



Questions for Allegheny County Council 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 build the Model Humane City?

*Answer: All life is precious, human and animal and needs to be protected. I am aware of and support the elimination of puppy mills and other forms of animal cruelty.*

2. The United Nations has recommended that the #1 corrective action we can take to combat climate change is to greatly reduce or eliminate meat and dairy. 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 a nurse, I know there are definitely health benefits to reducing saturated fats in our diets. As meatless food becomes more available, people will naturally reduce meat. I prefer education and smart choices over government regulations.*

3. Plastic pollution is a growing problem worldwide, and in Allegheny County. 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 Allegheny County?

*Answer: I support and practice the use of re-usable bags. I support the County continuing to replace “old style water fountains,” with the hydration fountain design for refillable water bottles to encourage their use and to continue to educate the public with the benefits. I demonstrated this when I called for and followed-up with County Councilmembers being given reusable mugs to use during the meetings, replacing the use of the disposable bottles.*

4. Allegheny County has very limited resources when it comes to helping homeowners resolve wildlife conflicts in a humane way. Many police departments are not knowledgeable of safe and humane ways to deal with situations that may arise.

Will you prioritize an education campaign for Allegheny County residents and police that separates wildlife myth from reality and support policy changes to help our wild neighbors?

*Answer: Our recently implemented Park Ranger program is uniquely positioned to facilitate this type of awareness program. I appreciate the suggestion and will explore.*

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

*Answer: Personally, our property is certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Wildlife Habitat. This certifies that our property provides the four basic habitat elements needed for wildlife to thrive: food, water, cover and places to raise young.*

*As a councilwoman, when I recently became aware of a dangerous condition in one of our parks that threatened animals, and actually entrapped a deer, I took immediate steps through the County Manager and Public Works Department to rescue the animal and eliminate the hazard.*