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2017 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire
for Westchester 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
* To ensure your responses address the issues NYLCV and its partners are most concerned about, please review [NYLCV’s 2016-17 Westchester Policy Agenda](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-17WestchesterAgendaFINAL.pdf)
* Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg (jklainberg@nylcv.org)

**Campaign Contact Information**

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Press Secretary’s name and email:
Scheduler’s name and email:

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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| As a testament of my long-time support for the environment and environmental initiatives, I was appointed the Chairman of the Westchester Board of Legislators Committee for Environment and Health. As Chairman, I have brought unanimous support from both sides of the aisle to pass important environmental initiatives, for example, the County’s banning of the use of heavy oils in buildings, which had sat for years to my leading the charge at the Legislature for Banning the Barge.As Chairman, I have covered the spectrum on the environment from helping provide millions of dollars for sewers in Bedford to recertifying the Agricultural District for Westchester which needs to be done every 8 years and included numerous new agricultural parcels in the district.I have long been a proponent of preserving and protecting open space and our natural resources and was an early supporter of Bedford’s first Open Space Bond Referendum and its subsequent renewal. I mention that in particular to point out that I have a very clear understanding of the connection between protecting our open space and the environment and how it relates directly to our quality of life, community character and economic value.I was to an active participant and supporter of numerous environmental initiatives helping to lead the charge as a Councilman for the Town of Bedford for over 13 years and have worked closely with my fellow Board Members to help Bedford lead the charge on many important environmental initiatives within our state and surrounding communities, such as the creation of Bedford 2020, reaffirming our Open Space Bonding and initiatives, PACE Financing, our Energy Improvement Corporation as well as other progressive environmental initiatives and issues within our Town and surrounding communities. I have watched Solarize Bedford grow to so many surrounding communities in our County and I try to make it to support as many Solarize “name your Town” throughout Westchester and recently was on-hand with our BOL Chairman and County Executive to support the roll-out of Solarize Westchester as a strong supporter and advocate.As one of the three outside Directors on the Board for the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), I have served the people of New York for over 14 years leading the country to protect our State’s water. The EFC is one of the largest issuers of public debt ($20+ billion) in the Country and provides low-cost financing for local wastewater and drinking water infrastructure. EFC invests more than $1 billion each year in water-quality improvements through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund– the largest and most-active revolving loans funds in the nation – along with helping to create its award-winning Green Innovation Grant Program. This also includes habitat preservation and protection. At the EFC, I am the Chairman of the Finance Committee and a Member of the Audit and the Corporate Governance Committees. I have served four Governors in this role.I am also a beekeeper and have been working hard to help reestablish hives throughout the County as bees are so vital to our creating a healthy environment. I would ask you to refer to my NYLCV to review my many proactive accomplishments over the years in support of 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 Westchester Policy Agenda](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-17WestchesterAgendaFINAL.pdf))

1. Sustainable Development: Advancing modernized zoning to encourage mixed land use and compact development

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| As Chair of the Committee on Environment and Health and as Vice Chairman of the Committee on Infrastructure, at the County level I have been able to directly apply my many years of experience as a town board member to assist municipalities across Westchester. Municipal planning is a deeply rooted American tradition and is of critical concern today in Westchester as the challenges of needed housing, prudent land use, and environmental protection are faced.I work within our communities in finding creative ways to protect the character and natural resources of our communities. I support land-use requirements as well as the enforcement of stormwater and runoff requirements and support building codes around those things most friendly to the environment and energy usage to insure the maximum protection for our communities and overall global protection of our planet. From open space protection to reducing the impact of phosphorous discharge, Westchester has to lead in areas it feels our important to the protection of our natural resources for this generation as well as for those to come. I have been able to apply those same principles in my County role. |

1. Invasive Species: Educating the public on this problem and implementing better management practices

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| I will use my position as Chair of E&H for the County to work with experts and the NYLCV to educate the public and to work with our County Department Commissioners to deal with the issue of invasive species in our County. |

1. Cleaner Air: Speeding up conversions and retrofits of home heating oil No. 6 and No. 4 to more efficient heating systems

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| As Chairman of the Committee on Environment and Health, one of my first acts was to pass a Law banning No. 6 & No. 4 in Westchester County. I worked with the NYLCV to insure this passed and got the unanimous support of the entire BOL. It had not passed prior to my arrival as a Legislator. As a Town Board Member in the Town of Bedford, I helped institutionalize Bedford 2020, a plan to reduce Town’s carbon dioxide emissions and footprint came through the Bedford 2020 Coalition (B 2020) which was incorporated as a nonprofit on December 2, 2009. Its purpose is to oversee implementation of Bedford’s Climate Action Plan. The formation of B2020 was the culmination of several years of grassroots activities supported by our Town Board unanimously and at all junctures to address environmental issues impacting our town and the surrounding communities. I continue to be an active and vocal supporter of Bedford 2020. I have been an active participant in Bedford 2020’s Greenlight Awards over the last two years helping as a Judge for the event which works with students in our communities on environmental projects.As a Town Board Member, I supported Bedford’s initiative to be one of the first to municipalities to join in CCA energy coalition for purchasing electricity at reduced rates and opted for the renewable energy sources and I helped encourage the use of the coalition in many towns in Northern Westchester. |

1. 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

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| As Vice Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Regional Efficiencies and Vice Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee, I work with my Chairs to support at every opportunity the County’s use and development of EV stations throughout the County and the use of electric vehicles by the County where practical. |

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

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| Again, where practical, we insist in BOL Committees to apply prudent judgement by our Commissioners to minimize energy and to use alternative energy sources – whether in our County vehicles or solar or LED in our buildings. I believe that we have been successful at every opportunity in sounding that charge. |

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

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| As Vice Chair of Energy & Regional Efficiencies, involving and engaging all constituencies in ensuring the success of environmentally friendly mobility options for our communities. Many of the pieces are there, and many are still yet to come. I will continue to work with municipalities, the State and private stakeholders to facilitate solutions that meet the needs of all interests to ensure we maximize what we can and should be doing to accommodate all stakeholders. The needs vary and there is not one solution that fits all, but in working in such a way to bring together that which could be practically done will go a long way to helping achieve the goals workable solution to take advantage of the opportunities and challenges that lie before us. |

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

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| I will continue to advocate in the Committees on which I serve to promote sustainable and transit oriented development in our communities. Most recently, I worked to help secure the multi-million-dollar funding and the IMA for a project to sewer downtown Katonah and Bedford Hills in the Town of Bedford. I will work hard with other municipalities to help with any projects that help create livable and sustainable communities to promote diversity and density according to the needs and planning. |

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

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| As Chairman of the Committee on Environment and Health for the County, I recently passed the 8-year renewal for the County’s Agricultural District and in my short time on the BOL helped include many new agricultural parcels for protection within the district. I have been a long-time strong and vocal supporter of protecting our open space as the secondary benefits not only protect our water and our natural resources, but also to ancillary effect it has on protecting the character and quality of our County and has strong impact on our property values. Open space protection has a clear and proven impact on maintaining and enhancing protecting our clean water, clean air and our environment. I will always support and champion these things for the protection of our environment, but also for the impact that it has on our property values. It is simple economics that help to justify the protection of our resources for future generations. I have been proud to be a part of our many accomplishment’s on this front. |

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

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| The protection of our land, our water and our air have and always will be my highest priority. I believe my record and many accomplishments over the years and my ongoing involvement at the State level as a longtime Board Director of the EFC is why I was chosen to Chair the BOL Committee on Environment and Health. I will continue to work tirelessly on this front and work closely with the NYLCV to insure the protection of all our precious natural resources. It is my record and accomplishments on that front that I believe lead the Chairwomen for the Committee on Energy & Regional Efficiencies to name me as her Vice Chairman. |

1. 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

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| As Vice Chair for Energy & Regional Efficiencies, I continue to use my experience and knowledge to promote energy efficiencies and to encourage to use of new technologies. I bring that to my position as Vice Chairman of Infrastructure. At the County level and through both Committees, we always seek to incorporate energy efficiencies in all County projects and encourage private entities with whom the County partners with, such as the Playland and the North 60, to do the same.  |

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

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| As Chairman of the BOL Committee on Environment and Health, I lead the recertification of the County Agricultural District and worked to include additional parcel into the Agricultural District. I have also discussed with the County Agricultural Board the expansion of the Agricultural District to include more parcels and innovative farming techniques (such as hydroponic farming) from the southern, more densely populated part of the County.I will continue to work hard to educate and work in promoting farming, animal husbandry horticulture and most importantly, the wise us of land, soil and water in for the protection of the environment as a whole. We have many “farm to table” establishments in Westchester, but we also need to find ways to increase the support of the food needy in our communities. We need to continue to seek ways incorporate our local farming operations in addressing our food needy. I will continue to work with our farms and agricultural operations to provide the support that they need, not just for the healthy good they do for our communities, but also for those who seek to grow these businesses. It makes good health sense and business sense to support these practices and all those who endeavor to provide these fine and needed businesses which help to protect our land while making our local economies stronger. |