



Questions for Pittsburgh City Council District 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: I look forward to partnering with Humane Action to bring awareness of the stated goal to make Pittsburgh America’s Model Humane city to the residents of District 7. If elected I will be enacting Council to Go throughout the district, discussing issues that are specific to each community, but also to raise awareness of important organizations such as Humane Action Pittsburgh. I will have an open-door policy to accommodate any opportunities to dedicate meetings specifically to this issue and or other times Human Action might want to reach out to District 7 residents.

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: I look forward to helping to educate District 7 on the importance of reducing meat consumption. Again, I look forward to hosting educational meetings throughout the district. Also, if elected, my office will always make sure to offer at least one or more meat free options at any community meetings we coordinate.

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: I have already pledged not to offer any single use plastic during my campaign. I will continue the practice of not offering single use plastic water bottles whenever I host meetings. I will be sure to communicate why I will not be providing water bottles, to continue educating my constituents on the importance of eliminating single use plastics.

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: I would be supportive of an education campaign that informs residents of wildlife myths from reality. I would also support a city-wide policy change to reduce the amount of needless trapping. Again, I would offer my council on the go meetings as a vehicle to help educate residents of District 7.

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: As a city council member I would encourage the Zoo to follow the city law that bans bullhooks and other instruments of pain on elephants. Also, if I am appointed to the Board, like the current District 7 representative, I would work through the Board to encourage the Zoo to follow the city law and to work with the AZA and try to regain accreditation.

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

Answer: I have not worked on any specific project with the main goal of protecting animals. However, I have personally turned in neighbors for neglect of their pets. And I support any efforts in protecting animals that cannot protect themselves.