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**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
	+ Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg (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: **Brad Lander**
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Scheduler’s name and email: **N/A**

**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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| Thank you for the opportunity to submit this questionnaire seeking the endorsement of the New York League of Conservation Voters. I am honored to have had the opportunity to work closely with NYLCV on many issues (and one especially!), and am proud of the work that I have done to advance a pro-environment agenda:* Led the effort in the City Council to **reduce plastic bag waste**, by passing Intro 209-A to apply a 5-cent fee on single-use bags. While the bill was overturned by the New York State Legislature, we advanced the issue significantly, and someday (soon) we will achieve progress in NYC and NYS.
* Helped lead work on the City Council’s **80 x 50** legislative package, which set the City on a path to reduce carbon emissions 80% by 2050. I am continuing to work aggressively to push for “mandatory retrofit” requirements to help make sure we get there.
* Have been a strong supporter of **organics recycling**, pushing early to bring it to my community, helping it to launch successfully, and pushing to spread it citywide.
* Introduced a bill to **ban the use of Styrofoam** in New York City.
* Introduced a package of legislation to **reform NYC’s “fair share” process**, to make sure all communities are treated equitably in the siting of infrastructure, a strong priority of environmental justice organizations. I also strongly support Intro 495-A, to reduce permitted capacity in waste transfer stations in overburdened neighborhoods.
* Have helped lead the effort to move to a **“zoned district” system for commercial waste**, which will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
* Supported legislation to create an agency working group to identify and address environmental justice issues, increase the use of cleaner biodiesel fuels, require energy and water benchmarking in buildings, encourage the use of solar energy, and encourage the use of carshare, bike share, and electric vehicles to reduce congestion and emissions in NYC.
* Have led the effort to develop a **plan for Gowanus** in a way that creates a model/sustainable community, with very strong attention to sustainability (e.g. reducing parking requirements for owners who provide car-share or make transit investments to reduce car usage) and resiliency (e.g. developing a long-term flood protection plan).
* I am pleased to have earned a **perfect score of 100 in NYLCV’s 2016 scorecard** for his support of NYLCV’s collective legislative priorities.
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**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 that provide access to basic needs.

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

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| Over the last 7 years as Council Member, I have worked hard to ensure that our neighborhood will have access to clean waterways. The **Gowanus Canal** has been notoriously polluted for more than a century, but I have worked closely with the EPA, City agencies, community groups and constituents to keep the dredging project on track, curtail its use as an open sewer, make sure that the City moves forward with the plan to build two CSO retention tanks, remediate the land nearby, and minimize neighborhood flooding. In addition, with my discretionary capital funds, I have supported the **expansion of green infrastructure**, in particular the installation of bioswales throughout the district to capture stormwater, reduce overflows into the canal and create new habitats. I am working with the Gowanus Canal Conservancy to launch a youth jobs program (focusing on young people who live in public housing) to maintain bioswales in the Gowanus area.  |

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

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| I am a long-time advocate for reducing emissions by **prioritizing mass transit and bicycling**. As Council Member, I have ardently supported and defended the expansion of bike lane infrastructure (beginning with being the only local elected official to support the highly contentious Prospect Park West bike lane) and CitiBike. I was a strong supporter of a package of bills that encouraged bike commuting by requiring building owners to allow access with bikes in freight elevators. My bill, Intro 211-A which the Council passed in 2015 required DOT to put together a comprehensive bus rapid transit plan. Working with DOT and transit advocates, that bill has now resulted in the launch of a comprehensive **Citywide Transit Plan**, which will prioritize all forms of public transportation including buses, subways and ferries.I am a strong supporter of **Intro 495-A**, which will reduce permitted capacity at solid waste transfer stations in overburdened neighborhoods to reduce truck traffic and emissions in the most over-concentrated districts, which are primarily communities of color. Furthermore, I spearheaded a report and package of legislation to reform the City’s Fair Share system. While this package is primarily aimed at increasing transparency and fairness in siting City facilities from day care centers and prisons to administrative offices and shelters, the package also serves to prevent the over-concentration of facilities like waste transfer stations that cause truck traffic and air quality issues in low-income communities of color, and to ensure all communities have equal access to amenities including parks and open space. Finally, I am in strong support of the City’s 2016 plan to reform its private carting industry, through a **zoned district system for commercial waste**, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 42-64 percent.  |

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

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| I am in strong support of increasing New Yorkers’ access to healthy, local, affordable foods. I worked hard & successfully to **save community supermarkets in both Park Slope and Windsor Terrace**. I helped bring the **Windsor Terrace/Kensington Youth/Greenmarket** to the community, which is now in its sixth year of operations. For several of those years, we also worked with Family Cook Productions on a healthy food/cooking/training programs. I have worked extremely close with the **CHiPS and Masbia soup kitchens** in my district, helping them to expand and strengthen their operations. I support efforts in the Council to increase the City’s budget for emergency food funds, and to end youth hunger by expanding access to universal free breakfast & lunch in NYC’s schools.  |

1. Green Buildings – 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 was one of the internal leaders in the Council on the 2014 package of legislation, which committed NYC to the path of reducing **emissions 80% by 2050**. Since that time, I have been pushing aggressively for legislation that would **mandate retrofits of all large private buildings** to lower both emissions and energy use. I also support legislation to require the retrofit of all public buildings with solar and renewable energy wherever feasible. I have also supported efforts by the Pratt Center for Community Development (which I helped to initiate when I was the director there) to make it easier for homeowners – especially in low-income communities – to retrofit their homes. |

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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| I am a long-time advocate for access to well-maintained parks, recreation and open space in NYC. My bill, Intro 154, which passed in 2015, helps achieve this goal by requiring the Parks Department to submit an **annual report on park maintenance**, capital expenditures and parks enforcement patrol offices. With this data, New Yorkers for Parks and other advocates and stewards of open space are better able to advocate for specific parks in need and reforms to DPR’s maintenance practices. My legislation to **reform the City’s Fair Share system** seeks to build on the good work that’s already been done to improve access to parks by requiring the City to consider equity and distributional fairness in the siting of new parks. In my district, I have worked aggressively to improve our parks, providing extensive resources for **Prospect Park** (the jewel of my district, and the breathing lungs of Brooklyn) for path renovation, ballfield reconstruction, cleaning the lake, adding free-resistant water fountains, and upgrading many facilities. I have also supported the **renovation of many smaller parks and recreation spaces** throughout my district with discretionary funds (Dome Playground, Washington Park, DiMattina Park, St. Mary’s Park, South Brooklyn Children’s Garden, Ennis Playground, Brizzi Plaground, etc).  |

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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| As noted above, I have worked closely with the EPA, City agencies, community groups and constituents to insure that the Superfund cleanup of the **Gowanus Canal** moves forward. In our current work to develop & implement a comprehensive plan for Gowanus, I am working closely with the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, Gowanus Dredgers, and City Planning to ensure public access to the Canal through an eventually continuous esplanade, as well as “get-downs” and access points. In Prospect Park, I provided funding for the renovation of “**Dog Beach,”** so dogs can have access to the Prospect Park lake, as well as the “**Lake Mess Monster**” to help keep the lake clean. |

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

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| As noted above, I am a long-time advocate for reducing emissions by prioritizing mass transit and bicycling. My bill, Intro 211-A which passed in 2015 required DOT to put together a comprehensive bus rapid transit plan. Working with DOT and transit advocates, that bill has now resulted in the launch of a comprehensive **Citywide Transit Plan**, which will prioritize all forms of public transportation including buses, subways and ferries. In my district, our policy report on the **B61** helped win extensive improvements to the line. We are currently working to restore **B71** (Union Street) bus service with a new twist, to **prevent the MTA from eliminating half the trains at local F stations**, and to advocate for a large-scale train to address subways woes. In addition to my support for the **expansion of Citibike and bike lane infrastructure** in my district, I am working on a **car-sharing pilot program** in Park Slope that is expected to reduce parking and car ownership in our community.  |

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 deeply affected by **Hurricane Sandy**. The weeks afterward – when our community came together to house 500 frail elderly evacuees in the Park Slope Armory, while also working to help communities of Red Hook and the Rockaways – remain very vivid to me. I am committed to keeping that memory alive and to insuring that we prepare as a city, with both physical and human infrastructure.In Gowanus, our planning work includes strong attention to these issues, including: (a) **high-level storm sewers** and related investments to reduce flooding, (b) investments to address **sewer backups and vulnerabilities in the NYCHA developments** nearby, (c) innovative advocacy to **raise the bulkheads** to protect the area from sea level rise in the coming years, (d) support for Gowanus Canal **flood-gates** (tied into an eventual Red Hook Levy) to protect the area in the coming decades, and (e) a **community emergency response plan**, so that we are prepared. Beyond Gowanus, I have worked closely with the Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency to keep our city moving forward on commitments and necessary actions to insure that we are prepared to respond to any extreme weather events.  |

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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|  I strongly support **infrastructure investments** – in our mass-transit, water system, renewable energy, roads, bridges, parks, schools, and resiliency – that secure our City’s long-term future, and create good green jobs as well. I pushed for a more strategic and transparent approach to the City’s 10-year capital plan, and am currently advocating for **reform of the City’s capital projects management** system to be more timely, cost-efficient, coordinated, and transparent.I support the **Climate Works for All** proposal of Urban Green Council and partners to push for significant investments in renewable energy and create good jobs through energy retrofits. I am an advocate for the prioritization of **City Water Tunnel No. 3**, which serves Brooklyn and Queens. As outlined above, I am working toward significant infrastructure investments in **Gowanus**, to address issues of sustainability and resiliency, and provide the necessary infrastructure for smart and sustainable growth.Finally, although it is primarily a State issue, I strongly support **dramatically increased investment in our subway and bus system**. We must address the looming crisis facing our subways if we do not act, and support improvements to our bus system as well. To achieve these goals, I would support congestion pricing, a commuter tax, a millionaire’s tax increase, closing the “carried interest” loophole, or other progressive/strategic revenue sources. |

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 have been a strong supporter of the City’s **organics recycling** program. I advocated for the pilot program in Park Slope, put a lot of energy into helping it succeed, have supported local composting facilities in my district with discretionary funds, and advocated for citywide expansion. When the time comes, I will advocate for “two-day-a-week composting // one-day-a-week refuse” collection, to encourage organics recycling and save money.As NYLCV knows well, I made a strong effort to reduce the use of **plastic and paper single-use bags** that end up in our waste stream. And I plan to continue that fight until we get it done!I recently introduced a bill to ban **Styrofoam**, and will work hard to remove this toxic product from our waste stream.I am a strong supporter of **Intro 495-A**, the City’s plan to reform its private carting industry, and fair share reform to more equitably site facilities that handle waste. In addition, I was a strong voice in support of the City’s **SWMP** plan, which will establish a cost-effective, reliable and environmentally sound system for managing the City’s waste. The **Fair Share** reform package seeks to build on the progress that plan has made to avoid the concentration of waste management contracts and facilities moving forward. I am proud to represent a community which is consistently at the top of the list in terms of **recycling and diversion**, and help to make sure we stay that way! |

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

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| I am a strong supporter of job training efforts including **Green City Force, SEIU 32-BJ**, and other programs that promote green workforce development. I strongly support the **Climate Works for All** campaign, which would uphold wage, safety and hiring standards for projects, invest in necessary training in green jobs programs for all building retrofit requirements required by law. In my own community, I am currently working with the **Gowanus Canal Conservancy** to launch a bioswale maintenance program, with a focus on young people from local public housing developments. In our planning for Gowanus, we are working aggressively to insure workforce development and access opportunities to jobs created in the Superfund cleanup and other sustainability and resiliency efforts. |