

# Candidate Questionnaire

*Your take on energy... ... questions from Legalectric.org*

Energy issues predominate big picture discussions of all aspects of public policy, from land-use to economics to transportation to eminent domain. To help voters make their decisions, Legalectric asks that you consider the following questions — send responses to “overland@legalectric.org.” We’ll publish your responses (or note lack thereof!) Although electricity is binary, these questions are NOT! For clues, search [www.legalectric.org](http://www.legalectric.org).

1. What is your understanding of demand for electricity, particularly since 2006? If you need clues, or primary documentation, search <http://www.legalectric.org> for “decreased demand”
2. Minnesota’s Renewable Energy Standard requires a percentage of electricity be produced using “renewable” generation, but does not require any reduction in production of electricity with fossil fuels.
  - How will fossil fuel use be decreased if reduction is not mandated and utilities can sell on market?
  - Would you advocate for mandated reduction in fossil fuel generation in conjunction with RES?
3. Environmental Review of utility infrastructure under the Power Plant Siting Act, such as transmission lines power plants and nuclear waste, has been removed from the Environmental Quality Board and transferred to Commerce.
  - What is Commerce’s mandate regarding environmental review?
  - Would you advocate for return of environmental review to the Environmental Quality Board?
4. Gov. Pawlenty has advocated for transmission lines from the Midwest through Minnesota to points east, ranging from Chicago all the way to the East Coast.
  - What is your understanding of the basis for utilities’ promotion of transmission projects?
  - What is your understanding of wind resource and number of wind projects in queue in both Illinois and along the Mid-Atlantic coast?
  - What is your understanding of cost-apportionment of capital costs of transmission projects?
  - What is your understanding of distributed generation and dispersed generation?
  - Should Minnesota ratepayers pay for transmission through Minnesota eastward?
5. Gov. Pawlenty has advocated for construction and operation of a coal gasification plant near Grand Rapids, Minnesota known as the “Mesaba Project.”
  - How does the cost of coal gasification compared with other electric generation sources?
  - What is your understanding of the feasibility of carbon capture and sequestration/storage? Provide examples of feasibility on utility scale.
  - Should Minnesota ratepayers pay for a demonstration project that the PUC deemed too expensive and not in the public interest?
6. Gov. Pawlenty has advocated for a system of carbon cap and trade.
  - How would carbon cap and “TRADE” would lower carbon emissions, and at what rate?
  - What is your specific plan for reduction of Minnesota’s carbon footprint?
7. Gov. Pawlenty advocated for increases in ethanol production in Minnesota.
  - What is your understanding of the impact of ethanol production on our farm economy generally, the price of corn, and the retail price of gasoline?
  - What is your understanding of the impacts of ethanol production on Minnesota aquifers?
  - What is your understanding of the air emissions of ethanol plants?
8. Gov. Pawlenty advocated for burning of biomass, garbage and “refuse derived fuel” and for classification of them as “renewable.”
  - What is your understanding of emissions of biomass, garbage and RDF when burned?
  - Would you advocate for removal of biomass and garbage from Minnesota’s definitions of “renewable?”

## **Legalectric**

Carol A. Overland, Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 176  
Red Wing, MN 55066  
Phone: 612.227.8638  
Email: [overland@legalectric.org](mailto:overland@legalectric.org)  
[www.legalectric.org](http://www.legalectric.org)

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