

# 350 Action 2018 Candidate Questionnaire

## Dana Balter

---

05/30/2018

### About You

**Your Name:** Dana Balter

**What office are you running for, and as which party?:** Democrat running for Congress, NY-24

### Policy Positions

**Do you support a swift transition to 100% renewable energy, like wind and solar?**

Yes

**Please say more about what you'd do if elected to bring about a 100% renewable energy economy that works for all of us.**

If elected, I will sponsor a tax on carbon emissions and support incentives for the manufacturing of green technology and the construction of green infrastructure. The growth in wind power is a driving force in New York state's transition to renewable energy, and has the potential to provide over half of the state's energy. Central New York's labor, industrial, and research base will help drive the process.

**Do you support a moratorium on all new fossil fuel infrastructure, like pipelines and fracked gas power plants?**

Yes

**Please say more about what you'd do if elected to stop the expansion of the fossil fuel industry and keep fossil fuels in the ground.**

Fracking is a particular concern in Central New York, where our water and environmental quality have a tremendous impact on the Finger Lakes region and surrounding towns. If elected, I will support a national ban on fracking - to match our state ban in New York - and block permits for the construction of new fossil fuel pipelines. As a Member of Congress, I will also make reforming our system of campaign finance my number one issue, which will decrease the political power of the fossil fuel industry.

**Do you support a just and equitable transition to a fossil free economy that works for all of us?**

Yes

**Please say more about what you'd do if elected to ensure a just and equitable transition. We're**

**interested in climate policies that seek to remedy existing environmental and social injustices.**

We're facing some of the very issues here in Central New York. Interstate 81 through Syracuse needs major repairs. The "community grid" plan I support would be relocate the road away from central Syracuse, providing environmental benefits to the city. But demolishing the existing structure and reconfiguring the city layout would displace thousands of low-income and public housing residents. I've been a strong advocate for ensuring that those displaced people would be given the option of relocation to more-desirable neighborhoods, or a right to return to their community in higher quality housing as part of an integrated (racially and economically).

Much like the transition from fossil to renewable energy, this change in our largest city's layout and transportation patterns will have major and sometimes unanticipated impact on historically disadvantaged communities. I'd be a strong advocate for ensuring that the positive opportunities from the changes are accessible to all, and that we work hard to anticipate and mitigate the inevitable ripple effects they cause.

## Running a Progressive Campaign

**Do you pledge not to accept any contributions from the fossil fuel industry, as defined by the "No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge"?**

Yes

**Do you support fossil fuel divestment campaigns in your state and around the world?**

Yes

**Have you participated in any major climate mobilizations, marches, direct actions, or sit-ins in the past year?**

I participated in both the Climate March and the March for Science, and have held round tables with energy experts and activists while on the campaign trail. I was also involved in several phone banking campaigns to push Rep. John Katko and members of the New York State Assembly to address flooding in Syracuse and the climate disruption at its root. I've also been a public supporter of the effort at Syracuse University (my employer) to divest from fossil fuels.

**What's your relationship with leading climate activists in your district?**

**Please share an example of how you like to talk about the intersection of climate and other social justice issues on the campaign trail.**

Fresh water is one of our region's most important natural resources. Recently, climate disruption and pollution have caused toxic algal blooms to appear in the Finger Lakes region. These blooms can cause long-term liver and neurological damage if ingested, and pose a great threat to residents who rely on the lakes for our drinking water. We also have lead pipes in our Syracuse city water system. Low-income families (who in Syracuse are often people of color) cannot afford workarounds like buying bottled

water. Access to clean, safe drinking water is a fundamental human right. We cannot allow that access to be dependent on economic status.

**Would you be interested in doing a Facebook live event with 350 Action staff and local leaders?**

Yes

**On September 9th, 2018, the climate movement will come together in California and around the world for a massive day of climate action. Are you willing to mark this date on your calendar and potentially join us at an event?**

Yes

**Are you willing to join us at climate movement actions to speak out against the fossil fuel industry and/or the Trump Administration once you are in office?**

Yes

## Demographics and Identity

**Race:** Caucasian

**Gender:** Female

**If you'd like, tell us more about your identity in your own words:**



