part of my [Social Justice and Equity Audit Plan](#) to audit relevant state agencies such as DPU to shine a light on whether Massachusetts is meeting its climate commitments, ensure the Commonwealth provides equal opportunity for working class and environmental justice communities, and set the stage for greater action on climate.

B. Transportation

If the Fair Share Amendment is approved by the voters, will you commit to valuing transportation investments with a bias toward minimizing our carbon footprint, and how will you make this known to the legislature?

Yes: X No _____

Comment:

I was proud to vote to place the question on the ballot – the fourth time that I have voted in favor of the amendment. I was also thrilled to stand with Raise Up Massachusetts at a [rally](#) in my district to be the first to publicly sign the pledge for Fair Share and urge my constituents to talk to their families, friends and neighbors to get the vote out in support of the Amendment.

Will you commit to auditing the total cost of installing and operating the new AFC2 fare collection system for buses to determine if it would be more cost effective to simply not collect fares and therefore not have to pay for the costs of fare collection?

Yes: X No _____

Comment:

C. Transparency and Reform

Which, if any, of the current State Auditor's climate, environment, and energy-related investigations, inquiries, or methods would you NOT continue should you take office?

Comment _____

I would seek to build upon Auditor Bump's work and continue these efforts.

What, if any, additional actions, investigations, or methods would you initiate beyond what the current State Auditor is doing around climate, environment, and energy-related issues?

Comment:

As detailed above, I will audit relevant state agencies such as DPU to ensure they are meeting the goals we in the legislature set forth in the *Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy*. In addition, I will focus on environmental justice communities, like the ones I grew up and represented, through efforts including the review of the MassSave program mentioned previously - a program that too often benefits wealthier communities while low-income neighborhoods are overlooked and ignored.

Are you or your campaign accepting contributions from the PACs, lobbyists, or SEC-named executives* of fossil fuel companies — companies whose primary business is the extraction, processing, distribution, or sale of oil, gas, or coal -- or of companies involved in biomass or nuclear power production?

(*These include the Chief Executive Officer, each Chief Financial Officer and each of the next three most highly compensated executive officers. <for details see <https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/named-executive-officers>)

Yes: No:

Comment:

No, we have not accepted contributions from any fossil fuel interests

.Do you have any direct investments in Fossil Fuel companies and, if so, explain why you are holding those assets or when are you planning to divest from those?

Yes: No:

Comment:

No, I do not hold any assets in fossil fuel companies. I'm inspired by the college divestment movement that took roots from the successful campaign against apartheid, and am so proud of many universities across Massachusetts that have taken steps to divest.