

## **Delta Chapter Candidate a Questionnaire**

Delta Chapter sent each candidate a questionnaire with twenty-two Yes or No questions to determine how the candidate felt about issues that are important to the Sierra Club. At the end of our questionnaire we asked each candidate to describe leadership they have shown in support of the environment and/or justice, fairness and equity in the natural and human environments in any elected office they have held, or outside of elected office.

Troy Carter did not return the questionnaire to seek the endorsement of Sierra Club.

Karen Carter Peterson was very responsive and sought the endorsement of the Sierra Club. The Delta Chapter Excom believes that Karen Carter Peterson shares the values of the Sierra Club. The vote of the Delta Chapter Excom was unanimous for Karen Carter Peterson. We asked National to review Karen Carter Peterson and they also endorsed her.

### **We ask our members and supporters to vote her our new Congressional Representative.**

Below is Karen Carter Peterson response to describe leadership she has shown in support of the environment and/or justice, fairness and equity in the natural and human environments

I'm Karen Carter Peterson, and it's been an honor to have earned the trust to fight for the people of New Orleans for over 20 years.

My parents grew up in the calliope projects in New Orleans and my mother spent her early adult life juggling two or three jobs so she could put my dad through law school and raise our family. What I learned from them is the value of hard work and that you *shouldn't need* to work two jobs to put food on the table and a roof over your head. That's why I have dedicated my life to public service fighting for people and communities here in Louisiana instead of special interests.

If elected the first black woman to represent Louisiana in congress, I will continue to elevate the issues that impact people in the Second Congressional District.

I will advocate for universal health care with the passage of Medicare for All because healthcare is a human right. Because a waiter at a French Quarter restaurant should have the same access to a life saving medical procedure as a guest at the Ritz Carlton.

I'll push for comprehensive COVID-19 relief including \$2,000 stimulus checks for families and rental relief so a single mom from Scotlandville can keep a roof over her head and her babies belly full while she goes to work at Albertson's during the day and finishes her college degree at Southern University at night.

I will support a quality, strong public education system that puts our children and teachers first so students at Landry-Walker and East St John high schools have the same opportunities as students at Newman and Catholic High.

I will continue the fight to fix an unjust criminal justice system that has made Louisiana the incarceration capital of the world, filling our state prisons with young black men from neighborhoods like Hollygrove, Central City, and the 7th Ward, instead of addressing the mental trauma they grow up with from living in chronic poverty and witnessing countless murders and acts of violence at very young ages. This vicious cycle has to stop.

I will fight for environmental and climate justice because I recognize climate change for what it is: a human caused global crisis that we have no time to waste in taking urgent, direct action to mitigate and adapt to the impacts that are already here and that will get exponentially worse if we fail to act aggressively now.

I recognize that too many low-income families and communities of color are drowning in cancer-causing pollutants in Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District. Our response to pollution in Cancer Alley has to be rooted in the understanding that environmental justice is linked to racial justice, economic justice, and health justice. As a state legislator, I authored legislation to take action on the climate crisis and pollution because I believe everyone has a right to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment. In 2009 when I was still a State Representative, I listened to the scientists and the conversations I had with the environmental justice community, and championed legislation to establish the first Louisiana Climate Change Policy Commission, and as State Senator legislation to continue that Commission in 2010. I authored legislation to provide tax credits for individual energy efficient improvements, and legislation to require the construction of state buildings to include energy efficient measures.

I championed and passed legislation to create an environmental health surveillance system to track and evaluate environmental factors, including physical, chemical, biological, and social factors, that may play a role in the development of certain chronic diseases, so that the Louisiana Departments of Environmental Quality and Health could implement preventive strategies.

In 2020, I authored legislation on behalf of General Russell Honore and the Green Army to get a handle on lead contamination in Louisiana drinking water systems and to require testing of drinking water systems at child care facilities, schools, and playgrounds. Time and time again I fought against Industrial Tax Exemptions for oil, gas, pipeline, and petrochemical companies who, even while making record profits, fail to deliver on their commitments to local governments while cutting corners on safety, putting entire communities at risk just to save a few bucks.

I have been very frustrated with the lack of protection of our communities from toxic pollution, which is why upon my most recent re-election to the State Senate in 2019, I asked to serve on the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and also hired as my Chief of Staff an environmental watchdog and climate activist with a proven track record of holding oil, gas, pipeline, and petrochemical companies accountable for polluting our wetlands and Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. While the pandemic got in the way of some of the legislation we had planned in 2020, it also laid bare an even greater need and sense of urgency to protect vulnerable persons with compromised immune systems from decades of exposure to toxic pollution. Especially people of color in Cancer Alley.

I firmly believe that Louisiana can build a thriving, equitable, and globally competitive clean energy economy that puts workers and communities first, and that work starts in the 2nd district. That's why I support a Green New Deal for the Gulf South, which is an opportunity for Louisiana to lead the charge in clean energy while bringing high paying, union jobs to the district. As a congressional candidate I was proud to sign the Sunrise Movement pledges to support the Green New Deal and to accept no fossil fuel contributions. In congress, I will fight to ensure the Green New Deal lives up to its promises and to ensure it provides critical funding to make up for a decrease in offshore drilling tax revenues that fund restoration of Louisiana's vital coastal protection and restoration initiatives.

I am proud to be a candidate in this race with a proven-track record of getting things done for working families.

In congress I will advocate for universal health care with the passage of Medicare for All. I will push for comprehensive covid-19 relief. I will support a quality, strong public education system. I will be a champion for working families and small businesses. I will fight to fix our unjust criminal justice system. And I will fight for a just and equitable Green New Deal.

I am proud to have earned the endorsements of leader Stacy Abrams, Our Revolution, Democracy for America, The League of Conservation Voters PAC, Emily's List, Higher Heights, The Congressional Progressive Caucus PAC, Elect Democratic Women, Louisiana's Democratic Party, and numerous congressional, state, and local progressive leaders and organizations. It would be an honor to receive the endorsement of the Sierra Club, and I humbly ask for your support.

In congress, I pledge to never forget who I am, where I came from, and who I represent.