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2016 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Nily Rozic

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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.

My work in the Queens community as a previous member of Community Board 8 and now across the State as an Assemblywoman has heavily focused on environmental issues such as land use, water conservation, flood mitigation, renewable energy, and waste disposal. Throughout the years I have had the opportunity to collaborate with city and state agencies, community organizations, and advocates to determine what solutions will build a pathway towards a more sustainable New York. Whether I am working to bring relief into flood prone Queens neighborhoods or supporting legislation that will establish solar energy incentives, I am committed to raising awareness within communities and creating initiatives that will ensure a greener future for all.

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 was proud to support and vote for this year's budget that provides \$500 million for important environmental programs, including \$200 million in additional funds for water infrastructure improvements and \$300 million for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). I have always fought for increased funding of the EPF and increased staffing for the Department of Environmental Conservation. These funding commitments are critical to our economy; if we continue to support the EPF, it is proven to generate positive economic returns for jobs, localities, and property values throughout New York.

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

As a member of the Environmental Conservation Committee, I have advocated for legislation that would address climate change. For the first time, this year's state budget provides \$14 million to establish a Climate Change Account within the EPF. This newly-created account will bolster the state's efforts to more effectively address the need for greenhouse gas reductions, flood mitigation and coastal projects. It will help create clean vehicle infrastructure and municipal purchase initiative and assist municipalities with climate change planning.

I am also enthusiastic about furthering plaNYC's progress and the forward-thinking agenda that has developed since its inception to bring about a better quality of life for all New Yorkers.

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

Protecting children from harmful chemicals found in toys, clothing and other children's products was the primary objective of the Assembly's environmental package this year. Currently, the state bans only a small number of chemicals that pose a risk to children, who are particularly vulnerable to even small amounts of these substances. The provisions of A5612A, which I cosponsored and voted in favor of, would impose a more comprehensive prohibition on the use of dangerous chemicals and encourage the use of safer chemical alternatives in children's products. I also authored A160 that would prohibit the manufacture, distribution and sale of children's foam mats containing formamide.

This year's budget also made a significant allocation toward water testing, including \$1.5 million for lead in schools; \$1 million for drug collection programs, both for protecting the environment and in support of the safe and responsible disposal of pharmaceuticals.

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

Locally, in our district, I have voiced support for a plan to grow a local farmer's market after learning about constituents who have to travel to green markets in other parts of the neighborhood just to get fresh produce. I also continue to fund and support initiatives that expand open space and access to parkland (my district includes much of the 40-mile Brooklyn-Queens Greenway).

I am also supportive of the initiatives being taken to analyze what regions of the state have farmlands that are in need of conservation. This is the first step in ensuring that these regions, both downstate and upstate, will be able to continue supplying residents with fresh food grown on local farms.

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

Aside from being an avid bike rider, I am deeply committed to improving transit options for all. Safer, complete streets and mass transit that accommodates pedestrians, cyclists, commuters, straphangers and drivers are essential in our growing state.

Last year, I sponsored and passed legislation (chap.239) to expand and promote bus rapid transit in the City of New York. With no subway or LIRR stations in my district, I am aware of the important role buses play in eastern Queens. That is why we fought for Bus Time on the Q46, increased buses on other routes in the district, and funds for the MTA to study how they could improve service in Northeast Queens. As part of the study, the MTA will look at the effects of the 2010 service cuts, which removed 38 bus routes entirely and shortened 76 others.

I support extending the state's renewable portfolio standard goals particularly in the state's procurement process. I co-sponsor Assemblyman Quart's legislation that would require that certain percentages of all electricity sold in the state shall be qualified renewable energy.

Relatedly, I have introduced legislation that would require the Department of Corrections to provide vocational training to inmates on the installation of solar hot water systems.

I also serve on the Assembly's budget transportation committee. As a member of the committee, I worked on a budget that includes \$28 billion for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and

\$27 billion for the Department of Transportation (DOT) Capital Plans, \$950 million in additional funds for the Second Avenue Subway project and a \$400 million increase to the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS). I have also pushed for public hearings to provide oversight on the MTA's Capital Program. Additionally, I sponsor the Transparency in Transportation Act (A9872) that would require the commissioner of transportation to develop and present to the governor and the legislature a five-year capital plan, with defined projects, that is subject to public review prior to the passage of the state budget.

