



Local Candidate + Ballot Measure

Climate Assessment Tool

**EMPOWERING VOTERS FOR A
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**



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Welcome to the **Local Candidate + Ballot Measure Climate Assessment Tool!**

As we stand at a pivotal moment in our planet's history, 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, impacting everything from the air we breathe to the water we drink and the land we cherish.

This tool equips you to navigate local elections, providing a robust framework to assess the environmental commitments of candidates and the potential impact of ballot measures on your community.

Your vote is powerful—use it to champion the environment and safeguard our planet for current and future generations. Thank you for committing to informed, impactful voting. Let's make every vote count for our environment!

Navigate Local Elections for Climate Action



ecoAmerica is a non-partisan, 501c3 non-profit organization. We do not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office. This information and tool is provided to empower individuals to make informed decisions based on their climate values.



Candidate Assessment

Step 1: Preview Your Local Ballot

Before voting, visit Vote411.org to preview your local ballot. Identify all candidates running for various positions and collect information about each candidate's platform, past voting history (if applicable), public statements, and documented plans or policies on climate change and environmental issues.

Step 2: Criteria

Assess each candidate's commitment to climate action by examining their public statements, policy proposals, and historical actions. The scorecard includes components that make up a comprehensive climate action plan. Each component is worth 1-2 stars, totaling up to 10 stars:

- ★ **Climate Concern (★):** Does the candidate recognize and prioritize climate action as a critical issue? (e.g., listing climate change as a primary concern)
- ★ **Environmental Track Record (★):** If previously in office, has the candidate supported comprehensive environmental protection measures?
- ★ **Community Engagement + Collaboration (★):** Does the candidate actively engage with the community (forums, town halls, and events) and work collaboratively with local environmental organizations to address climate challenges?
- ★ **Ambition (★):** Are the proposed actions bold, comprehensive and ambitious?
- ★ **Renewable Energy Support (★★):** Does the candidate explicitly support transitioning to renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and geothermal?
- ★ **Funding Priorities (★★):** Does the candidate prioritize allocating resources towards renewable energy projects and broader green infrastructure, including sustainable food systems, clean transportation, walking/biking infrastructure, efficiency, electrification, composting programs, green and cool roofs/streets, and conservation of natural areas?
- ★ **Resilience + Adaptation Measures (★★):** Does the candidate advocate for measures that enhance community resilience against environmental challenges, including nature-based solutions and human-focused adaptations like cooling centers and flood protections?



Step 3: Scorecard

Total the stars for all categories, with a maximum score of 10 stars. The total score indicates the candidate's commitment to prioritizing climate action and their ambition in implementing progressive environmental policies.

Candidate Name:	
Position Running For:	
Criteria	Score
Climate Concern	☆
Environmental Track Record	☆
Community Engagement + Collaboration	☆
Ambition	☆
Renewable Energy Support	☆☆
Funding Priorities	☆☆
Resilience + Adaptation Measures	☆☆
TOTAL:	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Candidate Name:	
Position Running For:	
Criteria	Score
Climate Concern	☆
Environmental Track Record	☆
Community Engagement + Collaboration	☆
Ambition	☆
Renewable Energy Support	☆☆
Funding Priorities	☆☆
Resilience + Adaptation Measures	☆☆
TOTAL:	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



Ballot Measure 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 and mitigation, and environmental justice.

Step 1: Directions for Assessing Ballot Measures

- ★ **Preview Your Ballot:** Visit Vote411.org 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 and 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 by considering 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 + 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 for a maximum score of 15 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: ☆☆☆☆☆
	☆☆☆☆☆

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

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