

St. Charles Mayoral Candidates

	Lora Vitek	Clint Hull
Question		
1. Do you agree that local municipal governments have a responsibility to address climate change through their policies, practices, ordinances and regulations?	Yes	Yes
2. Do you accept campaign contributions from any of the following entities or their lobbyists, executives, officers, or representatives?		
Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA)	No	No
Northern Illinois Municipal Power Agency (NIMPA)	No	No
Illinois Municipal Utility Association (IMUA)	No	No
Prairie State Generating Company	No	No
3. Do you own bonds or an interest in bonds issued by IMEA or NIMPA?	No	No
4. Will you invest the time needed to become actively involved in the oversight and regulation of the City's municipal electric utility?	Yes	Yes
5. Do you support efforts to involve more stakeholder participation (from residents, taxpayers, and ratepayers) in the City's energy planning process?	Yes	Yes
6. Do you support creating local incentives (economic and non-economic) to promote greater energy efficiency and transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources?	Yes	Yes
7. Do you support the adoption of zoning codes (for example, "stretch codes") and ordinances that will further the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources?	See comment	Yes – see comment
8. Will you support regular implementation of actions in furtherance of the Greenest Region Compact goals?	Yes	Yes
9. If you are seeking office in St. Charles, do you support the early renewal of the contract with IMEA through 2055?	See comment	No – see comment

*****Comments shown on next page*****

Comments:

Lora Vitek: *“Regarding stretch codes [Question 7]—This would be very challenging to implement and would put St. Charles at a disadvantage when incorporating this without other municipalities doing the same. Action would first need to happen at the State level. Regarding ordinances and goals-in whatever contract St. Charles signs to determine % of renewable energy sources is something I would support.”*

“[Regarding Question 9]—I am supportive of 100% renewable energy. This is not a decision I make alone as Mayor. I have spent a lot of time with this information, toured IMEA-talked with my predecessors former Mayors DeWitte and Rogina who have spent much time on this topic. If the City Council is comfortable with the answers to questions they have been asking and have been shared with us by residents, if we are comfortable with the renewable energy increase goals, then it may be in our best interest to renew to save our taxpayers money and our businesses from additional expenses. Unfortunately, the resources to only use renewables are unavailable. But certainly we can continue to do better and improve as a Municipality. We (our staff and I) have been in contact with Naperville and Winnetka and continue to follow their information gathering. We share information and resources. We are definitely putting the time in before making an informed decision.”

Clint Hull: *[Regarding Question 7]—“We need to take action to reduce greenhouse gases and transition into a future where much of our energy comes from renewable energy sources. “Stretch Codes” that set higher energy efficiency standards than those mandated by traditional building codes is an avenue that may be considered in the future. However, when considering the implementation of such codes, the City must consider that the implementation may increase costs to homeowners and builders and impact affordable housing availability. The City must work with its residents and business owners to decide whether to implement such codes.”*

[Regarding Question 9]—“ I am opposed to early renewal of the contract with IMEA through 2055. I believe the City of St. Charles should follow the same path recently approved by fellow IMEA member the City of Naperville and hire an energy consultant to assist the city council, city staff, businesses, and citizens in understanding and evaluating all available options before making a decision on early renewal.

The City of St. Charles has a contract with IMEA that runs through 2035. When the original contract was signed, both parties agreed that a decision to renew the contract would be made in 2030. In April of 2024, IMEA approached the City of St. Charles and its other members and asked the City of St. Charles to extend the current contract through 2055. IMEA has given the City of St. Charles until April 30, 2025, to decide whether to extend the contract.

Peter Suhr, Director of Public Works, and his staff have appeared in front of the Government Services Committee on multiple occasions and have done an excellent job of providing the city council with a comprehensive overview of the IMEA contract, including the different alternatives available to procure power, and options to consider when making its decision. However, despite their comprehensive overview, I still believe there are additional steps that can and should be taken to ensure the City of St. Charles is making a decision that is in the best interest of all its residents, present and future, before deciding whether to extend IMEA’s contract until 2055.

Because the City has no responsibility under the signed contract to make a renewal decision until 2030, they should not feel pressured to do so. The City should take the time it needs to make sure it exercises its due diligence before making such an important decision. Hiring an energy consultant will supplement and enhance the information and recommendations already provided by city staff, and put the City Council in a better position to understand its options when procuring energy and the ancillary services for the City of St. Charles for generations to come.”