

350 Action 2018 Candidate Questionnaire

Christa Yoakum

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About You

Your Name: Christa Yoakum

What office are you running for, and as which party?: Democratic candidate for Nebraska Public Service Commission, District 1

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.

I would support any opportunities to incentivise renewable energy, improvements to the grid or other ways that the could fall under the purview of the Public Service Commission. I support raising the limit on household and business net metering to allow individuals and businesses to maximize their own production of renewables. In my district we have an opportunity to have an autonomous electric shuttle. I am the only candidate who believes we need to explore ptions like this.

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.

I am the only candidate who can block the TransCanada KXL Pipeline through Nebraska. There is no other candidate running this cycle who openly opposes the pipeline. Depending on the NE Supreme Court decision in the next few months, they new application will com back to the PSC and I could be the third vote on the five-member commission to deny it. Any other pipeline would be scrutinized similarly. Until this point it has been the opposition of the people - the members of the trbes, the landowners and concerned citizens - who have been able to hold it at bay in Nebraska. I intend to be an elected official who will stand with and for those citizen activists.

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.

Environmental Justice advocates have shown that the people most hurt by climate change reside in communities of color and residents of the Global South. Those underserved communities must have representation in solutions and that community organizing is a skill I will employ to be sure they are involved in making decisions about public transportation, community-owned renewables, job-skills opportunities with local unions for clean energy jobs so that solutions work and are affordable for all.

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 have participated in The People's Climate March and the large No KXL March both in Lincoln, NE. I also donated to individuals who were going to Standing Rock and participated in local drives for food and supplies to go to Standing Rock. I was present when a Nebraska farm family deeded a portion of their land in the KXL Pipeline path back to the Ponca Tribe and participated in planting of Sacred Corn on that land.

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.

Environmental Justice advocates have shown that the people most hurt by climate change reside in communities of color and residents of the Global South. When I worked the South Sudanese Out of Country Vote to separate their country, my Sudanese friends who worked on pipelines in their country told me about the vegetation dying where pipelines ran, then the animals became sick, then the people became sick. Those stories remain with me and part of the narrative I use. The volume of low income children and children of color affected by asthma is a crisis similar to lead paint poisoning which led to banning lead paint. Extreme and immediate actions are needed.

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?

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: White

Gender: Female

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

