



Questions for Pittsburgh District Attorney candidates:

1. HUMANE ACTION Pittsburgh is seeking to shape Pittsburgh into ‘America’s Model Humane City’. This means participating in an open dialogue on animal protection, working to end animal cruelty for all animals and passing protective legislation where needed.

What are your plans to protect animals and can you support our goals to make Pittsburgh America’s Model Humane City?

Answer: While I will stand firm on prosecuting cases that come before me with facts and evidence of animal cruelty, I recognize that there is more for me to learn in order to be an effective advocate in helping to make Pittsburgh America’s Model Humane City. I look forward to the dialogue and engaging in the process.

2. The resilience strategy “ONEPgh” calls for a 50% reduction of the meat consumed in our city by 2030. This is in keeping with the United Nations recommendation to combat climate change, which states: The #1 corrective action is to greatly reduce or give up meat entirely. This is more impactful to the environment than discontinuing the use of cars and airplanes altogether.

What are your plans to protect animals and the environment through meat reduction?

Answer: As my family and I do our part to have meatless days in our household, again, there is more for me to learn on how I can be an added support using a larger platform in my role as District Attorney. I look forward to the dialogue and learning from organizations such as Humane Action on how to meet these goals.

3. Plastic pollution is a growing problem worldwide, and in the city of Pittsburgh. HAP’s “*no plastic please*” campaign works to end single-use plastic wherever possible. We also encourage people to examine their dietary choices as approximately half of the plastic in the ocean is from commercial fishing.

What are your plans to reduce or eliminate plastic use in the City of Pittsburgh?

Answer: As District Attorney, my office will participate in many of the county programs geared towards eradicating pollution. I am also willing to share useful information and resources with my staff in efforts to implement practices that will limit single-use plastic and other environmentally harmful practices in and around the office.

4. Our city has one of the worst wildlife trapping policies, meaning highest kill rate, for a city of our size in the United States. Residents have become used to calling Animal Care & Control to trap groundhogs, raccoons and skunks which must then be euthanized at tax payer expense. For the most part, trapping is a temporary solution as other animals will fill the void, leading a cycle of trapping and killing.

Will you prioritize an education campaign for Pittsburgh residents that separates wildlife myth from reality and support a policy change to reduce the amount of needless trapping?

Answer: Yes, I am a firm believer that true education is what allows us to collectively advance and make informed decisions. Again, I recognize that there is more for me to learn in order to be an effective advocate in helping to make Pittsburgh America's Model Humane City. I look forward to the dialogue and engaging in the process.

5. The Pittsburgh Zoo is currently ranked the #2 Worst Zoo in the County for elephants. They are in violation of their lease with the City of Pittsburgh for failing to maintain AZA accreditation. Further, no satisfactory answer has been received from the Zoo or the City as to whether the Zoo is following city law, which bans the use of bullhooks and other instruments of pain on elephants.

What are your plans to ensure the Pittsburgh Zoo follows city law and regains their AZA accreditation?

Answer: This is a matter that I have only a surface level awareness of. Again, I commit to educating myself and staff to ensure the appropriate measures are taken to ensure we are all safe, including our animal friends.

6. Please let our members know what you have done in the past to protect animals.

I appreciate and respect animals as the creatures they are, I have not and will not stand for the mistreatment of animals. I have prosecuted individuals who have mistreated animals and as your District Attorney, I will continue to do the same.