



Elections Matter

It's Time to Press Candidates on Food & Farming

The U.S. election season is well underway and, as the past few years have shown, we know elections matter. From food access and nutrition programs to corporate consolidation and immigration policy, elections determine much about the food we eat, how the people producing food are treated, and the impact of agriculture on workers, communities and the environment.

PAN strives for farmworker justice, healthy farm communities and fair farm economies—locally, nationally and internationally. We advocate for policies that will create a food system that works for all. Throughout election season, we'll be asking candidates for elected office the questions listed below:

On worker justice & healthy communities

Q Today's widespread use of hazardous pesticides in agriculture is undermining the health of U.S. farmers, farmworkers, rural families, and frontline communities. Science clearly links even low levels of exposure to increased risk of cancer and many other harms, and children are especially vulnerable. **How will you protect frontline communities from pesticides?**

Q Agriculture—including produce, dairy and meat production—is dependent on the labor of roughly two million farmworkers, the majority of whom are undocumented. Families are ripped apart by deportations, and rural economies and communities are crippled by chronic labor shortages. **What kind of immigration reform will you promote to address this problem?**

On fair farm economies

Q Three chemical companies now control the majority of the global seed market leaving farmers around the world with fewer, more expensive options as profits continue to leave the farm and collect in corporate boardrooms. **How will you address corporate consolidation in agriculture and bring profits back to farmers and their communities?**

Q Across the country and around the globe, low commodity prices force farmers to overproduce to make ends meet. Meanwhile, as crops are planted fencepost to fencepost, waterways are increasingly contaminated and soil erodes

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Persistence & Partnerships

Winning the Chlorpyrifos Battle

After 20 years of focused work with partners across the U.S. and around the world, chlorpyrifos is on its way out. As we celebrate and build on each victory, we're reflecting on the decades of multi-faceted, collaborative efforts to win policies that protect workers, children and rural communities from the well-known hazards of this insecticide.

In 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned use of chlorpyrifos in homes because of its hazards to children's developing brains. PAN and partners pressed for a ban on agricultural uses as well. However, the pushback from Dow Chemical (now renamed Corteva) and its cronies has proven formidable, as the corporation pulled out all the stops to keep chlorpyrifos on the market.

Here are a few highlights of the policy work, community organizing, grassroots science and storytelling PAN has undertaken over the last two decades to protect communities from chlorpyrifos:

- **2000–2005** PAN and partners produce two reports (Fields of Poison and Chemical Trespass) documenting exposures to pesticides — including chlorpyrifos — among farmworkers and children.
- **2007** PAN and partners at the Natural Resources Defense Council file a legal petition against EPA calling for a full chlorpyrifos ban, represented by attorneys at Earthjustice.
- **2004–2008** Along with Californians for Pesticide Reform (CPR), PAN conducts several air monitoring projects in California farmworker communities using PAN's signature Drift Catcher. The data helps build strong community engagement in efforts to improve worker and community protections.
- **2015** At the end of the Obama administration, EPA proposes a ban on all food uses of chlorpyrifos in response to the original 2007 lawsuit.
- **2017** The Trump administration's EPA reverses the planned chlorpyrifos ban. PAN joins seven states and a dozen health and labor groups challenging EPA's decision in court.
- **January 2018** No-spray buffer zones around schools and other sensitive sites go into effect in California, a direct result of the Drift Catcher project.
- **June 2018** In the face of EPA's inaction, Hawai'i becomes the first state to ban the use of chlorpyrifos. In the following months, several other states introduce their own bills to ban the chemical.
- **August 2018** The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals rules that EPA must ban chlorpyrifos, and orders the agency to finalize its proposed ban.
- **January 2019** Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez (D-NY) reintroduces her bill to ban chlorpyrifos in the House of Representatives, and Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) reintroduces a bill in the Senate.
- **May 2019** California's governor announces plans to cancel chlorpyrifos registration, and \$5.7 million in state funding to support transition to safer, more sustainable alternatives.
- **August 2019** Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Tom Udall (D-NM), and 13 Senate colleagues send a letter to EPA urging it to ban chlorpyrifos. Representative Velazquez and colleagues send a similar letter from the House. PAN and partners sue EPA again, and six states sue the agency as well.

Throughout these two decades, PAN staff has worked with partners to review and amplify a wealth of scientific literature on exposures and health hazards experienced in farmworker communities and to consumers of pesticide-tainted food. And the voices of farmworkers and rural families has remained front and center—with a constant drumbeat of their stories of routine exposures, inadequate protections and direct health impacts.

Today, we celebrate the wave of policies that have resulted from this work and the persistent efforts of farmworkers and rural communities, organizers, and attorneys that have helped make it happen. While our work isn't done, we're taking a moment to lift up these milestones and the persistent and creative advocacy behind them. 🌱

Take action Urge your Senators to support a national chlorpyrifos ban today: www.panna.org/BanChlorpyrifos



Community members from across California visited the state capitol in October 2018 to meet with legislators, share stories of chlorpyrifos exposure and urge state action to ban the harmful chemical.

Meet PAN Founding Member David Chatfield

As PAN celebrates our 35th anniversary, Senior Scientist Marcia Ishii-Eiteman recently spoke with one of PAN's founding members and current board member David Chatfield.

When and for how long have you been involved with PAN? What brought you to working with the organization?

I've been involved with PAN since the very beginning. I went to the first organizing meeting in 1982 along with Monica Moore and Gretta Goldenman. We were representing a movement that had started in the U.S. around the book that David Weir wrote, *Circle of Poison*. I was the international director for Friends of the Earth (FOE) in San Francisco and had lots of contacts to help with distributing the book to grassroots activists all over the world. There was a tremendous response, and, soon after, the International Organization of Consumers Unions in Penang sponsored and organized our first meeting.

Once PAN North America incorporated, I was on the board of directors until 1997, and I was very pleased to be asked back to the board just last year.

What aspect of PAN's work made you excited to work with the organization?

The first thing was the unique decision to make the national or regional groups the center of activity and thinking—to create a true network rather than an organization. This meant that everyone had a voice that was of equal importance, especially the folks who were not typically leaders of already established international organizations.

My favorite thing we did was the very first campaign for PAN International—the Dirty Dozen campaign. It was a truly collaborative global effort and a lot of work as this was all before computers. It involved including getting in touch back and forth with folks most affected by pesticides to decide what the Dirty Dozen should be. The campaign for a global ban of all pesticides on the list was launched in multiple countries all over the world at the same time.



David with CPR staff in 2009.



You can't have a sustainable agricultural system without having sustainable labor, decent health conditions, etc., and an organization can't be effective without having leadership from the communities directly impacted.

What have you been doing in your time since working with PAN?

After FOE, I went on to work for Greenpeace for 8–9 years, and one of my jobs there was as a co-international pesticide coordinator. I couldn't have done that without having the background I got from PAN. After I left Greenpeace, I saw an ad for the director of Californians for Pesticide Reform (CPR), which is a coalition/network that has PAN North America as a fiscal sponsor. I said, "I'd really like to work with these folks again. It's been a while." I applied for the job and got it and I really loved the work.

I think what I brought from PAN was that, right from the get-go, I thought CPR should have serious leadership from the people who were most directly affected by pesticides in California. I left that job in 2011 to retire and I'm very happy to be back in the fold, so to speak, being on PAN's board now.

What current PAN work or campaigns are you excited about?

First, the commitment that has become solidly, increasingly important in the organization to work on the ground to support a transition to sustainable agriculture and to underline the justice side of sustainability. You can't have a sustainable agricultural system without having sustainable labor, decent health conditions, etc., and an organization can't be effective without having leadership from the communities directly impacted.

Second, I like the fact that we're still connected with our international colleagues, some of whom are still the folks who were there in 1982. That international collegial work is something that is very important. It's the guts of PAN.

And, finally, effective fundraising. You think about all the work PAN does and, on top of that, it raises the money to make the work possible. —

To read the full interview with David, visit www.panna.org/DavidChatfield.

Sustain PAN's Work Give Monthly



When you join PAN as a Sustainer, you become part of a vital group that donates each month to fund grassroots science, collaboration with frontline communities and policy change.

We rely on consistent support from Sustainers to work towards a healthy, fair and resilient system of food and farming.

Become a Sustainer today by going to www.panna.org/give-monthly.

ABOUT PAN

PAN works to create a just, thriving food system, working with those on the frontlines to tackle the pesticide problem — and reclaim the future of food and farming. One of five regional centers worldwide, PAN North America links local and international consumer, labor, health, environment and agriculture groups into an international citizens' action network. Together, we challenge the global proliferation of pesticides, defend basic rights to health and environmental quality, and work to ensure the transition to a just and viable food system.

Candidate Questions, continued from front page

at unsustainable rates. **How will you work with farmers to create an agricultural future that is both economically viable and environmentally sustainable?**

Q Chemical-intensive farming has created resistant weeds on farms across the Midwest. In response, the pesticide industry introduces new seeds genetically modified to withstand a new generation of herbicides, keeping farmers trapped on an endless pesticide treadmill. Every season, these herbicides drift, destroying millions of acres of neighbors' crops. **How will you help farmers step away from this failing system and reclaim control of their farm inputs and farms?**

On a food system for the future

Q Farmers are on the frontlines of the climate crisis, facing huge losses from increasingly intense floods, droughts, fires and temperature changes. Meanwhile, chemical-intensive agriculture is responsible for an estimated 20% of greenhouse gas emissions. Evidence shows that ecological farming not only makes farms more resilient, but can actually sequester carbon from the atmosphere. **How will you support farmers in the transition to climate-friendly farming?**

Q Farmers over the age of 65 now outnumber farmers under 35 by a margin of six to one, and U.S. farmland is overwhelmingly concentrated in the hands of older farmers. Meanwhile, new farmers struggle to get into the business, and access to land is a key hurdle. **How will you support the next generation of farmers?**



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Q People of color are disproportionately excluded from producing and eating fresh fruits and vegetables, largely as a result of historical and current discriminatory policies. **What will you do to help disenfranchised communities establish sustainable and equitable access to good food and the resources required to produce it?**

PAN will be asking these questions, and we encourage you to do the same. Print them out and take them to campaign events. Submit them for upcoming debates. Email them to candidates running at every level of elected office—local, state, and national.

Because we need leaders who understand and care about our shared future of food and farming. —🌱

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