

30 Broad Street – 30th Floor

 New York, NY 10004

212-361-6350

politics@nylcv.org
www.nylcv.org

2017 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire
for Westchester Candidates

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the New York League of Conservation Voters Questionnaire.

The New York League of Conservation Voters is the only non-partisan statewide environmental organization in New York that fights for clean water, clean air, renewable energy and open space through political action. This questionnaire is designed to elicit your views regarding what environmental, public health, clean energy and transit and environmental justice groups consider to be the most important issues of the day. Responses may inform NYLCV’s educational and legislative programs and actions NYLCV takes in the election cycle.

Responses should be considered public. Although NYLCV may choose not to publicize responses to every question, verbatim responses may be reproduced and distributed publicly. If so, your responses may be shortened, if necessary, but will not be edited in substantive ways. If you choose to refer us to a position paper or website, please indicate exactly what text you would like us to cite. For candidates choosing not to respond to the questionnaire, NYLCV will note as much in its public materials.

NYLCV and its partners in the environmental policy arena believe that New York’s voters are determined to make the environment a voting issue this year. Candidate positions on issues such as protecting public health, building a clean energy future, and mitigating climate change will help voters decide how to cast their ballots this election cycle. This questionnaire is one of the primary ways the public will get this information.

After receipt of your completed questionnaire, you will be invited to participate in a formal interview with our Chapter Board. The interview will provide you with an opportunity to present your credentials, elaborate on your questionnaire responses, and respond to questions. Here are a few more guidelines:

* Questionnaires are due **Friday, June 2**
* The completed questionnaire is mandatory for endorsement consideration and must be submitted via e-mail as a Microsoft Word file to: politics@nylcv.org
* To ensure your responses address the issues NYLCV and its partners are most concerned about, please review [NYLCV’s 2016-17 Westchester Policy Agenda](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-17WestchesterAgendaFINAL.pdf)
* Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg (jklainberg@nylcv.org)

**Campaign Contact Information**

Candidate Name: Benjamin Boykin II
Office Sought (district if applicable): Westchester County Legislator, 5th Legislative District
E-mail: benboy78@aol.com
Mailing Address: 78 Midchester Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606

Phone: (914) 830-9678 (mobile); (914) 328-7808 (home)
Website: voteboykin.com
Facebook Page: Ben Boykin, County Legislator District 5
Twitter handle:
Campaign Manager’s name and email: William (Bill) Alexander; (914) 621-7786 (mobile)
Press Secretary’s name and email:
Scheduler’s name and email:

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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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| The ban on the use of heavy, dirty No. 4 and No. 6 heating oils that I co-sponsored was unanimously approved by the Board of Legislators in June 2016. The $1.2 billion BioScience and Technology Center (North 60 lease), will be an environmental friendly development and will seek LEED certification. I voted to approve the first ever Energy Director for Westchester County to reduce our carbon footprint. I have approved legislation to add electric charging stations to our parking facilities and parking lots. I have approved the purchase of buses with shields to protect our drivers and racks to carry bikes. With the Consent Agree in place with the EPA, work in ongoing to put in place facilities to provide ultraviolent treatment for our water. While on the White Plains Common Council, I protected our environment using green technology, alternative fuels and other sustainable practices. During my time on the Council, we purchased and protected 41 acres of open space. In all development projects, we encouraged the use of green technology and LEED certification. |

 **ISSUES**

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 2016-17 Westchester Policy Agenda](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-17WestchesterAgendaFINAL.pdf))

1. Sustainable Development: Advancing modernized zoning to encourage mixed land use and compact development

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| The $1.2 billion BioScience & Technology Center, approved in April 2017, is a forward thinking long-term investment for Westchester County’s economic future. This project will be environmentally friendly, seek LEED certification and be a sustainable, mixed-use community to work, live and enjoy. While the lease has been approved by the Westchester County Board of Legislators, the town of Mount Pleasant is the lead agency for the zoning issues for the development. The redevelopment of the White Plains TransCenter is expected to be a multi-use facility using best sustainable practices that will include a revised transit hub for the region with the new Tappan Zee Bridge.  |

1. Invasive Species: Educating the public on this problem and implementing better management practices

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| Invasive plants can be found throughout Westchester County, especially along roadsides, edges of lawns, forests and in open areas. The public must be aware that these species can be spread quickly by animals, humans and nature forces (wind and water). The public should notify the Westchester County Parks Department when these items are found. Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Westchester County Native Plant Center are some of the other organizations that can be of service with invasive species. The removal of invasive species is necessary to protect the species that are natural for this area. Native species save water, require less pesticides and fertilizers which harm the environment and the health of people. In addition, native species provide habitat and food for wildlife –birds, bees, butterflies and other animals. The Parks Department plants species that are native to our environment.  |

1. Cleaner Air: Speeding up conversions and retrofits of home heating oil No. 6 and No. 4 to more efficient heating systems

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| As mentioned earlier, the law to ban No. 4 and No. 6 heavy heating oils, that I co-sponsored, was approved in June 2016. The ban on use of these heavy heating oils will be effective July 31, 2018 for No. 6 and July 31, 2020 for No. 4.   |

1. Expanding Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure: Facilitating the development of a larger network of charging stations that will encourage more municipalities, businesses and individuals to switch to EVs in the coming years

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| I support measures to increase the number of charging stations for EVs. I am constantly looking for opportunities to install additional charging stations in parking structures and parking lots. As a former member of the White Plains Common Council, we were innovators with the use of alternative fuel vehicles and installing EV charging stations in the City’s garages. |

1. Sustainable Public Access Management: Making significant impacts on energy use and the environment simply by deciding to spend money and deploy resources wisely

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| After many years of delay, Westchester County is going to complete the Bronx River Parkway trail link from Scarsdale to White Plains. The projected cost is $6.7 million. The trails are the most extensive used facilities in the County. This will complete another link in the County trail system. The TransCenter redevelopment in White Plains will be pedestrian friendly and will incorporate the latest in sustainable technology.  |

1. Transportation: Maximizing environmentally friendly mobility options in and around residential and commercial centers

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| Several housing developments that received County funding have been built near transportation (train and/or bus stops). In White Plains, the latest Bank Street development (expected to open in early 2018) is a couple of blocks from the TransCenter. This reduces the need for cars. In addition, the redevelopment of the White Plains Mall (some options have been shown to the Common Council), will include significant open space and be very pedestrian friendly. The redevelopment of the Pavilion will tie this facility with the Crowne Plaza, The Source and The Westchester via a wide pedestrian friendly walkway. All of these projects are planned to reduce the number of vehicles and provide alternative transportation options including bike and pedestrian walks. |

1. Sustainable & Transit-Oriented Development: Creating livable and sustainable communities that permit increased density and diversity in our downtowns and neighborhoods

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| With a $1.0 million grant, White Plains is studying the best option for the TransCenter redevelopment. The City will have to work with Metro North on this project. White Plains has been asked by various landlords and tenants to look at rezoning in downtown White Plains to allow residential housing above some of the businesses on Mamaroneck Avenue. This would bring additional individuals into downtown adding to the City’s vitality. The County must continue to support developments that are built in very close proximity to train transportation and other transportation hubs (such as Yonkers has done in the Gedney Square area). |

1. Open Space Preservation: Planning strategies such as clustering, creating pocket parks in developed areas, and encouraging biotic corridors in less densely populated areas

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| The Ritz Carlton Development in White Plains, which I approved while on the Common Council, included a park beside Grace Church that opened in 2016. I fought to get this park completed when I moved to the Board of Legislators. At the County Board, I have fought to invest in our park system and complete missing parts of the trail system. I approved the receipt of funds from the Friends of Ladson Park & Arboretum for the new glass house conservatory at Ladson Park, scheduled to open in June 2017. In White Plains, the FASNY school will include about 60 areas of a conservatory for use by the public. I voted for a resolution opposing the Spectra/Algonquin Pipeline. Once approved by the County Executive, I signed a letter requesting that any disturbed property for pipeline construction be repaired.  |

1. Natural Resource Protection: Comprehensively managing and protecting regional natural resources (i.e., air, water and land)

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| Water District 1 (White Plains, Scarsdale, Mount Vernon and Yonkers), managed by the County, is investing $9.9 million in ultraviolet facilities to treat our drinking water under a consent decree to comply with new EPA guidelines. Any development and use of chemicals (such as deicing materials) at the County airport must be sensitive and environmental friendly to the County’s water supply. The use of alternative fuels for our rolling stock and the banning of heavy heating oils (No. 4 and No. 6) will improve our environment by eliminating a mixture of these toxic chemicals from pouring into the air. |

1. Energy: Achieving energy efficiency in residential and commercial settings, in existing and new buildings, and with cutting-edge technology and the smarter use of older technology

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| The County needs to do more with regard to retrofitting County facilities and roadways with LED lighting to reduce energy consumption. In addition, the County Administration must become more aggressive in installing solar panels on appropriate structures. In capital projects, the Board of Legislators always seeks to ensure that the most energy efficient methods are used. We have hired an Energy Director whose charge it is to bring more energy efficient operations to the County. |

1. Farms and Local Food: Managing development and providing access to healthy, fresh foods

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| The County funds various nonprofit organizations that provide locally produced foods to feed the needy in Westchester. The White Plains Youth Bureau has two gardens that grow vegetables that are provided to the Lord’s Panty to feed the hungry. The County’s agriculture districts allow various farms to apply to become part of this network. Various farmers markets throughout the County have locally grown and sourced products for purchase. Many restaurants proudly state that they use locally grown and sourced products.Scarsdale has developed the first food scraps program in the County where Village residents can bring their food scraps to the Department of Public Works facility for disposal. |