



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sangamon Valley Group of the Sierra Club Springfield Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Mark Mahoney

Office Sought: Alderman – Ward 6

Last year, the city of Springfield reached a historic agreement with the Sierra Club for a clean energy plan to reduce pollution levels, purchase wind power, and increase investments in energy efficiency and conservation programs. Questions 1-3 relate to the agreement.

1) Part of the plan calls for increases in annual spending on energy efficiency and conservation programs. Will you support keeping Springfield's commitment to those efforts by maintaining the spending levels called for in the energy plan?

Yes, I as a member of the city council I voted for the agreement.

2) Will you support maintaining the City's commitment to purchase at least 120MW of wind power for Springfield, of which 60MW will be paid for by the State of Illinois?

Yes, we have already approved a contract for 20MW and are in the process of approving an agreement for 100MW.

3) As part of the agreement, CWLP will offer a green power program, where residents and businesses can choose to purchase some or all of their electricity from wind power and other renewable resources at a higher cost. Currently, this program does not require CWLP to acquire additional green power when customers participate in the program. Do you support allowing customers to pay for additional clean energy development (beyond the 120MW requirement) through this green power program?

Yes if they so choose and it is obtainable.

4) Would you support using wells in the Sangamon River Valley as a secondary source to meet the city's future water needs, which would be a less expensive and more environmentally friendly alternative to building a second lake?

Yes, I believe all options should be considered. I believe the City of Springfield needs to move ahead in planning for our future water resource needs. A big part of that planning will involve seeking out all affordable options for meeting our needs including future potential for conservation of our use.

5) What actions would you take to enhance the network of bicycle paths in Springfield?

I would support efforts to work closely with the state and surrounding community to continue to connect our region with a network of bike paths. The city should work to include funding resources through grants and other potential funds including the city budget if possible.

6) What actions would you take to encourage development within Springfield's city center, and discourage sprawl?

I believe the city needs to make a renewed commitment to redeveloping our infrastructure throughout the older neighborhoods. We need to provide incentives for developers and residents by providing a sound infrastructure of roads, sidewalks, and an updated sewer system in our older areas. Further, I believe an aggressive commitment from the city in the area of long term planning and redevelopment of our older neighborhoods is lacking and needs to be improved. Part of that commitment will require the development of economic incentives that encourage developers and homeowners to seek out our historic neighborhoods that are in walking distance of the downtown and surrounding area.

7) Many cities, including Normal Illinois, have adopted ordinances that promote sustainability, energy conservation and environmental concerns for buildings. Do you think Springfield should promote green building practices such as providing incentives for developers, or rewriting zoning, stormwater management, building, and other ordinances? If yes, what steps should Springfield take to implement these standards?

Yes, the city should consider what other communities have done to encourage energy conservation in old and new buildings.

8) Do you support the expansion of Springfield bus service into evening hours? Are there any other steps you would take to encourage increased use of public transportation?

Yes, I believe that we need a stronger commitment from SMTD to make this happen.

9) Will you support the phasing-in of energy efficient and low pollution vehicles into the city's fleet?

Yes.

10) Please add any comments you may have.

As a member of the city council I believe my record is clear.