



## 2024 Alexandria City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Please share any responses by Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup> to  
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CANDIDATE NAME: **Abdel Elnoubi**

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1. In 2019, in response to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Climate, our city made a *Declaration of Climate Emergency*, and created its *2040 Environmental Action Plan* and *Green Building Policy* (GBP). A key goal of that EAP was to achieve a 50% reduction from 2005 levels of greenhouse gas pollution emitted by Alexandria by 2030. In the last election campaign, most if not all candidates identified climate change as among their top five priorities.
  - a. **Do you agree that Alexandria is in a climate emergency, and if so, where do you rank the climate emergency among your priorities?**

Yes, and I would group climate action and sustainability as one of top 5 priorities on my website and on my campaign materials.

**Are you committed to achieving the goal of 50% GHG reduction in our community-wide emissions by 2030, or do you see this as aspirational?**

Yes, as while difficult it is conceivable and being aspirational is very important in this case as we have no other alternative.
2. To its credit, the present Mayor and Council have established and begun funding a City Office of Climate Action.
  - a. **How will you evaluate our progress on achieving the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets included in the City's Environmental Action Plan?**

Buildings are the biggest concern. Buildings are the largest emitter, and achieving net zero buildings in government buildings especially and incentivizing greener solutions for residential buildings would be astute indicators of progress. Also setting goals for DASH and School bus fleet replacements and measuring against those goals. Providing more charging stations
  - b. **How will you hold the City Manager accountable for achieving the reductions necessary to meet these targets?**

By Including those goals in his performance goals
3. The Office of Climate Action is developing an update of our Green Building Policy to limit the increase in emissions from new buildings. Similarly, our neighbors in Arlington, Montgomery County, and the District of Columbia, among others in the region, have been strengthening their green building policies. Developers have raised concerns about this and are asking candidates to oppose or dilute this policy.
  - a. **How do you respond to the developers' threats that they will go to other jurisdictions if we upgrade energy efficiency requirements in new buildings approved under the DSUP process?**

Developer obstruction must be handled on the state level, though the city can impose incentives to encourage using rooftop solar or revise the policy itself. Also work with other jurisdictions to have similar standards so developers can't play us against each other.

- b. **Will you support a Green Building Policy that requires levels of energy efficiency in new buildings, such as reaching net-zero energy use, that are in line with our 2030 and 2050 emissions reduction goals?**  
 Yes, revising the green building policy would be a top environmental priority for me.
- c. **How should Alexandria estimate and plan for the multi-generational social costs to our community if developers continue to put up buildings that waste energy and burn methane?**  
 Develop clear goals and metrics before that occurs, and ensure proper levels of funding for the Climate Action Office. Also, by estimating the cost of addressing the health issues that will arise from continuing putting up said buildings.
4. Buildings are responsible for about 60% of our community's greenhouse gas pollution, and existing buildings are responsible for about 95% of those emissions. Sharply reducing energy use in existing buildings is critical for reaching our 2030 climate goals, will save residents and businesses money over the long-term, and make buildings more comfortable and healthy. As Virginia is a Dillon Rule state and cannot mandate energy reductions of private property, the City is currently limited to incentives such as financial subsidies, tax relief, public recognition, technical assistance, revamping the City's PACE program, and taking advantage of existing federal, state and utility weatherization programs. The City can also expand the reach of Alexandria's Green Building Policy to include all renovated buildings that are subject to City land use approval.
- a. **What level of priority should be given to reducing building energy use and methane emissions in existing buildings, and how would you propose financing and supporting such efforts?**  
 Top priority for environmental efforts, using tax dollars and pursuing grants.
- b. **Which of the abovementioned ideas would you support, and what other ideas can you offer for reducing the energy use of our existing buildings by 50% by 2030?**  
 Revising the Green Building policy, implementing the Energy and Climate Action Plan, and directly addressing climate injustice. Providing more charging stations (and incentives for them) and tax incentives for electric vehicle owners (like a car property tax relief) may also prove helpful.
5. Climate change is steadily increasing flooding and extreme precipitation risks. Alexandria has already made substantial investments in flood control, both in our stormwater infrastructure and along the Old Town waterfront. At the same time, some Alexandria neighborhoods are considerably hotter than others, due to historic redlining, the urban heat island effect, and a lack of tree coverage and green space.
- a. **How should projected changes in flooding and extreme weather events over the coming years be accounted for in our City's infrastructure investments?**  
 Examine and as needed revise building, storm water, and sewer design standards to accommodate this new reality.
- b. **Will you support providing funding to increase planting and maintenance of trees with a priority in our hottest neighborhoods, adequately connecting residents to cooling centers if they cannot afford air conditioning, and other needed actions?**  
 Absolutely

6. Use of public transportation, bicycling and walking should become default modes of transportation in order to increase the safety and livability of our communities, provide mobility for those who cannot drive, and reduce energy use and air pollution.

**a. Do you support continuing free DASH service, and investments in bus rapid transit (BRT) routes and bus stop infrastructure?**

Yes, I strongly support doing so, having served on the DASH advisory board and worked in transit for over a decade, I realize the critical role public transportation plays in improving the livability and opportunities in communities while reducing our carbon footprint.. On the School Board, I supported several grants that ACPS applied for and subsequently won, some having led to replacing 15 buses with electric buses.

**b. Do support establishing protected bike lanes along key routes to connect all Alexandrians?**

Yes