

RESPONSE TO SPC QUESTIONNAIRE

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Candidate for Representative for the 14th RD

QUESTIONS

1. What can elected officials do to preserve open spaces including forests? Are new ordinances or legislation needed? What should be the priority?

Preserving our open spaces in Sussex County must be a priority for all elected officials. Coordination between the State and the County is essential to successful preservation. While the County has the most direct impact on open space preservation, I believe the State must work with the County to provide guidance, direction, and support. Environmental regulations should be strengthened at the State level and infrastructure must be in place before further developments threaten our open spaces. The State should provide more direction regarding the need to curb unbridled growth that destroys our open spaces and forests. It is unacceptable that Sussex County loses about 1,000 acres a year of forests.

2. Clean water is fundamental to community health. What specific policies or practices are critical to ensuring that all waterways are clean and healthy?

There are serious concerns about the quality of Delaware's drinking water. Our public health experts have informed us that we must act to remove PFAS. I will work with DNREC and DHSS on efforts to address this. The State must prevent manufacturers, slaughterhouses, and factory farms from contributing to waterway contamination and pollution. Delaware must collaborate with the

Federal Government to implement the Clean Water Act and enact further legislation necessary to assure clean water.

3. What do you consider the most critical infrastructure problems facing Sussex County, and how do you propose to address those problems?

First of all, we need to plan our infrastructure. Infrastructure should be in place before we rush to build new developments. Our State transportation officials should weigh in with those planning new developments and construction to be sure provisions are made to have the roads and access in place before proceeding with construction. Infrastructure coordination is paramount. Planning for one particular development and its needs must be considered within an overall plan for the county to assure infrastructure requirements are in place. Certainly, road design and planning are key infrastructure challenges, and the various safety factors involved in their creation and implementation must be addressed. Other aspects of infrastructure involve assuring access to health services and schools. Planning for the integration and coordination of these elements of infrastructure is essential. To that end, I heartily endorse the "Plan-Prepare-Build" and "Don't build it if the infrastructure can't support it" approaches offered in "The Agenda for Livable Communities."

4. Do you think Sussex County has a good balance between personal rights and community rights? If so, please explain your thinking. If not, how would you work to create a better balance?

While individuals have the right to pursue their interests with their own properties, the impact of their decisions and actions on the community must be considered. Fairness to all and the advancement of the public interest should be the goals for which we strive together. Strong feelings often emerge around the issues raised, but we must work in an amicable way to resolve the

challenges. I believe we can do that and I want to contribute to the solutions. Increased opportunities for more public engagement and citizen participation will help to advance the goal of achieving a better balance between personal rights and community rights.

5. Can and should the working relationship between state and local officials be improved? If so, why and how?

There is a need for more coordination between State and local officials. An efficient resolution to the environmental and preservation challenges we face sometimes appears to get lost in the bureaucratic interplay of those involved. There seems to be a need for more timely resolution of requests for information, input, and decision-making. The public can have difficulty understanding what is occurring and there is a need for more transparency. If elected to the General Assembly, I would press for more engagement and direction from the General Assembly in the preservation-related issues before the county. The Legislature should not micro-manage the work of the county, but it should offer more encouragement and helpful engagement to advance the public interest in preservation. Creation of a Sussex County Conservation Plan, as called for in the Sussex Preservation Coalition's "Agenda for a Livable Communities" would help guide the actions required together for State and local officials.

6. Is there anything else you wish to add?

I strongly admire and support the work of the Sussex Preservation Coalition. I consider it one of the best examples we have in Sussex County of informed and engaged citizens stepping up to make a positive difference on issues of concern to our community. I affirm and endorse without reservation or hesitation "The Agenda for Livable Communities" advanced by the Sussex Preservation Coalition. It is a blueprint for action for all our elected officials, and I want to implement it as Representative for the 14th RD. I regularly attend the Sussex Preservation Coalition meetings and I learn so much from the speakers and attendees. I would like to take their

knowledge, recommendations, and positive energy to Dover as their voice in the General Assembly.