

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES  
FOR

# County Councils

(OUTSIDE LONDON AND COUNTY BOROUGHES).

REVISED FEBRUARY 1895.

SIR,

In connection with your Candidature for the office of County Councillor,\* I should be obliged if you would be good enough to answer the following questions, and return the paper to me.

I am, yours faithfully,

Name of Elector.....

Address of Elector.....

\* See also Tracts 56, 57, 59 and 20, Questions for Parish, Rural District and Urban District Councillors, and for Guardians. The set of Tracts on these and other subjects, post free 2/3; bound in Buckram, post free 3/9. For list apply to the Fabian Society, 276 Strand, London, W.C.

**QUESTIONS.**

**ANSWERS.**

**1.—ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES.**

**A. Healthy Homes.**

1. Will you vote for the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health for the whole county, who shall be independent of local influence; and do all in your power to ensure that the Public Health Acts are properly put in force in every district?

2. Will you try to secure the full exercise by the Council of all its powers for the improvement of the dwellings of the people, especially

(a) By obtaining and publishing reports upon the subject from all Sanitary Authorities within the county?

(b) By taking action wherever these authorities neglect to secure an adequate supply of healthy homes, and a proper water supply?

## QUESTIONS.

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### B. Enforcement of the Law.

3. Will you take care that (a) the Shop Hours Act, 1892, (b) the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, (c) the Barbed Wire Fences Act, 1894, and (d) the Wild Birds Protection Act are rigidly enforced without respect of person?

### C. Other Duties.

4. Will you take care that the polling districts throughout the county are so arranged that there shall be a station within easy walking distance of every voter?

5. Will you vote for the application of the whole of the funds derived by the Council from the licences and liquor duties to the purposes of technical education?

6. Will you press for the exercise by the Council of its power of freeing from toll all bridges and ferries within the county, and for the provision of new ones where needed?

7. Will you press for the publication by the Council of a list of all charitable funds belonging to the parish or other public authorities within the county?

8. Will you urge the publication of an annual report and balance sheet by the Council, similar to that published by School Boards?

## II.—PROPER TREATMENT OF WORKERS.

9. Will you insist that in all work carried out by the Council the trade union rate of wages be paid, that common laborers be paid a living wage, and that the hours of work be limited to a maximum of eight per day, or forty-eight in each week, with a Saturday half-holiday?

10. Will you in every possible case prefer the direct employment of labor by the Council to the intervention of a contractor?

11. Whenever it is found necessary to employ a contractor, will you insist upon the insertion, in all contracts for supplies, as well as for works, of clauses stipulating (a) against sub-contracting; (b) for the



## QUESTIONS.

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payment of the trade union rate of wages, if any is fixed for that trade ; (c) that the working hours shall be those recognised as fair in that trade ; (d) that all clothing or other similar supplies be made in the contractor's own factory, and not put out ?

12. Will you insist upon the Council making an earnest endeavor, by co-operating with the Boards of Guardians, to find, in all periods of depression and distress, temporary useful and honorable employment for those out of work, by the arrangement of the public works which would normally be undertaken in such a way as to increase employment at these periods ?

### III.—A FREE HAND FOR PARISH AND DISTRICT COUNCILS.

13. Will you always vote for granting the request of any Parish Meeting that the full powers of a Parish Council be conferred on it ?

14. Will you accede to every request from a Parish Meeting for granting it a Parish Council ?

15. Will you vote in favor of granting any application from a Rural District Council for Urban powers, enabling it to deal with offensive trades, slaughter-houses, streets, lighting, new buildings, public pleasure grounds, etc. ?

16. Will you, by every means within the Council's power, promote the acquisition or compulsory hiring of land by Parish and District Councils for allotments, public offices and halls, recreation grounds, etc. ?

17. Will you facilitate, so far as possible, the action of any Rural District Council which applies for authority to exercise the powers conferred by the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, for the provision of lodging houses and of cottages with half-an-acre of garden ?

18. Will you always vote for granting consent to a District Council which desires to aid persons in maintaining rights over commons ?

## QUESTIONS.

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19. Will you advocate vigorous action upon any complaint of a Parish Meeting or Council that a Rural District Council has neglected to provide proper drainage, adequate water supply, or to repair high roads, or to take proceedings to prevent stoppage of rights of way or enclosure of roadside wastes, or enforce the provisions of Public Health Act, 1875?

20. Will you vote for the (a) grant to Urban Districts of the full number of Councillors allowed by law, and (b) for the division of all Urban Districts into wards?

21. Will you take care that in Parish and District Council elections the poll is kept open so late as to suit the convenience of the working-class electors, and that in Urban Districts it is not closed till 10 o'clock?

### IV.—LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM.

22. Will you support such an amendment of the law as would enable women, if elected, to serve upon County Councils?

23. Are you in favor of the County Council having undivided control of the police, and unrestricted power to choose its own clerk?

24. Will you support such an extension of the powers of the County Council as would enable it to

- (a) Construct and maintain light railways and rural tramways where thought necessary?
- (b) Exercise control over canals and navigable rivers within the county?
- (c) Construct and maintain works for water storage and distribution, and for the prevention of floods?
- (d) Pay the travelling expenses of its members, and a compensation to them for time spent on county business?

*Signature of Candidate*.....