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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](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:** Corey Johnson

**Office Sought (district if applicable):** Council Member, District 3

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**Campaign Manager’s name and email:** Kevin Groh, kevin.groh@gmail.com

**Press Secretary’s name and email:** n/a

**Scheduler’s name and email:** Kevin Groh, kevin.groh@gmail.com

**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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| I am proud to have received a 100% score on the NYLCV NYC Council Environmental Scorecard for every year I’ve been on the Council.   I’m a strong supporter of every piece of pro-environment legislation identified by NYLCV in its annual NYC Council scorecards, including legislation to curb the use of disposable plastic bags.  To highlight just one example, as Chair of the Council’s Committee on Health, I was the chief sponsor for the now-enacted legislation that requires the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to conduct neighborhood air quality surveys and release those survey results to the public. This legislation requires the city to report publicly on potential causes of pollution, and increases transparency and accountability in our city. |

**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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| There are few things more important than ensuring access to clean drinking water and waterways.  That is why I’m a strong opponent of fracking and other irresponsible industries. Before I was elected to the Council, in an act of civil disobedience, I was arrested for blocking off the West Side Highway to protest the Spectra natural gas pipeline, which carries fracked gas into Greenwich Village. Soon after taking office, I introduced legislation that would ban the discharge, disposal, sale or use of any wastewater or natural gas waste produced by fracking.  New York City is known among large cities worldwide for the pristine quality of its drinking water. Anything that would compromise our water in any way must be opposed in the strongest possible terms. We must also look beyond our City’s borders to stand in solidarity with the people of Hoosick Falls, who deserve justice.  As a representative of a district that abuts the Hudson River, I feel a responsibility to uphold the quality of our waterways. I’m a proud supporter of the River Project, which works to protect and restore the ecosystem of the Hudson River Estuary and New York Harbor through scientific research, hands-on environmental education, habitat improvement and innovative waterfront programs. |

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

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| New York has made significant progress in recent decades in improving our air quality, but we can and must do more.  As referenced above, I sponsored legislation that now requires the DOHMH to conduct community air quality surveys and publish the results annually. This is an important step toward understanding and subsequently working toward achieving better air quality for all New Yorkers.  Second-hand cigarette smoke contributes to bad air quality. As Chair of the Health Committee I’m co-sponsoring a package of legislation that will further reduce smoking rates in New York City. I am the prime sponsor of a bill will increase the baseline cost of a pack of cigarettes to $13. These actions will limit the amount of second hand smoke that residents of NYC inhale every day.  From calling to an end to the use of #6 and #4 fuel oil, to supporting updates to New York City’s Air Pollution Control Code, I’m proud to stand alongside my colleagues in working for better air quality. |

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

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| New Yorkers deserve access to healthy, local, affordable produce. Since taking office, I have been partnering with Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer’s office to provide my constituents with a program called Fresh Food for Seniors. This program allows hundreds of senior and low income residents in my district to pick up fresh produce at an affordable price (only $5 a bag) every two weeks throughout the summer.  I also deeply appreciate and support local farmer’s markets, of which there many in District 3 -- from the West Village to Hell’s Kitchen.  I support small groceries in my district as well and have fought to support small groceries that sell healthy, local produce at affordable prices from closure due to increased rent. I have introduced a bill in the Council that would exempt local supermarkets from the Commercial Rent Tax. |

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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| The City has a responsibility to enact both requirements and incentives that encourage buildings to become more energy efficient and eco-friendly. Buildings that want to become more eco-friendly should not face difficulty acquiring the corresponding permits or legal allowances to do so.  This year, the Council passed a resolution to help keep the Penn South cooperative -- home to thousands of middle income residents in my district -- affordable and efficiently functioning. This is not only a win for housing advocates, but also a win for energy efficiency as Penn South recently underwent an HVAC renovation consistent with sustainable 21st century standards. Penn South also has a generator which provides power to the 10-building complex in times of blackouts or other energy crises, making it an important community hub in case of emergencies of this kind. |

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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| Since taking office, I have been committed to increasing the public greenspace in District 3 -- the district with the least amount of proportional green space in all of NYC. Some of my notable accomplishments include working with the community to create brand new gardens and parks, including the new 20th Street park and a new park in Hell’s Kitchen. I have also worked to revitalize parks in the district. I can’t stress enough how important I think it is that our families and residents have access to green space and park space. I have allocated millions of dollars of discretionary funds to fund capital renovations, new playground equipment, community programing and improved landscaping to parks such as Father Fagan Park, Chelsea Waterside Park and Clement Clark Moore Park. A new Pier 40 is on the way, as well as the possibility of rejuvenated piers along Hudson River Park and new public park space in Hudson Yards. |

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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| District 3 has significant waterfront access and we must protect that access with adequate resources and support. I am working closely with Hudson River Park Trust to help them address their budget challenges. The land use deal I helped craft at 550 Washington Street has provided the trust with $114 million to save Pier 40, which is the main revenue generator for the park. It is vitally important that we maintain an open, clean, beautiful and green public waterfront along the West Side. |

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

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| As Mayor de Blasio implements increased ferry serve on New York’s waterways, I have urged the City to add ferry stop along the West Side. Given the rapidly increasing population of neighborhoods like West Chelsea and Hudson Yards, West Side ferry service would add a sustainable transportation option without further clogging the streets and tunnels of midtown’s transportations lines.  I am fighting hard to ensure that any changes to Port Authority and similarly, Penn Station, are supported by the local community and are developed within the mold of a more sustainable New York City, looking toward the future as we envision these transportation hubs in the modern era.  I support the expansion of Select Bus Service on routes like 23rd Street. This program has been a success and is in line with environmental sustainability and Vision Zero practices.  I’m very pleased with the expansion of protected bike lanes along Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Avenues, which are either completed or in development. We need to develop a culture of bicycle use and move away from a reliance on the automobile. |

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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| District 3 was hit by Superstorm Sandy just before I came into office. Since taking office, I have been a staunch advocate for increasing storm resiliency in District 3. The resiliency plans being implemented along the East Side and Lower Manhattan’s waterfront should be extended up the West Side. In an age of climate change and unprecedented weather patterns, is not a matter of if we get hit again - but when.  As I told a reporter recently, in reference to Trump’s horrible climate change agenda, “By rolling back climate protections, Trump is virtually guaranteeing that we’ll have more Sandys in the future, with greater frequency and severity… That should outrage all of us.” I am committed to using my platform to help advance a cleaner, greener society with infrastructure and resiliency programs that address the unfortunate consequences of our already changing climate. |

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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| My district will soon be home to Hudson Yards, the largest commercial/residential development currently in the United States, which is embracing green technology. I am helping to negotiate additional public green space and sustainable infrastructure at this location.  I support the growing of the Office of Environmental Remediation and the targeting of brownfield developments in my district.  I support Governor Cuomo’s plan to upgrade MTA tolling and infrastructure, as well as the construction of ‘one seat ride’ rail options to both LaGuardia and JFK Airports.. As he said in October, “with flood and earthquake reinforcements, automatic tolling and more, these infrastructure investments promise to help make our roads safer, less congested and better equipped to meet today’s transportation needs.”  I will continue to support projects like these which help our City accommodate growing population levels while moving toward environmentally friendly, sustainable practices. |

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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| Over the last couple years, I have worked with the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) to implement larger trash receptacles in our district. As part of the Cleanup NYC Initiative, I helped facilitate the implementation of 58 new high volume bins to go along with more Sanitation pickups along 10 corridors in my district. I’m also working with DSNY to expand composting in my district, and in two weeks we will be announcing of compost drop-off sides up and down Hudson River Park.  I’m a proud co-sponsor of Intro. 495, which follows through on the City Solid Waste Management Plan’s commitment to ensure relief for communities long overburdened by waste impacts. |

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

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| I support programs that encourage youth to receive training for and take on jobs that involve environmental sustainability and the upkeep of green space in my district. That’s why I support the Friends of the High Line in their efforts to employ neighborhood youth to help maintain the grounds of the High Line, a park that flows through my district.  I also believe that we need to increase our educational programs and the integration of training into the workforce so that more workers are knowledgeable about how to live more environmentally friendly lifestyles. Schools must also be mindful of this, and we can not only achieve better air quality and a smaller footprint as a city, but cut costs in the future as we become more environmentally sustainable, together.  I support the Climate Works for All Campaign. Through this campaign, a coalition of advocates are encouraging the City to:   * Create a local hire program and pathways to apprenticeship and civil service titles that bring well-paying jobs to our city’s residents. * Protect the public interest by ensuring good working conditions via project labor agreements and preserve work in the public sector where appropriate * Prioritize renewable energy investments in environmental justice and low income communities, with a focus on communities that have historically been sites for polluting infrastructure. * Conduct a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of different financing mechanisms, including direct funding, that facilitates the greatest benefits to the city. * Share energy savings from solar installations with the communities and/or sites in which the projects occur. |