

350 Action 2019 Candidate Questionnaire

Stephen Smith

1/07/2020

About You

Your Name: Stephen Smith

What office are you running for, and as which party?: *Democratic candidate for Governor West Virginia*

Policy Positions

Do you support a Green New Deal that ends fossil fuels and provides an immediate and just transition to 100% renewable energy? Explain what that means to you.

We have put forward a plan to raise severance taxes and pollution fines and fees to pay for a massive clean energy jobs program and infrastructure program here in West Virginia.

How will you center racial, economic and social justice in your climate policies?

We have put forward a plan to establish an Office of Representation in state government to ensure race, class, gender, and sexuality representation in all government programs and appointments. We will also use state law enforcement to police discrimination and political corruption in government programs.

Do you support a moratorium on all new fossil fuel infrastructure, including pipelines, fracked gas and oil, compressor stations and coal power plants? Please tell us with specifics what you'd do, if elected to stop the expansion of the fossil fuel industry and keep fossil fuels in the ground?

We have put forward a plan to raise standards, increase enforcement, and increase the cost of permits, fines, and most of all - taxes - on the fossil fuel industry to a level never advanced in the history of Appalachia, in order to speed up the process of transition from fossil fuels to clean energy.

Do you support investigation of the fossil fuel industry's role in causing climate change, blocking climate action, and misleading the public? If so, do you have plans for a process to hold the industry financially accountable for that role and related harms?

Yes. We will support federal investigations into this and are open to ways state governments can help too.

Do you pledge to reject any contributions from the fossil fuel industry, as defined by the "No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge"?

Yes

Do you support plans to create an immigration policy that allows a path to citizenship for undocumented people?

Yes.

What are your specific plans on addressing the refugees and other migrants at the US borders?

We will do everything we can to make West Virginia a welcoming state, including support of the WV Interfaith Refugee Ministries and other efforts to connect faith communities and community centers with refugees.

How do you see climate change impacting mass migrations and what are your plans to address the increase in refugees as a result of the climate crisis?

We will do everything we can to make West Virginia a welcoming state, including support of the WV Interfaith Refugee Ministries and other efforts to connect faith communities and community centers with refugees. We are open to other suggestions for what can be done through state government.

What are your plans for criminal justice reform?

We have put forward a detailed plan for reducing our prison population by 75%.

Do you support a worker's right to unionize?

Yes. We are also the first campaign in West Virginia history to have a staff union.

Do you support a \$15/hour minimum wage?

Yes.

How do you plan to address the resurgence of white supremacy in the public discourse? Please tell us your plan to respond to white nationalist terrorist acts in this country?

We have put forward an ambitious plan to attack racial discrimination at all levels of state government, including withholding funding to programs, local governments, and agencies that persist in

What is your plan to reduce gun violence and mass shootings?

We believe that reducing violence in our communities and schools starts with reducing violence and trauma permitted by government. We need mental health professionals in every school, community and recreational opportunities in every community, mental health and suicide prevention services available to every human being, and an economy that does not throw people away.

Do you support the payment of reparations and/or related structural adjustment to remunerate the descendants of enslaved African Americans to addressing America's history of codified and systemic racism?

Yes.

Do you support the return of unceded lands and territory or related royalties to Indigenous Populations as a form of redress for America's history of codified and systemic racism?

Yes.

Do you support Medicare for All?

Yes.

Do you support a woman's right to choose?

Yes

Race:

White

Gender:

Male

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