

Tennessee Clean Water Network Questionnaire

- 1. What specific experience, expertise and education requirements would you use as criteria for selecting the new Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation?**

For each of the commissioners I appoint, I will make decisions based on competence, qualifications, character, and support for my overall vision for the state. My TDEC commissioner will be someone who understands the importance of conservation and protecting our natural resources and will work with my team to accomplish those goals in conjunction with our plans for job growth. As Mayor of Knoxville, I've been relentless in my pursuit of new opportunities to create jobs, but my administration also has an outstanding environmental track record. Under my leadership, Knoxville has become the only Solar America City in the Southeast, and we recently cut the ribbon on the first government LEED-certified building in Knoxville. Furthermore, sustainable development techniques employed during my tenure in Knoxville are saving taxpayers more than \$1 million.

As governor, I want TDEC to be a resource and not a hindrance for small businesses, and I want to foster an environment of collaboration between business and environmental interests. My administration will be a friend to the Tennesseans who live, work, and play in our state's natural beauty and who depend on its resources for jobs, and we will reject the false choice that pits the environment versus job growth and instead respect both the ecological and human aspects of our state's natural environment.

- 2. Municipal and state-backed models exist for public sector green jobs weatherization initiatives with innovative financing measures and cross-sector coordination (government, private investors, community, labor, business etc.) How would you support a large-scale initiative in TN as a strategy to generate much-needed jobs, reduce peak demand for energy, provide a pipeline for our young people to stay in th state while protecting green space and agricultural lands in Tennessee?**

Tennessee is on the verge of more than 6,000 direct jobs as a result of our recent investments in Hemlock Semiconductor, Wacker Chemie AG, electric and high-efficiency auto manufacturing and production, and our East and West Tennessee solar projects. I will ensure these investments create a truly sustainable economy by building and supporting the knowledge networks we need to retrain workers, expanding science and engineering expertise in secondary and higher education programs such as Tennessee Tech's STEM Center, and providing very targeted focus and support for small green businesses to succeed.

- 3. Almost half of Tennessee is in farmland, and agriculture provides over 200,000 jobs. Yet Tennessee loses over 42,000 acres of farmland each year to residential, commercial, and industrial development. What proactive measures would you take to improve the viability of Tennessee's farms?**

There is a reason the word "agriculture" is in the center of our state's seal. Agriculture remains central to our identity as Tennesseans and to our shared understanding of the kind of state we want to have. It's important for the state to maintain a sound infrastructure in order for rural economies to thrive, and it will also be important for the next governor to recognize the important role agriculture plays in conservation and tourism. We should work to connect farmers to markets here

in Tennessee in order to create a sustainable cycle of food production and use, and we must protect the values and quality of life of rural areas throughout our state.

4. What economic development incentives do you support to make Tennessee more competitive in the recruitment of renewable energy and energy efficiency manufacturing industries?

My top priority as governor will be making Tennessee the No. 1 state in the Southeast for high quality jobs. One of the best ways to grow jobs in this state is to build on your strengths, and I believe we have a great opportunity to leverage the international exposure we've received from being the preferred destination of energy-related companies such as Hemlock Semiconductor and Wacker Chemie AG as well as electric and high-efficiency auto manufacturing and unique solar research projects in East and West Tennessee. We have an opportunity to leverage and highlight our existing workforce and strength in manufacturing in order to attract additional renewable energy and energy efficient manufacturers.

We also must maintain an environment that is attractive to business, and this means keeping taxes low, ensuring there's never an income tax, and maintaining a light regulatory burden. My use of incentives will be targeted and based on measurable returns on investment and quantifiable impact on job creation. Taxpayers must be able to see a clear return on any tax dollars used to recruit companies. Every economic development opportunity will be evaluated for its particular potential to bring jobs and economic growth.

5. The state is required to establish water quality rules and standards no less stringent than those established by the federal government. Recognizing Tennessee's diverse and unique environment, on what terms do you support water quality protections greater than the minimum established by the EPA?

Tennessee's rich aquatic resources are used to meet a variety of needs across the state. These include a clean, reliable water supply for residents, agriculture and industry as well as excellent fisheries, recreational opportunities and globally significant biological diversity. Water is the lifeblood for our economy and our natural environment.

As governor, I will ensure my administration recognizes both priorities. First, we will fight recent attempts by other states to take some of our most precious sources of water. We will also link water supply needs to water quality protections so that all Tennesseans have access to reliable, clean drinking water. We will encourage regional watershed-based planning that allows local governments and citizens to ensure that the waters closest to them are safe and used in the way that makes the most sense in their communities. Ultimately, we should be proactive and autonomous enough to create the right quality standards for Tennessee.

6. As Governor, what steps would you take to support efforts to reduce the amount of water and coal TVA uses to make electricity by investing more in solar, wind, energy efficiency and other water saving energy technologies?

Tennessee is rich in natural resources, but Tennessee also has been a leader in switching to green power. TVA's wind farm on Buffalo Mountain, our hydroelectric dams, and our nuclear plants combine to produce 30 percent of our state's electric power, making Tennessee a leader in generating clean and reliable energy. TVA's environmental policy calls for the agency to raise that

number to 50 percent of all power from renewable sources by 2020. As governor, I will work with TVA, our municipal distributors, electric co-ops, and electric ratepayers to help TVA meet that goal and to make sure that environmental impacts are kept to a minimum.