

SIERRA CLUB
WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

**Sierra Club Political Committee
2022 Candidate Questionnaire**

The West Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club is conducting this survey of West Virginia Legislative candidates. Please feel free to add additional comments to expand on your environmental positions. Your responses to these questions are an important part of our endorsement process. Our endorsement information will be distributed to our statewide membership.

Please **return promptly, review begins March 18, 2022** to: Sierra Club Political Committee, C/O Jim Kotcon via e-mail to jkotcon@gmail.com or by surface mail to PO Box 4142, Morgantown, WC 26504. Call 304-594-3322 for more information (Please leave a message).

Candidate's Name: Scott Nale **Signature:** _____
(Please print clearly)

District House of Delegates 78 **State Senate** _____

Candidate's Address: _____

Candidate's E-Mail Address: nale4house@gmail.com

Candidate's Phone Number: _____

If endorsed by the Sierra Club, would you prefer that the endorsement be released to:

- (a) Our members only, or
 (b) the general public.

A. What do you believe are the most important environmental issues facing West Virginia during the next two - four years? Can you suggest solutions to these issues?

Renewable energy and US energy Independence. We need to get the pieces of law in place that allow residents to benefit from personal generation of solar energy and develop the infrastructure for safe transmission of fossil fuel energy sources.

B. What tasks and causes have you undertaken that have benefitted the West Virginia environment and the health of its citizens?

In my work with the Knights of Columbus we have provided meals to the residents of West Virginia who are on the margins, as well as support during various natural disasters.

C. How will your programs prepare West Virginia for a more environmentally sustainable economy?

I would advocate for the development of laws to fully support solar energy development.

D. For the following issues, please circle or underline the number of these choices which best describes your position: 1= Strongly support; 2= Leaning toward supporting; 3= Undecided; 4= Leaning opposed; or 5= Strongly opposed.

1. Development of renewable energy sources should get priority over fossil fuels. 1 2 3 4 5
2. Community Right-To-Know laws regarding releases of hazardous chemicals should be strengthened, even if it costs industry more. 1 2 3 4 5
3. State environmental standards should be at least as stringent as federal standards, and should exceed federal standards whenever needed to protect West Virginia's environment. 1 2 3 4 5
4. Bonds for gas wells should be increased to cover the full cost of capping the well and reclaiming the well site. 1 2 3 4 5
5. Taxpayers must help the coal industry by subsidizing mine reclamation bonds..1 2 3 4 5
6. West Virginia should encourage energy efficiency through utility programs, regulatory standards, and tax incentives..... 1 2 3 4 5
7. West Virginia should reform highway funding priorities so that maintenance and upgrading of existing roads and bridges will be a higher priority than building new 4-lane Appalachian corridors. 1 2 3 4 5
8. West Virginia should prioritize revenue generation at state parks and forests by privatizing recreational development (golf courses, etc.)..... 1 2 3 4 5
9. West Virginia should generate revenue at state parks and forests by developing timber, gas and other resource extraction activities 1 2 3 4 5
10. Supporting economic diversification and a Just Transition to clean energy jobs is a higher priority than tax breaks for the coal industry. 1 2 3 4 5
11. Development of pipelines for natural gas or hydrogen fuels must take priority over private property rights, water quality, or public lands 1 2 3 4 5
12. Existing power plants should have to reduce greenhouse gas emissions..... 1 2 3 4 5
13. WV should enact a renewable portfolio standard (RPS), requiring that a specified portion of our electricity (e.g. 20%) must come from renewable sources by a specified date (e.g. 2030)..... 1 2 3 4 5
14. Tighter standards and tougher enforcement for the Marcellus gas industry should be implemented before approving additional permits or any tax breaks for the gas industry..... 1 2 3 4 5
15. Taxpayers should subsidize the fossil fuel industry by assuming costs and liability for carbon capture and sequestration facilities (wells & pipelines) .. 1 2 3 4 5

E. Which of the following would you rely on to provide credible information regarding environmental issues (Check all that apply):

1. Political leaders
2. State environmental agencies
3. Federal environmental agencies
4. State economic development agencies
5. Industry representatives
6. Leaders of Environmental Groups
7. Scientists
8. Public health experts
9. Religious leaders
10. Other (please list)

F. Which of these **state** budget items should increase, stay the same, or decrease?

Check the column to indicate your choice:

Increase Same Decrease

Spending:

1. Funding to upgrade public water supplies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Funding for community sewage treatment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Funding for increased pollution and health monitoring.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Nongame Wildlife education and protection programs ...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. General revenue appropriations for existing State Parks ..	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Funding for new park and trail acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Revenue:

7. Fines on overweight trucks to repair roads they damage..	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Fees on industries for pollution permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Fees to pay for pollution inspection and enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Pollution taxes (penalize pollution instead of income)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explain your environmental funding priorities:

I would support the development of the necessary legal elements to allow for individual benefits from solar power generation. In addition to the green energy provided this would advance various technical and construction careers in the state. The additional household revenue benefits would benefit the economy of West Virginia in all aspects.

I would like to further note that West Virginia must get away from it's history of use by extractive industries. For almost 200 years our State has been stripped of it's resources time and time again. We've pulled the coal and gas from the ground and the trees from the mountains. The use of these resources is not an inherently bad thing, but West Virginia needs to grow and benefit from this. It has resulted in the most concern trend of all, the constant exportation of our youth, the greatest resource that we consistently ship off. Without good jobs and infrastructure, our children will continue to leave and the future of West Virginia will leave with them.

G. Are there any issues where you find the pro-environment position troubling? If so, which ones?

The belief that fossil fuels must be stopped immediately is concerning. In all things the key to overall success is in diversity. I would look for a balance to be struck between green and fossil energy, and as those nonrenewable resources are depleted we will be have developed the technology to proceed without them.

H. If endorsed by the Sierra Club, what types of support would your campaign desire from us?

Both financial and advertising support would be appreciated.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.