

30 Broad Street – 30th Floor

New York, NY 10004

212-361-6350

[politics@nylcv.org](mailto:politics@nylcv.org) / [www.nylcv.org](http://www.nylcv.org)

**2017 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire   
for New York City 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.

Here are a few guidelines:

* Questionnaires are due **Friday, May 19**
  + The completed questionnaire is mandatory for endorsement consideration and must be submitted via e-mail as a Microsoft Word file to: [politics@nylcv.org](mailto:politics@nylcv.org)
  + Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg ([jklainberg@nylcv.org](mailto:jklainberg@nylcv.org))
* To ensure your responses address the issues NYLCV and its partners are most concerned about, please review [NYLCV’s 2014-18 NYC Policy Agenda](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/NYC_Agenda_FINAL.pdf)
* After receipt of the completed questionnaire, candidates will be invited to participate in a formal interview with our Chapter Board
* All candidate endorsements will be made by the state board on July 26, 2017

**Campaign Contact Information**

Candidate Name: Bill Perkins  
Office Sought (district if applicable): City Council, District #9  
E-mail: info@BillPerkins.org  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1355, Morningside Station, New York, NY 10026

Phone:   
Website: www.BillPerkins.org  
Facebook Page:   
Twitter handle: @BillPerkinsNYC  
Campaign Manager’s name and email: Richard Fife, richie@rjfpr.com  
Press Secretary’s name and email:   
Scheduler’s name and email: Linda Guy, harlemresident@gmail.com

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

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

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| From growing up in East Harlem, to representing diverse river-to-river districts in the State Senate and the City Council, to running several New York City Marathons, my life experiences have ingrained in me a deep commitment to protecting the air we breathe, the water we drink and the open spaces that are so important for our health and enjoyment. This commitment is reflected in a strong, consistent record of action and results – every year scoring at the top of your legislative rankings. And I’ve been honored to receive and display your endorsement in past campaigns.  In the State Senate, I was one of the most outspoken opponents of hydrofracking. I was proud to pass legislation in 2010 that limits the sulfur content in home heating oil. I held a public hearing on the status of Superfund sites in my district. I was proud to participate in the People’s Climate March. I have fought to keep and expand parks and community gardens.  In the City Council, I spearheaded the successful fight for The Childhood Lead Paint Poisoning Prevention Act of 2004 to protect children from the deadly – and irreversible -- effects of lead in their homes. New York now has the best preventions in the country. With 25% of the children in my area suffering from asthma, I’ve worked to improve air quality, fought against the location of bus depots in our already overburdened area and sponsored City Council legislation mandating the City reduce emissions and purchase the cleanest vehicles possible.  To improve the quality of our urban environment, I’ve led the fight against rats on our streets. We held a summit, forced the Mayor to act and developed a comprehensive plan to exterminate them. And was possibly the strongest supporter of parks and open space on the City Council.  I’ve worked with Peggy Shepard and We Act to fix the North River Plant, to participate in citing and planning decisions in West Harlem, to develop a master plan for Harlem waterfront based on the community's vision and to affect the public policy agenda by positioning environmental justice as a major political issue.  It is my personal and representative philosophy that the earth and the environment are precious resources that we must protect; environmental rights are human rights because they directly impact our ability to breathe, drink, eat and live a normal life. |

**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 2014-18 NYC Policy Agenda*](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/NYC_Agenda_FINAL.pdf) *when formulating your responses)*

Healthy New Yorkers: Policies that improve the well-being of all New Yorkers through the protection of the environment and our natural resources and that provide access to basic needs.

1. Water Quality — Every New Yorker has the right to clean drinking water & waterways

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| I was a leading opponent of hyrdofracking and am proud of our collective work on that battle. I supported cleaning the entire Hudson River all the way down to NYC, opposed the proposed diversion of Clean Water State Revolving Fund dollars for the construction of the New NY Bridge and have fought for years to clean up and properly remediate Brownfield and Superfund sites. |

1. Air Quality – Every New Yorker has the right to breathe clean air

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| We must improve air quality, particularly in the Northern Manhattan area I represent where 25% of the children suffer from asthma. I was proud to pass legislation in 2010 that limits the sulfur content in home heating oil and building off of my tenure in the City Council, I continued to advocate for the eradication of lead in our housing stock statewide. We need to increase monitoring, transparency and accountability of air quality. And we need to keep toxins out of household product and children’s toys. I was proud to be an original sponsor of the Child Safe Products Act. |

1. Healthy & Local Food – Every New Yorker has the right to access healthy, local, affordable produce

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| I’ve worked to promote locally grown and healthy alternatives in our schools and access to healthy foods in all neighborhoods. We must continue to fight to increase access to fresh produce and healthy alternatives and work to promote food equity for all New Yorkers. We need to provide better, healthier food options for families, particularly our children and do a better job educating parents. Obesity is a great problem, and it is sad that former First Lady Michelle Obama’s work to highlight it is being dismantled by our current President. We need to help efforts to provide fresh foods like the Fresh Food Box project in East Harlem and also increase access to fresh, healthy food. Northeast Harlem now has no full-service grocery options from East 121st and West 129th streets, from Third to Lenox Avenues. Citywide, we need to create a NYC Food Policy Council to implement comprehensive food policy that reduces hunger, improves nutrition and reduces obesity, requires City purchasing of local and sustainable products, improves working conditions for food workers, and reduces waste. In addition, we need to strengthen EDC’s FRESH initiative to bring supermarkets to underserved, low-income communities through more proactive planning, neighborhood involvement, and standards to create good jobs for local residents. |

1. Homes that offer Protection and Savings – Every New Yorker deserves the protection of a home that is energy efficient and is resilient to impacts of storms heat waves and extended utility outages

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| I have consistently and adamantly supported renewable energy sources and in the State Senate voted against all bills that rely upon non-renewable sources of energy. I supported a robust REV plan and modification of the RGGI to focus only on clean energy projects. We should make it easier for buildings to convert to cleaner fuels through partnerships, incentives and financing and must continue to facilitate the development of clean energy sources. |

Strong Neighborhoods: Promote policies that improve the quality of life for communities in all five boroughs

1. Parks & Recreation – Every New Yorker should live within a 10-minute walk of a park that is clean, safe and well-maintained

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| From growing up in East Harlem to representing a diverse park filled District in the City and State, to running several New York City Marathons, my life experiences have ingrained in me a deep commitment to protecting the parks and open spaces that are so important for our health and enjoyment. I have fought to keep and expand parks and community gardens. I will work to insure that our parks continue to be funded and maintained and that all neighborhoods are served. |

1. Waterfront Access – Every New Yorker should have safe and public access to clean rivers, creeks, bays, harbors and other waterways

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| We should continue to increase public access to our waterfront. Our waterfront should be a place of fun, learning, activity and enjoyment as well as a buffer against future storms. They must not be walled off by highways and rails, or by private luxury residences. Rather, our waterfronts should be a shared resource and is accessible to all. Manhattan is an island and we must embrace our waterfront by expanding access and activity with ferry service, parks, small businesses, docks and increased activity. |

1. Transportation – Every New Yorker should have safe, affordable, reliable and efficient transportation options in their daily life

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| I believe that we should always encourage mass transit in all that we do; in fact, I do not even own a car. We need to promote smarter transportation initiative that get people out of cars through investment in mass transit, expanding bike share programs, and encouraging ferries, biking and walking as better alternatives. At the same time, we should be implementing “transit-hardening” strategies to safeguard train and bus fleets, protect storage facilities and prevent or minimize flooding in tunnels and other below-ground infrastructure. |

1. Resiliency & Recovery – All communities should be better able to handle extreme weather events: rainfall, snow, storm surges, heavy wind, heat and utility failures

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| I was co-sponsor of Senate Bill 8005, The "New York State Climate and Community Protection Act" to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change in New York and supported the People’s Climate March and all of the related goals of it. |

Vibrant Economy: Promote policies that foster green job creation while protecting New Yorkers from the effects of climate change

1. Infrastructure – Make critical investments to maintain New York City’s competitive edge in the global economy while creating local jobs

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| Green jobs are a win, win, win that must be advanced. It provides money to repair crumbling infrastructure that in some cases is threating the health of families, particularly in poorer neighborhoods. It combats climate change by investing in off-shore wind and electric vehicles, continuing to halt the expansion of damaging fossil fuel infrastructure. And it provides thousands of new jobs. Addressing infrastructure deficiencies and climate disruption is an opportunity, not just an obligation. We have to be big and bold in our ambition to build a clean-energy economy that works for everybody. |

1. Solid Waste – Effective solid waste management will reduce environmental burdens in overburdened communities, save the city millions of dollars in exporting waste and generate quality green jobs

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| I was the only Manhattan Councilmember to stand with NYLCV in 2005 to support the Mayor’s Solid Waste Management Plan to revamp the way the city gets rid of its trash for the next 20 years, shifting from trucks to a system of barges and making each borough responsible for handling its own garbage. Additionally, we need to a lot better in terms of recycling and move towards a zero waste goal. |

1. Green Workforce Development – Provide training for New Yorkers to help green the city and support its resiliency

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| Promoting sustainability and being ready for the next weather emergency means not just improving infrastructure, but also making sure citizens are ready too. This includes promoting conservation, recycling and other actions and strategies that advance a more sustainable, green future and providing training in green skills and jobs maintaining our environment for disadvantaged youth. |