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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
- 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)

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Kara Hahn

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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 was elected to the Suffolk County Legislature in November, 2011 with a clear mandate to continue the legacy of forward thinking, pro-environment policies that my predecessors had established. Since taking office in 2012, I have lived up to my constituent's requirements that their representative work to protect our natural resources. During my tenure as Chairwoman of the Suffolk County Legislature's Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee, I have sponsored legislation to:

- **prevent toxic hydrofracking waste water from coming to Suffolk for disposal;**
- **ban the sale of products containing microbeads;**
- **keep toys with toxic chemicals from being sold to unsuspecting consumers;**
- **increase penalties and fines for illegal dumping;**
- **create the community watch inspired "Parks Watch" program to stop the degradation of our public lands;**
- **require the County to test our groundwater for the emerging contaminant 1-4 dioxane - a Group B2 probable human carcinogen; and,**
- **preserve open spaces in within and beyond the district I represent.**

Suffolk County has long been recognized as a regional and national leader for its work in protecting our environment and sole source aquifer. I am proud to have been able to contribute to that effort over these past six year and hope to continue that work over the next two.

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

While most initiatives that support this effort fall outside of the County's jurisdiction, I have supported and co-sponsored a number of these polices that were within our purview including:

- County Capital Projects that encourage energy conservation within County facilities (Res 356-2014, 207-2015)
- A Local Law to establish a Sustainable Energy Loan Program (Res 919-2015);

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

I fully support Suffolk County's Reclaim our Water initiative and voted in support of Res. 238-2017, A Local Law to establish a grant assistance program for the installation of Innovative and Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems which is a first step in providing the economic incentive for homeowners to choose these systems over their continue use of cesspools and septic systems.

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

I support the third rail project and support the electrification of the Port Jefferson Branch east of Huntington. These projects, particularly the electrification, will increase the number of commuters from my Legislative District that can use trains that run more frequently and are quicker to reach western destinations.

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

While policies that would building in that requirement for property owners falls outside of the County's jurisdiction, I would support the inclusion future Capital Projects that fund the installation of the infrastructure for use by County operated vehicles.

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

While zoning falls within the purview of local towns and villages in Suffolk County, I fully support this effort and have even committed funding to allow a proposed “hub” location within the my Legislative District to potentially connect to an adjacent sewer system (Capital Project 8154) thereby allowing for the increased density with respect to sanitary requirements.

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

I fully support this and have long been advocating for expanded sidewalks for pedestrians (Capital Project 5497), a complete streets policy (Res 1076-2012) and the creation of walking/biking trails for residents (Capital Projects 7191).

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

While these policy decisions fall within the purview of local towns and villages in Suffolk County, I support their use and intended goals.

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 fully support using sound science and data driven modelling to make government as efficient as possible and am open to hearing suggestions to achieve that goal.

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

As mentioned in Question #2, I was a co-sponsor of Resolution 919, a Local Law to establish a sustainable energy loan program which encourages homeowners to undertake these types of energy efficient infrastructure improvements. It is a wise policy not only for our environment, but also for our residents who may find it financially difficult to make these upgrades.

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

As Chairwoman of the Legislature's Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee the number one issue before me is how to protect water quality. It is a job I am committed to and believe through our work, Suffolk County is beginning to move in the right direction.

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

Suffolk County has the largest county park system in the United States comprised of thousands of acres of parcels preserved in order to protect water quality. As the Legislature's new Chairwoman of the Parks and Recreation Committee, I have taken up the issue of illegal dumping within our protected treasures and am committed to stopping those who use parkland as a dumping ground to evade dumping fees. After the discovery of illegally dumped debris in a park within my district late last year, I sponsored legislation that increases financial penalties for dumping on County parkland, and for the first time, can be punishable by jail time (Res 171-2017). I am also working with the Suffolk County Police Department to have surveillance camera place in some parks to discourage and, if necessary, to help identify illegal dumpers. Finally, I established a Parks Watch program, which is similar to the successful community watch program, to encourage parks users and adjacent property owners to report suspected illicit activity to police and parks officials (Res 37-2017).

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

Farming in Suffolk County has been our tradition and been an economic engine for the region.

Suffolk County, through its farmland program, has purchased the development rights to thousands of acres of farmland allowing farmers to continue to do what they love, farm, while removing economic pressures to sell his/her. Once the development rights are sold, the potential for the land to be subdivided and built upon is removed thereby protecting this land and those who depend on it for their livelihoods. I fully support this program.