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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](#)
- 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.

**I have spent my 8 years in the Council trying to make New York City a better place to live - protecting our environment is a critical piece of that. During my tenure, I have worked to advance a pro-environmental agenda in my district and more broadly. Locally, I have expanded funding and access to environmental education, green jobs, and green infrastructure development. I have also secure record levels of investment for our parks to make sure that our waterfronts are protected and that all New Yorkers have access to quality, safe, green space.**

**On a personal side, I have a long relationship with LCV and the causes it champions. My husband, Dan Hendrick, worked at LCV in New York for several years, and he has also been involved in saving Jamaica Bay. I am proud to stand and support his work protecting New York City's environment and natural resources.**

## **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](#) 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.

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

I strongly agree with the principle that every New Yorker needs access to clean drinking water and clean waterways. I have supported legislation on the council to protect Jamaica Bay and other waterways throughout my district and the city at large. I have also supported Introductions to invest in and protect our drinking water - making sure that every community in the city has access to clean and safe drinking water.

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

I believe that keeping our air clean is an essential role of government. I have supported anti-congestion policies in the council to keep more cars off the streets and improve air quality. I have also responded to requests from constituents and worked therein with DOT on multiple high-traffic streets to limit the amount of high-pollution truck traffic in their neighborhoods, which has limited both air and noise pollution for residents. I am proud to have helped constituents with dozens of air quality related cases over the past 8 years, as we strive to make both Western Queens and New York City a less polluted, healthier, place to live.

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

I support any policy that would improve the access of New Yorkers to healthy, local, and affordable produce. In the council, I have supported legislation that supports and funds our community gardens and local growers and I have been a big supporter of Grow NYC and Green Markets both in my district and throughout the city.

5. 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

My district is slated to see a substantial amount of growth over the next four years, and I think it is crucial that we invest in Green and LEED Certified Buildings, to make sure that we are promoting energy efficiency and reducing waste in as many ways as is possible. I also support efforts to improve resiliency in building, including to heat waves and potential power outages. In my capacity on the council, I have been an advocate for stringent environmental standards for building materials and designs, and I plan to continue that record over the next four years.

Strong Neighborhoods: Promote policies that improve the quality of life for communities in all five boroughs.

6. Parks & Recreation – Every New Yorker should live within a 10-minute walk of a park that is clean, safe and well-maintained

I have been a strong supporter of the parks in my district during my 8 years on the council. I have invested tens of millions of dollars in renovating and improving every single park in my district and I helped secure the land and investment for Hunter's Point south park in Long Island City, which will provide another essential green space to that neighborhood. I believe that every New Yorker should be able to easily access a safe and clean park in every neighborhood.

7. Waterfront Access – Every New Yorker should have safe and public access to clean rivers, creeks, bays, harbors and other waterways

As a Council member with a large amount of waterfront land in my district, I take the issue of waterfront access very seriously. I believe that the quality of life for New Yorkers is greatly enhanced by access to safe, clean, and public waterways. I was proud to invest in furthering public access to the East River waterfront at Hunters Point South park and Queensbridge park, and I look forward to continuing that work in the council the next four years.

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

The issue of transportation has seldom been more salient than it is this year. I believe that it is crucial for all New Yorkers to have access to safe and affordable transit options and for the city to continue to invest in transit alternatives with low carbon footprints. During my time in the Council, I have supported numerous Introductions to support biking safety, and I have advocated for numerous safe streets initiatives in my own district to provide more options for my constituents. I have also been a strong supporter of the City's ferry service, and look forward to seeing it expanded in my district into Astoria later this summer.

9. Resiliency & Recovery – All communities should be better able to handle extreme weather events: rainfall, snow, storm surges, heavy wind, heat and utility failures

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, I believe that it is crucial for New York City to invest in protecting our communities and our infrastructure from extreme weather events. I was a strong supporter of the investment in waterfront community refurbishment post-Sandy and believe we should take our investment even further in the years to come, especially in protecting our electric grid.

Vibrant Economy: Promote policies that foster green job creation while protecting New Yorkers from the effects of climate change

10. Infrastructure – Make critical investments to maintain New York City's competitive edge in the global economy while creating local jobs

I believe that the council needs to ensure that the level of investment New York City's infrastructure requires is met the next four years. The Council needs not be vigilant in holding the State and MTA's feet to the fire and ensure that the capital improvements the MTA has outlined are followed through to modernize our rail and bus public transit infrastructure. We also need to invest in our roads and bridges - specifically in making sure that they are safe not just for automobiles, but for cyclists and pedestrians. These projects will not just provide thousands of good-paying jobs, they will also help New York City thrive in the 21st Century economy.

11. 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

Continued investment in solid waste management is a major piece of the Council's agenda for the next four years. I believe that we need to continue to invest in waste management - especially green waste management policies. I have long supported the Zero Waste efforts from the Department of Sanitation, including composting, food scraps, and yard scraps. These simple investments have saved the city money and will greatly reduce the amount of waste we produce as a city.

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

One of my earliest priorities on the Council was ensuring that the capital investments the city had pledged to go towards green jobs were implemented properly and expanded. I believe that New York can lead the way on green jobs, both in energy and with the greater green economy. The next four years, I want to continue investments in Green Workforce Development and to provide a pathway, though the public school system and community colleges for more New Yorkers to receive this training.