



30 Broad Street – 30th Floor
New York, NY 10004
212-361-6350
politics@nylcv.org
www.nylcv.org

2016 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Brad Hoylman

Office Sought (district if applicable): State Senate

Website: www.bradhoylman.com

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/bradhoylman/?fref=ts>

Twitter handle: @bradhoylman

Please share your accomplishments or experiences that indicate your commitment to advancing a pro-environment agenda. These experiences may be professional or personal.

As ranking member of the New York State Environmental Conservation Committee, advancing a pro-environment agenda is one of my primary goals. I firmly believe that we owe it to future generations to be responsible environmental stewards during our time on this planet.

I am the prime sponsor of over two dozen pieces of environmental legislation, including bills to drastically reduce New York State's carbon emissions, restrict the importation of fracking waste, and limit toxic chemicals in a number of consumer products.

In 2015, I hosted the New York State Senate's first-ever legislative forum on human-made climate change, soliciting testimony from climate experts, environmental advocates, and everyday New Yorkers to hear an official record of the devastating threat that climate change

poses to our state. I co-hosted a follow-up climate change roundtable in May 2016 with the New York State Senate Democratic Policy Group.

Over the past year I have also hosted an ongoing series of “Conservation Conversation” events in my senate district on topics ranging from the environmental health of the Hudson River, to the plight of pollinators like monarch butterflies, to the harmful effects of plastic bags on New York’s environment. This series, which I intend to continue, has been an effective way of engaging directly with my constituents on environmental issues that directly impact their lives.

Earlier this year, I received a Special Service award from the Department of Environmental Conservation’s Division of Law Enforcement for my role in organizing the U.S. Ivory Crush in Times Square that resulted in the destruction of over one ton of confiscated illegal ivory.

Please indicate your level of commitment to, and if applicable your recent personal and professional activity with respect to, the following issues:

(To ensure your responses address the issues NYLCV and its partners are most concerned about, please review [NYLCV’s 2016 State Policy Agenda](#))

Ensuring adequate funding for the environmental agencies and programs

As I have in the past, I will continue to strongly advocate for increased funding for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Park Agency to ensure that they have all the resources they need to undertake the important role they play in protecting the state’s environment.

I will also continue to fight for adequate funding for the Environmental Protection Fund, our state’s primary funding mechanism for a host of important environmental programs across New York. I was pleased that this year’s budget funded the EPF at \$300 million, and I will be a vocal proponent of keeping it funded at that level or higher in years to come.

At the same time, I will continue to lead efforts to reject any proposed sweeps of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative funds that seek to use the money for purposes unrelated to greenhouse gas reduction.



Addressing the causes and effects of climate change (e.g., clean energy and emission controls)

I strongly feel that among the top priorities of the New York State legislature should be addressing the root causes of climate change – primarily, the human-driven emission of greenhouse gases – as well as the effects of climate change on our state’s coastlines, agricultural sector, and public health. This work is critical to protecting future generations of New Yorkers.

Unfortunately, doubts seem to persist among my colleagues in the Republican Senate leadership that climate change is both real and man-made, while residents of New York recognize across party lines that global climate change poses an existential threat to our city and our state.

I will continue to work with any of my colleagues, on either side of the aisle, who recognize the near-unanimous consensus of the scientific community that man-made climate change is real, happening now, and a global threat. And I will work to educate my colleagues who remain in denial. At a minimum, we must ensure that New York meets or exceeds its goal of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by the year 2050.

Protecting the health of New Yorkers and their communities (e.g., toxics, air quality, food quality and security)

As the prime sponsor of a version of the Child Safe Products Act, the Upholstered Furniture Safety Act, legislation to prohibit BPA’s in paper products and children’s products, and a bill to require parental notification of environmental health hazards in schools, I am committed to the work that still needs to be done to protect New Yorkers from toxins in the air they breathe, the products they purchase, and the food they eat.

In addition to my legislative initiatives, I have been a vocal opponent of efforts to continue delaying implementation of the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, a state law passed in 2006 requiring the phase out of dirty diesel emissions in the state’s fleet of vehicles, as well as the vehicles of companies contracting with the state.

Conserving and protecting natural resources (e.g., water, open spaces, habitat, organic recycling)

New York’s natural resources are some of its greatest treasures – from Niagara Falls to the Adirondack Park to the beaches of Long Island—and even to the parks of New York City. I will



continue to support increased funding in the EPF for water infrastructure, open space preservation, and fighting invasive species to protect our state's natural resources.

I was pleased to see the Cuomo Administration recently finalize the state's purchase of 69,000 acres of land in the Adirondack Park, and I fully support designating 35,000 acres as protected Wilderness for the Boreas Ponds and MacIntyre Tracts to ensure that this land remains ecologically healthy, biologically rich, and free of invasive species.

I have also led efforts in the state legislature to call on General Electric to fully complete its dredging of harmful PCBs which the company was responsible for dumping into the Hudson River over several decades. The pollution of the Hudson has resulted in untold costs to wildlife, threatened the health of New Yorkers, and decimated the state's economy. It is important we make sure GE fully compensates the people of New York for one of the greatest environmental disasters of our time.

Investing in better, smarter infrastructure (e.g., transportation, electrical grid, green infrastructure, smart growth, rail transport of crude oil)

With the transportation sector responsible for an enormous portion of the state's greenhouse gas emissions, it's critical that we invest more heavily in public transit, enhance the state's bike and pedestrian networks, and work to increase the number of electric vehicles and charging stations throughout the state. I'm working hard to increase funding to the MTA Capital Program in order to maintain and expand our rail, subway, and bus systems. For example, I recently introduced legislation with Senator Martin Dilan that would dedicate a portion of the sales tax generated from ride share companies like Uber and Lyft to the MTA. I'm also an active supporter of large-scale federal infrastructure projects that will move our region more efficiently, such as the Cross Harbor Freight Tunnel and the Hudson River Tunnel Project.

In 2015, I helped lead a successful effort to convince the Governor to veto the Port Ambrose Liquefied Natural Gas deepwater port project off the coast of Long Island – a volatile proposal that would have curtailed clean energy options in the same area. Today, I'm supporting offshore wind projects and policies including a planned offshore wind farm off the coast of Long Island near where Port Ambrose would have been sited. I'm also encouraging the state's Public Service Commission to include a separate offshore wind tier in its upcoming Clean Energy Standard, which will move our state's energy sources away from dirty fuel sources and toward a clean energy future.