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**2016 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire**

**Campaign Contact Information**

Candidate Name: Sandra R. Galef  
Office Sought (district if applicable): Member of NYS Assembly – 95th AD  
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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.

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| **My voting record in the NYS Assembly has received a score of 91% in 2012, 98% in 2013, 100% in 2014 and 85% in 2015 from the Environmental Advocates which indicates my strong commitment to environmental issues.**  **Throughout my years in the Assembly I have made a major effort to involve my constituents in environmental concerns by sponsoring three Energy Fairs, holding town meetings on Global Warming and energy consumption and demand, and sponsored local meetings and press conferences on the issue of the Algonquin Gas Pipeline adjacent to the Indian Point Nuclear Plants.**  **I would say that my most exciting and effective Town Meeting was called a night at the movies to see “Galef Goes to Gasland – Hydraulic Fracturing in Pennsylvania”. After spending a day in Towanda, PA and Bradford County, I videotaped all my discussions with local community leaders, an impacted homeowner, and a medical professional to listen to all views of what is happening in their state with gas extractions. After showing my movie in several locations, we had a lively and lengthy discussion on the topic with many opinions expressed but with all participants engaged in this important topic. My video is available for distribution to anyone interested. The movie is very home-grown but covers the topic rather thoroughly. As a result of my trip, I strongly battled the possibility of hydrofracking in NY state.**  **Additionally, I have produced many cable television shows on issues such as protecting the Hudson River and other natural resources, developing community gardens, farming in NYS and Haiti, involving businesses and the public in recycling efforts, promoting the activities of the Northern Westchester Energy Consortium for coordinating energy usage in our communities, and highlighting programs at Teatown Lake Reservation.**  **I have actively pursued the planting of wildflowers on the Taconic Parkway, and through legislation have adopted smoke free children’s playgrounds, safe boating on the waterways in NY, mineral rights protection for homeowners, and safe routes to school. I was able to get very difficult legislation passed to have the state pay taxes on state parkland in Putnam County savings taxpayers over $2 million and giving incentives to preserve more parkland. Presently, I am working on legislation to raise the age to purchase cigarettes, to allow solar units on condos and in homeowners’ associations, and to adopt a green roof installation credit.**  **I worked with Metro North to secure funding to rebuild an extended boat launch at the Ossining Railroad Station to enhance access to the river for the boating community and to encourage mass transportation through ferry service. I secured grant funding for the Ossining Public Library to put in place a geothermal heating system, for Phelps Hospital to replace windows with energy efficient ones, for rehabilitation of the Putnam Valley Town Hall to promote energy efficiencies, and for Teatown to put in place a program to discourage invasive species. I continue to work with Scenic Hudson and others to access grants for the enhancement of the Hudson Fjord between Philipstown and Beacon.**  **Much of my focus this year has been on Power, Ethics and Transparency Reform which is critical to making the reputation of NYS respected once again. My reforms include such issues as eliminating pay to play contracts, banning state funds allocated for personal benefit, and clarifying the conflicting roles of lobbyists and consultants. These reforms, as well as campaign finance reforms, do matter for the issues we all care about involving the environment.**  **Thank you for your support in the past and I hope that I have earned your support for my re-election to the NYS Assembly.** |

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 [2016 State NYLCV’s Policy Agenda](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/StatewideAgenda2016-FINAL-lowres.pdf))

1. Ensuring adequate funding for the environmental agencies and programs

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| This was a good budget year for the environment with a $300 million allocation to the Environmental Protection Fund, $200 million increase for the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act program, and $90 in capital funding for NYS Parks. I will continue to advocate for more funding as the economy grows in our state. There is much to be done to protect our environmental resources and to combat climate change. |

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

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| I have introduced several bills in this session to deal with clean energy: A6081- authorizes the installation of solar energy systems on individual condominium units, A6878 – relates to prohibiting homeowners’ associations from restricting the installation or use of solar power systems, A4914 – prohibits the use of wastewater from hydraulic fracturing for road spreading for dust control or de-icing, A2829 – requires the secretary of state to establish standards for inspection and certification of green roofs and provides for a green roof installation.  In 2015, a bill I introduced A6930 became law which provides that oil, gas, and mineral rights shall be sold along with any property sold. This should inhibit the sale of rights for the purpose of hydro-fracking. |

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

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| I have worked on legislation and voted for bills that protect children from dangerous chemicals in children’s products, prevent smoking in playgrounds and other places of assemble, curtail use of e-cigarettes, eliminate junk food in schools, label GMO products, notify pesticide use on properties, promote NY farm to table programs, curtail air pollution from vehicles and vessels, and encourage the growth of parks, recreation, hiking, biking, safe boating. We must also pass legislation to require testing in our schools and communities for the quality of our drinking water.  As chair of the Assembly Real Property Committee, I have worked to promote bills that conserve and protect farmland and stimulate the production of fresh produce. I also participate in helping to develop local community gardens for food production.  During the past two years I have spent much time advocating for an independent study of the health and safety of the Algonquin Gas Pipeline (AIM) that is being developed on and alongside the Indian Point Nuclear Plant in Buchanan, NY. With a coalition of advocates, we were finally able to convince the Governor to conduct an Independent Safety Review of this project which will be conducted shortly. FERC and NRC have strongly resisted this study for years. This is a major safety and security issue for our entire region. |

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

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| We need to continue to encourage our governments, utility companies and other businesses to expand programs for replacing light bulbs, installing housing insulation, promoting solar and green roofs, and conducting energy audits as well as developing more recycling programs and educating the public on how to reduce our waste. Fracking needs to continue to be banned in NY as well as the issue of fracked water being used in our state for road spreading and deicing. Our state policies must continue to protect our watershed and open space with effective deer management, eradicating invasive species, and other programs. |

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

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| We need to encourage the growth of solar and wind opportunities in NY as well as replacing energy plants that negatively impact our environment. I do not believe that closing Indian Point at this time is wise since it provides up to 30% of our power in this area but we need to work toward clean energy replacement sources for the future. The next MTA capital plan needs to continue to work to bring more commuters to both Grand Central and Penn Central stations directly from the suburbs and address the major safety issues on rail transit.  One of the newer concerns is the transportation of crude oil down the Hudson River, There needs to be better management, enhanced oversite of the operation of this transit as well as requiring adequate insurance coverage to deal with any potential accident. |