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## Rogero, Padgett debate green energy, other topics one week before election



Photo by J.J. Kindred

Knoxville mayoral candidates Mark Padgett, left, and Madeline Rogero, right, weigh in on green energy and environmental issues during a debate Nov. 1 at Pellissippi State Community College's Magnolia Avenue campus. One of them will be elected as Knoxville's next mayor Nov. 8.

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Knoxville mayoral candidates Madeline Rogero and Mark Padgett held a debate on green energy and other environmental matters, as one of them will become Knoxville's next mayor next week.

However, other topics were discussed during the event, held at the Magnolia Avenue campus of Pellissippi State Community College Nov. 1.

The candidates were asked a series of questions that came from a collection of organizations that sponsored the debate, including:

- The Knoxville Energy Alliance and Partnership for Green Jobs (KEAP Green Jobs)
- Socially Equal Energy Efficient Development (SEED)
- Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment (SOCM)
- Tennessee Solar Energy Association (TSEA)
- Tennessee Alliance for Progress.

Padgett pledged that as mayor, he would see that Knoxville would become an very environmentally-friendly city that is protected under the programs he believes in.

Rogero said her family has always been environmentally-oriented, and when she was the community development director under then-mayor Bill Haslam, several green and environmentally-friendly projects were supported.

However, there were some questions that both candidates felt were hard to understand, such as what they would do as mayor to adopt an inexpensive program to enable people to install solar panels in either their homes or small businesses.

While Padgett questioned how the question was valid, Rogero simply said she couldn't answer it without more information.

Rogero also asked for clarification on whether the candidates were being asked if citizens should be required to bring their properties up to energy efficient standards.

"I think we should encourage it," Rogero said.

Padgett then asked to clarify his original answer, because he did not hear the word required. He said he supports KUB as an agency that would encourage residents to make their homes energy efficient through programs they would pay for, thus creating green jobs.

Rogero also encouraged giving adequate protection for ridgetops and hillsides, an issue that the Knoxville City Council and the Knox County Commission have been working together to come up with solutions.

Election Day is Nov. 8.

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