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## 2017 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire for Long Island 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](mailto:politics@nylcv.org)
- ☒ To ensure your responses address the issues NYLCV and its partners are most concerned about, please review [NYLCV's 2016-17 Long Island Policy Agenda](#)
- ☒ Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg ([jklainberg@nylcv.org](mailto:jklainberg@nylcv.org))

## CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

Office Sought (district if applicable): Nassau County Legislator – 11<sup>th</sup> District

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## 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.

As I outline in the questions below I am dedicated to protecting and conserving our natural environment, as I believe my political actions have represented. My district includes a large amount of coastline, and I have made it a priority to keep our water cleaner for our children and community. I am always looking and interested in finding new ways to promote a pro-environment agenda. My office and I set up meetings with Grass Roots, an environmental organization out of Port Washington to see what else as a Legislator I can do to try and help the environment. I encourage the public and other outside groups to reach out to my office with new and innovative ideas to help the environment.

## 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 Long Island Policy Agenda](#))*

2. Expanding Renewable Power: Streamlining and standardizing regulations that will spur innovation and wide-spread adoption in the residential and commercial sectors

I am committed to the expansion of renewable energy sources. As a government, we need to be responsible for current and future generations in how we use energy and research new methods in doing so.

3. Improving Water Quality: Identifying financing mechanisms to replace failing septic systems

I have a strong commitment to improving water quality. Recently, I have been involved in completing a sewer study along coastlines in my district. Our goal for Glen Cove is to replace failing septic systems near the stream with sewers to lower bacteria levels so Crescent Beach can reopen. Additionally, I helped secure 12 million dollars to help fix degrading sewers in Glen Cove.

4. LIRR Third Track: Ensuring the Long Island Rail Road completes a planned third main line track from Floral Park to Hicksville

I am not opposed to adding a third main line on the LIRR.

5. 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

This is an issue that is of great interest to me. I would be supportive of working on expanding electric vehicle infrastructure in Nassau County. I would like to figure out ways to work with local energy companies to make such initiative at little to no cost to taxpayers.

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

As I mention below, I am an advocate for increasing public transportation to decrease emissions and allow for more efficient transportation systems. It is important to create sustainable community practices for a healthier Nassau County. I helped pass a bill in the Nassau County Legislator that bans the use of snow-melt pellets made from fracking water. This is just one example of an environmentally sustainable community practice.

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

Creating affordable public transportation is not only important for a healthier environment, but also a healthier economy. As a legislator, I remain committed to restoring old bus routes and adding new ones.

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

In this age of increased development, it is important to protect and conserve our natural environment. I remain committed to providing open spaces to my constituents and all Nassau County residents.

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

I am committed to using the necessary resources in order to make real positive impacts on the environment. That commitment is coupled with my strong belief in fiscal responsibility and contract oversight.

10. 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

I am dedicated to creating a more energy efficient Nassau County.

11. Water Quality and Aquifer Protection: Ensuring clean water not only for drinking but for recreation and agriculture

Water quality is an issue that is very important and relevant to my district and Nassau County. As a council member for the city of Glen Cove, I was a part of an initiative to clean up waterfront lands. As a legislator, I am working closely with the County's soil and water Conservation District and other environmental organizations to work on this issue.

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

The Nassau County Legislature recently passed a bill that mandates automatic irrigation systems to be equipped with sensors that help conserve water. As a supporter of this bill, I am constantly looking for more ways to conserve the wonderful natural lands Nassau County has been privileged with.

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

I am an advocate for organic farms and locally grown foods. I support and work with Grass Roots an environmental advocacy organization that operates a local farm and fresh food market in Port Washington.