

# State Level Questionnaire

The Environmental League of MA Action Fund builds political power that meets the scale and urgency of our environmental challenges. We are looking to the future and want to know how your priorities align with ours.

## Section 1

### Campaign Contact Information

#### 1.Candidate First Name

Tommy

#### 2.Candidate Last Name

Vitolo

#### 3.Questionnaire completed by (if not candidate)

Tommy Vitolo

#### 4.District

15<sup>th</sup> Norfolk

#### 5.Personal or campaign email

tjvitolo@tommyvitolo.com

#### 6.Candidate Cell Phone

617.872.8921

#### 7.Website

www.tommyvitolo.com

#### 8.Facebook

www.fb.com/VoteVitolo

#### 9.Twitter

TommyVitolo

## Section 2

### Climate Change and Energy

We must reach our 2030 greenhouse gas emissions reduction mandate. With only eight years to reduce our emissions by 50%, we must act boldly, quickly and equitably -- and in a way that sets us on a trajectory to get to net zero emissions by 2050. Please briefly explain your top 2-3 priorities and how you intend to advance them, if elected.

#### 10.Priority 1

Building decarbonization -- 2M buildings, each requiring individual MEP planning. I worked the Specialized Stretch, now working on improving base and stretch for default electrification or electrification ready, and working the Building Justice with Jobs angle.

#### 11.Priority 2

Transportation -- both mass transit and pushing back on 20th century funding of surface transpo -- against road widening, increasing Ch 90, rolling back gas tax, etc.

## 12. Priority 3

Renewables -- supporting TUE Chair Roy with candid, private political and technical advice on issues of RPS, T&D, OSW, Mass Save, DPU reprioritization, ISO-NE, and more.

### Section 3

## Offshore Wind

Offshore wind is the single biggest lever we have to transition away from fossil fuels, significantly reduce GHG emissions, save ratepayers billions of dollars in electricity costs, meet our energy needs, and create good paying jobs. Several New England states, led by Massachusetts, have successfully worked together to procure offshore wind resources.

13. Do you support taking actions that would enable Massachusetts to have at least 14 gigawatts of responsibly-developed offshore wind under contract by 2035?

**Yes**

No

14. Explain your answer (optional)

I'd add: let's "land" the OSW not just in South Coast but also Boston, Salem, and Plymouth, for grid diversity, broader political support, and other benefits the FERC prohibits actively discussing.

15. Offshore wind is a \$100B industry getting underway in New England, with 30-50 gigawatts needed in the region to achieve net zero. This is a massive opportunity to build wealth in disadvantaged communities and drive equitable economic benefits. Do you support legislation to ensure economic inclusion in the offshore wind industry?

**Yes**

No

16. Explain your answer (optional)

### Section 4

## Decarbonizing Buildings

17. Buildings are the second largest source of emissions in Massachusetts. Do you support legislation that would raise significant revenue dedicated to retrofit existing buildings?

**Yes**

No

18. Explain your answer (optional)

We've got to target poor and working class homes directly, and quickly.

19. Would you support a ban on fossil fuel hook-ups in new buildings?

**Yes**

No

20.Explain your answer (optional)Single line text.

Brookline's WA19, the first east coast bill substantially similar to pass, was born on my front porch.

Section 5

## Transportation

21.Electrifying public transit and personal vehicles will reduce emissions, eliminate harmful tailpipe pollutants, and save consumers money on fuel and maintenance. Would you support policies that electrify publicly owned vehicle fleets and transit by 2035?

**Yes**

No

22.Explain your answer (optional)

Notably commuter rail (to become regional rail), for both emissions and other benefits. Green Communities provisions should pivot all muni and state gov't to EVs.

23.Our statewide transportation system has unfunded needs well into the billions of dollars. Would you support raising new state revenues for transportation investments throughout the Commonwealth?

**Yes**

No

24.Explain your answer (optional).

Careful here: I'm not inclined to spend money with a Robert Moses vision of more automobile throughput. We need to enable EVs, but perhaps more importantly, buses and trolleys, bicycles and pedestrians, to move efficiently and safely.

25.Because transportation emits more climate pollution than any other sector, would you support prioritizing existing and any new revenues (state or federal) to enhance and expand public transportation, walking, and biking investments that reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

**Yes**

No

26.Explain your answer (optional)Single line text.

You bet! Keep in mind though that the suburban built environment means we can't mass transit/bike/walk our way out of emissions reductions. We need BOTH better transit/bike/walk AND more EV support. Also note: my family of 4 includes a 11 year old and 7 year old child; we don't own an automobile and haven't in 15 years.

27. Would you support mandating that all new light duty vehicles registered in Massachusetts starting in 2035 be electric?

**Yes**

No

28. Explain your answer (optional)

Recognizing that we're emulating California policy and it might be difficult to tweak it, I'd like to see higher priced autos be required to be electric before 2035, or some kind of feebate to facilitate a cash-for-combustion program.

29. Low-income communities and communities of color have borne disproportionate impacts from past transportation decisions, in terms of being underserved by the system, unable to afford options, and living in neighborhoods with poor air quality due to transportation pollution. Would you support dedicating a certain percentage of state and federal funds we anticipate receiving to ensure that environmental justice communities receive their fair share of service and projects?

**Yes**

No

30. Explain your answer (optional) Single line text.

Enter your answer

31. Additionally, these same communities continue to bear the impacts from the disproportionate siting of polluting facilities in their neighborhoods, including power plants and fuel storage facilities. Would you support legislation that would reform the energy facilities siting board to add climate, public health and equity into the decision-making process, expand the board's membership to include a representative from an environmental justice community and ensure EJ communities are able to meaningfully participate in the process? Required to answer.

**Yes**

No

32. Explain your answer (optional) Single line text.

Section 6

## Budget

33. Energy and environmental agencies do not have the staff and resources to effectively carry out their current mandates and the increasing responsibilities

of addressing climate change, protecting natural resources and public health and addressing environmental justice. Would you include energy and environmental agencies in your shortlist of budget priorities?

**Yes**

No

34.Explain your answer (optional)

Working with Reps Ciccolo and Owens, on behalf of the Progressive Caucus, we included this budget priority in several meetings with the Chair of Ways and Means.

35.The idea of a public bank and/or a 'green bank' has been raised as an opportunity to increase access to capital for entrepreneurs, companies and projects in the environment and clean technology sectors. Such an entity could also help to address long held disparities in access to capital. Would you support the creation of a Massachusetts public bank and/or a green bank?

**Yes**

No

36.Explain your answer (optional)

## Section 7

### Climate

37.Do you support policies that incentivize energy storage to significantly increase its role in our energy system?

**Yes**

No

38.Explain your answer (optional)Single line text.

There is excitement at the residential level (single family home), but I think the best opportunities will be on the distribution grid because they will be more cost effective and won't have the "me vs. we" dilemma faced by individual household's storage operating parameters.

39.Do you support significantly expanding responsibly-sited solar on our grid?

**Yes**

No

40.Explain your answer (optional)

Enter your answer

41.Do you support committing Massachusetts to a path of 100% clean electricity by 2035?

**Yes**

No

42.Explain your answer (optional)

I support -- but the policy mechanism matters. We don't want a system that gets us 98% of the way there with a market mechanism that doubles the price of RE for all 98% of the supply, thereby providing a windfall for owners of already-existing RE at high cost to ratepayers. Let's discuss the policy mechanisms!

Section 8

## Waste

We are generating huge amounts of waste and the ways we dispose of it are degrading our environment. In addition, the rising costs of recycling are burdening municipalities. By shifting the responsibility of paying for packaging to its producers, we can incentivize waste reduction, minimize the amount being sent to landfills and incinerators, relieve pressure on tight public budgets, and improve air quality.

43. Would you support policies that ask product manufacturers to pay into a fund that supports programs to reduce solid waste?

**Yes**

No

44. Explain your answer (optional)

Enter your answer