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2016 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Jo Anne Simon

Office Sought (district if applicable): Assembly District 52

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

Prior to my election in November 2014, I had been a long-time advocate for environmental justice and worked extensively on local projects such as the effort to replace the Gowanus Expressway with an environmentally sustainable and fiscally responsible tunnel. I have advocated for community in many Environmental Impact Statement processes and fully supported the designation of the Gowanus Canal as a Superfund site. I have also advocated for more and better public parks. In the legislature I tend to vote against alienation of parkland bills. In addition, in the legislature I have consistently sponsored and voted for environmental measures, including the Child Safe Products Act, GMO labeling and renewable energy bills. I also co-sponsored A/M Stirpe's paint disposal bill. I have supported the creation of a microgrid in the Gowanus area. On the personal front, I have installed solar power at our home in Cold Spring, NY.

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](#))

2. Ensuring adequate funding for the environmental agencies and programs

I am a member of the Environmental Legislators Caucus and have advocated for increased funding for to strengthen environmental enforcement and programs.

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

I have co-sponsored bills calling for NY to achieve aggressive goals towards renewable energy, and supporting the creation of microgrids. In my district I am helping to fund the installation of a solar roof at a local public school, which will save energy costs and produce additional energy for distribution.

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

I have co-sponsored the Child Safe Products Act, A/M Schimiel's ban on triclosan, the GMO labeling bill and am lead sponsor of a bill directing the NY state department of health to conduct a study on the high incidence of asthma in the borough of Brooklyn, and a bill restricting the sale, use and application of styrene and products containing styrene by appearance enhancement businesses.

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

I have worked hard to preserve the public park land (founder of Friends of Thomas Greene Park <http://friendsofdouglassgreenepark.org/>) and saving the DD Pool in my district. Elsewhere, I joined a legislator amicus brief in support of community in connection with NYU's request to rezone and build on land that had been used as public space for decades. I am a founding organizer of 1000+ Friends, a robust email list which calls attention to issues regarding parks

and open space. I have supported various initiatives to reduce environmental waste and promote recycling. I support the Gowanus Canal Conservancy and similar efforts, and oppose efforts to alienate parkland.

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

As noted above, I have worked on transportation projects for many years, was a prime mover in securing the Downtown Brooklyn Traffic Calming Study in the late 1990s and led the fight for the Gowanus Expressway tunnel. As an advocate, and now as a legislator, I am a prime co-sponsor of the MoveNY plan legislation, and various legislative efforts to bring transparency and funding to our region's transit, road and bridges infrastructure. My district will be particularly challenged by the need to repair or replace the triple cantilever portion of the BQE around Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO.