This fall, Color Irondequoit Green sent a brief questionnaire to candidates seeking offices representing Irondequoit in whole, or in part (some electoral districts overlap municipal boundaries). The candidates were given several weeks to reply to the survey, and informed that late responses would also be made available to CIG membership. If CIG receives any additional responses, they will be posted on the website, and social media.

Of the seventeen candidates running for office, four responded to the questionnaire, though two of the seventeen couldn’t be reached. Their responses are presented below in unedited form, along with the text of the questionnaire, and a list of candidates who will appear on the ballots of Irondequoit voters. A PDF version of the questionnaire and responses will also be attached in the Files section of the Facebook group, and made available on CIG’s website.

[Note: CIG did not send its questionnaire to either candidate for Monroe County Executive because CIG’s county-wide umbrella organization, Color Your Community Green, sent a similar questionnaire to those two candidates. The responses from Adam Bello and Mark Assini to the CYCG survey have been posted separately for CIG members’ consideration.]

CIG is non-partisan, and seeks to work with all elected officials, regardless of party affiliation, in order to effectuate changes in service of the organization’s mission and vision. That said, CIG understands that one of the most powerful ways for citizens to act on their climate and environmental values --particularly at the local level-- is to vote. It is therefore important for voters to be able to arm themselves with information about the concerns and agendas of the people seeking to represent them.

Please look over the brief responses to the questionnaire. If you have additional questions for the candidates, visit their websites, or contact their campaigns. Links to candidates’ websites (if they exist) will be included in the comments. Please read on to see the questionnaire, and responses. CIG welcomes member input in improving the development and distribution of future candidate questionnaires.
Greetings,

We are grateful that you have chosen to run for office! No one takes that step lightly, and we assume you are hoping to bring your particular skills and background to this leadership position to make it a better place for all. Thank you!

Color Irondequoit Green is a volunteer, nonpartisan network of hundreds of members working towards a sustainable future for the Town of Irondequoit, and the surrounding community. We’re part of a network of environmental education and advocacy organizations throughout the county. We are deeply concerned about environmental sustainability and climate change, and we actively work with our community, local government, and school districts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate through our education, advocacy, and volunteer activities.

We produce a monthly newsletter, and have an active presence on Facebook and other social media, and would like our audience to learn more about your environmental priorities for Irondequoit in the coming years. To that end, we are inviting you to respond to the following survey. The survey is an opportunity for your campaign to spell out aspects of its environmental agenda.

If you’d like to share your campaign’s views with the membership of Color Irondequoit Green, please submit your survey responses by Wednesday, October 19th at midnight. If we don’t hear from you by then, we will state that you have yet to respond. If you send in your answers after that time, we will update blogs and social media as soon as possible.

Thank you again for running for office!

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Color Your Community Green advocates on a number of climate and sustainability issues:

a. Decarbonization and beneficial electrification of fleets and buildings (for businesses, non-profit organizations, and residences)
b. Healthy yards and conservation
c. Food and waste reduction (i.e. composting)
d. Alternative transportation (public transportation, walking, biking)
e. Green workforce development
f. Sustainable development
g. Adaptation to a changing climate

Of these issues, would you please choose three that you feel should have the highest priority for Irondequoit and briefly explain why you chose them.

For each of the three you chose, can you please provide an example of a concrete action (or several) you would support in addressing that issue at the local level.

OR

Alternatively, you could share a narrative of your position on environmental issues for our town, and please discuss climate change specifically.

www.colorirondequoitgreen.org  |  coloritowngreen@gmail.com
OR

Recently passed federal legislation has created unprecedented financial opportunities for individuals, businesses and governments to more rapidly adopt cutting edge technologies like heat pumps and electric vehicles. How would you make sure that Irondequoit and its residents get their fair share of these resources?

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Responses

RACHEL BARNHART
Candidate for Monroe County Legislator, District 17 (D, WFP) | www.rachelbarnhart.com

• “Of these issues, the one in which I have the most direct involvement and advocacy is (b) alternative transportation. I am a longtime advisory board member of Reconnect Rochester, and a user of public transit. It’s so important for everyone in our community, particularly seniors, people with disabilities and those without vehicles, to get around safely, affordably and conveniently. There are obvious environmental impacts to improving transit and building more pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, as well. As it pertains to Irondequoit, I heard from many people who like sidewalk expansions and bike lane installations, as well as seniors who enjoyed the new bus route from Skyview to Marketplace. We should continue to make those investments. It’s hard to choose two other issues, because they’re all very important. I stand ready to assist Irondequoit on any efforts to adapt to our changing climate, including reducing emissions, developing land sustainably and decarbonizing buildings and fleets.”

• “It’s incredibly important for Irondequoit to have the information and advocacy necessary to apply for and access funds. Monroe County and our partners in state and federal government should help facilitate this process.”

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DAVE LONG
Candidate for Monroe County Legislator, District 16 (D, WFP) | www.davelongformonroe.com

• “As a representative of Irondequoit residents in the Monroe County Legislature, I have kept our environment on top of mind.

We were able to pass the Monroe County Climate Action Plan (https://www.monroecounty.gov/des-climate-committee) with the goal of reducing the county’s greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 and have embarked on Phase 2 of that plan. Also, are working on initiatives such as a pilot to recycle food scraps keeps them out of the landfill (turning food scraps in to renewable energy).
I have been supportive of the county’s first Active Transportation Plan (https://www.monroecounty.gov/planning-catp) and the way it has laid a foundation for making changes to the County’s non-motorized transportation network.

These significant initiatives require collaboration with the Legislature and County Executive’s administration to see through to successful implementation. It is my desire to continue to represent our community to support these and future efforts focused on addressing our environment and climate change."

- “I think that sharing information is key. I will support initiatives by our partners in government to get information to the public. I am sorry to have to miss Color Irondequoit Green’s event on Home Energy Efficiency. Collaboration among groups like CIG, the Irondequoit Public Library, Citizens’ Climate Lobby of Rochester, and the Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes region is essential to ensuring residents have access to the benefits contained in the Inflation Reduction Act.”

BRIAN GREEN
Candidate for Irondequoit Town Justice (D, WFP) | www.briangreenforjudge.com

- “Judicial candidates cannot ethically take a position on issues. I can tell you I am an avid gardener (using organic fertilizers), hiker, and cyclist, and that I drive a PZEV and have transitioned away from fossil fuel yard tools.”

- “The judiciary does not play a role in the development of town policy, and judicial candidates cannot take a position on issues.”

ANDRAÉ EVANS
Candidate for Irondequoit Town Supervisor (D, WFP) | https://www.voteandraeevans.com

- “1 All the items are important. I intend to address them with pragmatism on a programmatic basis according to budget, grant coordination, and adjacent community cooperation when elected.

2 My plan is that within the first 100 days implement the maximum degree of change possible within the Town Board’s control. This will be planned, identified, measured for performance and measured for effectiveness.

3 We need to review and adhere to the 2014 Comprehensive plan as a starting point, while simultaneously doing an inventory of existing programs and projects. This will be essential to review how we can integrate resources and assets to improve services to town residents to protect the environment.

4 The three priorities that I feel are immediately in the town’s control are:

www.colorirondequoitgreen.org | coloritownngreen@gmail.com
4.1 **Healthy yards and conservation** (community gardening, removing invasives, planting natives, pesticide reduction)

4.1.1 rewrite and update our town code to promote the use of native plants,

4.1.2 re-meadow on all town properties where appropriate.

4.1.3 design for every town property pollinator areas

4.1.4 ensure we maintain and increase tree population.

4.1.5 amend code to make it easier to do native plant lawns and lawn alternatives for residential properties to include HOA where legally viable or negotiated.

4.1.6 promote fewer uses of chemicals and pesticides. Provide an education program to demonstrate alternatives.

4.2 **Food and waste reduction** (i.e., composting)

4.2.1 Establish a single town refuse pick up: Having a town contract will alleviate the pressure on our road infrastructure, noise pollution, and improve the quality of life for all our residents.

4.2.2 Establish community composting for plant, and food waste.

4.2.2.1 To lower methane emissions, reduce landfill volume mandate the collection of food waste, develop a food waste composting.

4.2.2.2 Part of that refuse plan is to separate food waste, and proof of downstream recycling, gasification, and composting. As leaders we must make composting and recycling services easy, viable, and produce tangible results.

4.2.2.3 Waste composting products can be resold to residents or given away to enrich garden soils.

4.2.2.4 seek to contract or partner with surrounding towns and RGE to develop and produce a biomass gasification project, depending on scale this would service to reduce residential energy cost for heating and electricity. Thus, will also create new green jobs.

4.2.3 Contract with local farmers to improve and expand our farmers market to promote sustainable agriculture, collect food waste, or integrate composting, gasification, or other alternatives if community volume is too low. Thus has the potential to generate revenue while saving the environment and lowering residential energy costs.

4.3 **Decarbonization and beneficial electrification of fleets and buildings** (governmental, residential, businesses, and non-profit organizations)

4.3.1 Work with local utilities to expand the use or solar, wind, wave energy where feasible for example:
4.3.2 Evaluate and use renewable/sustainable energy sources for our town buildings and sites (led lighting, sports fields, parks, etc.). This should sink with our sustainability and comprehensive plans.

4.3.3 Implement the current sustainability plan and develop a current attainable sustainability and resource management plan.

4.3.4 Invest in Solar, Wind, and renewable energy resources for our government bodies where it is feasible. This will drive down residential taxes and promote sustainability.

4.3.5 Use of solar on all flat roofs

4.3.6 Encouragement of solar parking lots where feasible

4.3.7 Increase the number of available charging stations. This will also involve coordination with other independent government bodies to produce joint plans and joint saving for our residents.

4.3.8 Encouragement of solar and wind, development along the perimeter properties as to be nonintrusive

4.3.9 Community Composting, plant, and food waste can produce biofuels to lower emergency services energy cost.

4.3.10 Work with State Legislators, Monroe County, and the City of Rochester on improving our active transportation plan, use of electric vehicles for non-emergency vehicles where feasible and cost effective.

4.3.11 promote bike accessibility and other active transportation support existing sustainability groups.

4.3.12 Improve our roads, bridges, and Infrastructure. We must seek out new cost-effective ways to work with our county and state officials to repair, maintain, and improve all without increasing taxes. Use of recycled materials for road repair, as well as new technologies to lower costs.”

- “1. ASK.

2. Coordinate: I have established a very good working relationship with all the men and women who represent Irondequoit at the federal, county, and state levels.

3. Be engaged and coordinate with my peers.

4. Hire an economic development officer and empower them to do good work on behalf of all of Irondequoit.

5. Access and review the current state and build toward what we as a community desire.

6. Ensure there is a competent grant writer/researcher to find and capture those opportunities.
7. Lobby County, State and Federal agencies to meet our community needs.”

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**Irondequoit November 2023 General Election Candidate List**

** A “Y” indicates that a candidate responded to CIG’s questionnaire, a “N” indicates they did not **

**Irondequoit Town Board**
John Perticone – N
Grant S Malone – N
Joshua C Menelas – N

**Irondequoit Town Supervisor**
Andráé J Evans – Y
Rory B Fitzpatrick – N

**Irondequoit Town Justice**
Brian P Green – Y
Patrick K Russi – N

**Monroe County Legislature**
Rachel Barnhart – Y
Dave Long – Y
Joe Carbone – N
Santos E Cruz – N
Oscar L Brewer, Jr – N
Yversha M Roman – N

**Monroe County Executive**
Adam Bello – Y [Response was offered to the Color Your Community Green questionnaire, posted separately]
Mark Assini – Y [Response was offered to the Color Your Community Green questionnaire, posted separately]

**Monroe County Family Court**
Maroun G Ajaka – N
Maria J Cubillos-Reed – N
Kristine M Demo-Vazquez – N
Dandrea L Ruhlmann – N