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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**

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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.

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| One of the first actions I took during my first term as borough president was the creation my Renewable and Sustainable Energy Taskforce (ReSET). ReSET has met on a quarterly basis since I began my tenure, leading efforts on improving energy efficiency literacy, connecting residents to green rebates and incentives, and serving as a focal point for organizing for advocates for microgrids, solar power, and other alternative energy sources. This taskforce serves as an indicator of my commitment to a green agenda, ranging from advocating for sustainable transportation options to green design in buildings that come before me during the Uniform Land Use Review Process (ULURP).  I released a report in May 2016 on the importance of sustainability coordinators in schools calling on the New York City Department of Education (DOE) to fully fund these integral roles as a way to educate our young people about sustainability and reduce our school’s carbon footprint.  I am committed to advancing a progressive environmental platform will continue to build on my first term’s successes, as well as learn from our effort’s lessons, as we continue to build a safe borough to raise healthy children and families. My vision includes, but is not limited to, the creation of pollinator gardens in all schools in the borough, fully-funded sustainability coordinators in our schools, and hundreds of more units of affordable housing in green, Passive House design, buildings. |

**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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| As Brooklyn Borough President I led efforts among all borough presidents to call attention to need for increased transparency at the New York City Department of Education regarding lead in water at schools across the city. I called on the DOE to more proactively communicate with parents and guardians about the threat level of lead in water in schools as well as expedite work to remove affected pipes.  To help address the issues of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and reduce stormwater runoff, I launched an “Adopt-a-Storm-Basin” pilot program in partnership with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This pilot program in five communities across Brooklyn intended to reduce the overflow of storm basins during heavy rainfall. In addition, in partnership with the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative, I served as the fiscal conduit for the creation of green stormwater management design guidelines that are now being deployed in select areas along the Brooklyn’s waterfront.  To protect our historic water infrastructure, I also supported efforts to designate the Ridgewood Reservoir as a state historic district protecting water in and around the reservoir. |

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

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| In July of 2017, I released a report outlining recommendations at the city and state level to ensure that New York City can convert existing gas stations into fueling stations of the future through the use of expanded infrastructure electric vehicles, hydrogen fuel cells, and compressed natural gas fueling sources.  As borough president, I have been a staunch supporter of using my charter mandated land use review process to incentivize greener development. In April 2017 I introduced, and the borough board passed, a resolution endorsing Passive House design as a way to improve energy efficiency and foster cleaner air.  Given the fact that New York City buildings account for roughly 70 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, I have engaged NYC DCAS in an effort make Brooklyn Borough Hall LEED certified.  I have also called on the expansion of Citi Bike to be brought to all corners of the borough as a way to provide all residents with a clean mobility option. |

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

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| In April 2016, I was diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes, which led me on a purposeful journey to learn about how food plays such an integral role in our health. As a result, I have taken several tangible steps to improve access to healthy and local food across the borough. In partnership with the American Heart Foundation, I launched a “Healthy Workplace Challenge” engaging businesses to provide healthier food options at meetings and events. I adopted the first ever Brooklyn Borough Hall Food Policy aligning my vision of healthier foods with our events.  Beyond borough hall and the immediate workplaces in Brooklyn, I have committed to expanding the production of food more locally. I have allocated approximately $15 million in funding for a hydroponic greenhouse at the Marlborough NYCHA house. I have also verbally committed to allocating funding to an urban agriculture incubator to support the urban farming innovators in the borough. In order to train the urban agriculture workers of tomorrow, I have also allocated millions in funding, in partnership with New York Sun Works, to the creation of nearly two dozen “Greenhouse Labs” at schools across the borough.  Finally, at my request, New York City Council Member Rafael Espinal has introduced legislation in the New York City Council to create an Urban Agriculture Comprehensive Plan which will help businesses better navigate the New York City bureaucracy in order to support this growing industry, ensure that growth is done in an environmentally sustainable manner, and that long-standing community gardens are protected and supported. |

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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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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| As borough president I have allocated millions of dollars to parks projects across the borough, including funding to improve park access equity around Prospect Park and Fort Greene Park. This funding will be used to improve and replace sidewalks on low-income sides abutting the parks leading to safer and more environmentally friendly ways to access parks. In addition, I have been a leading voice in the efforts to close Prospect Park to automobile traffic, ensuring that millions of users  I have also allocated funding to Bushwick Inlet Park helping New York City fulfill a long promised expansion of the popular park along the Brooklyn waterfront. In addition, my office has led efforts to advance an innovative park expansion project, BQ Green, which will add acres of parkland on top of the BQE and repair a longstanding divide in the Williamsburg community dating back to the Robert Moses era.  In the coming months, I will be releasing a report on "Complete Parks" in the borough, providing my office with a roadmap to capital investment in the borough’s parks.  Finally, I have, and continue to serve as the fiscal conduit for the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative, completing the Navy Cemetery Park and undertaking Phase V contract which includes the potential to create the Columbia Waterfront Park. |

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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| While I have been a champion for Mayor de Blasio’s “Five Borough Ferry Plan”, I continued to urge the mayor to be more aggressive in expanding the ferry plan, particularly to Coney Island and Canarsie. I have encouraged the Administration to think strategically about terminal location and ensure that the ferry terminals are true multi-modal centers that allow for the seamless connection of users from other forms of transportation, namely bus/subway riders, cyclists, and pedestrians.  As mentioned above, I have also been the fiscal conduit for the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative, brining millions of dollars of investment from the State to the Brooklyn waterfront. |

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

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| I have been a leading voice on the need for a more reliable, equitable, and affordable transportation system in Brooklyn and beyond. During my tenure, I secured an MTA commitment of a pilot program for "Freedom Ticket on LIRR" which would reduce cost of intracity LIRR trips with a free transfer to NYCT. In addition, my advocacy for transit equity led to the inclusion of funding in the MTA’s capital program for a free transfer at the Livonia L stop and the 3 at Junius in Brownsville. In addition, I have highlighted the dearth of investment, and called for LIRR/MTA to allocate additional funding, at the East New York LIRR station to increase ridership, accommodate riders that will arrive as a result of the East New York rezoning as well as those to be impacted by the future L train shutdown and reduce overcrowding on parallel subway lines.  In my first capital budget cycle as borough president, I allocated funding for real-time bus countdown clocks and have supported transit advocates “Bus Turnaround Plan” as well as the “Fair Fares” proposal. I have been supportive of Select Bus Service as well and am eager to partner with the NYCDOT to further expand SBS and BRT in the borough.  I was an early supporter of Vision Zero and have worked hard to advocate for safer streets and infrastructure that allows people to safely engage in sustainable transportation options like biking and walking. Using my capital funding, I created the Connecting Residents on Safer Streets (CROSS) to improve walking safety at and around senior centers and schools and I established an annual Earth Week "Borough Hall Bike to Work" event, advocating and securing bike lanes on Classon Avenue and advancing conversations for bike lanes along Flatbush Avenue and around Prospect Park.  As mentioned above, I have also called for the expansion of Citi Bike throughout the borough in order to provide a sustainable transportation option to all residents. In addition, I am supportive of efforts to use city resources to expand Citi Bike to all corners of the City. |

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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| As mentioned earlier, in partnership with DEP I launched an “Adopt-A-Storm-Basin” program in communities across the borough in order to better handle extreme weather events. In addition, I convened stakeholders from across the borough to ensure that the Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency was responsive to community needs and transparent in its project delivery, resulting in the release of dynamic maps in October of 2015 that better communicate the status of projects to constituents. |

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 have been a champion of the working waterfront as well, particularly the Red Hook Container Terminal, as a way to protect green jobs and ensure that we are doing everything we can to shift freight to more sustainable methods like barge and train.  I am eager to build out a sustainable transportation system to attract business to the borough, ensuring that we remain competitive well into the 21st century, and have advocated for investments in our creaking transit system and safe street infrastructure.  I have supported the creation of green infrastructure stormwater management techniques through my partnership with the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative.  In addition, through my “Building by Faith” initiative, I have supported efforts to build Passive House affordable housing in Central Brooklyn, a first step towards a broader Passive House movement in the borough.  Finally, I called on Governor Cuomo to do more to repair leaky roofs on NYCHA complexes as a way to reduce the overall maintenance costs and unhealthy environments of moldy buildings and housing units. |

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 long championed the expansion of composting in New York City and decided to establish a volunteer composting program at borough hall in partnership with GrowNYC when the Department of Sanitation was reluctant to commit to expanding to borough hall. I have also advocated, in partnership with local stakeholders, for expansion of composting to downtown Brooklyn.  As part of my annual Earth Week activities at borough hall, I hold a Stop-N-Swap to support recycling and reusing rather than sending old items to the landfill. |

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

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| I have supported Passive House New York’s efforts to conduct trainings for contractors, developers, and architects to prepare the workforce of tomorrow for improved energy efficient buildings.  As mentioned above, I have also been a champion of the green working waterfront as well, particularly the Red Hook Container Terminal, as a way to protect green jobs and ensure that we are doing everything we can to shift freight to more sustainable methods like barge and train. |