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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**

Candidate Name: Keith Powers  
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**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

1. Please share you accomplishments or experiences that indicate your commitment to advancing a pro-environment agenda. These experiences may be professional or personal.

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| I am a member of the Steering Committee of the New York League of Environmental Conservation Voters and have been a strong supporter both past and present of the NYCLV pro-environment agenda. While working for Assembly Member Jonathan Bing, he received the 2008 Eco-Star award for legislation that I helped craft to institute a Bus Rapid Transit program on the East Side of Manhattan. I have also taken public positions and advocated for the passage of environmentally friendly laws, including the recent plastic bag fee. |

**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 our natural resources and that provide access to basic needs.

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

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| Strongly committed. A few of my priorities: protecting New York City’s watershed, ensuring that the DEP is funded to implement programs around improving water quality and increasing water conservation & reclamation. I have worked with the DEP on programs that would increase water quality. |

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

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| Strongly committed. The character of the East Side of Manhattan – which includes a high amount of commercial buildings – leads to concerning results in particular places of the Community Air Quality Surveys. These surveys help provide communities with important detail about their air quality and should be codified & expanded.  The city also needs to expedite the reduction of dirty heating oils in city buildings, which would greatly impact the 4th CD.  Importantly, the city needs to continue to expand mass transit and promote policies that reduce car use. I have been a supporter of the effort to institute traffic-free options near 14th Street, to expand the 2nd Avenue Subway, and to improve/expand bus service. |

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

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| Strongly committed. I have worked on efforts at the City Council level to improve City purchasing from local food producers, including provisions in City contracts that would allow city agencies to increase their purchasing from New York State. This effort – supported by BP Gale Brewer – would make sure that our public school, corrections, aging, and other agencies would have the ability to buy from farms in the Hudson Valley or City based dairy companies.  I also support efforts to improve healthy foods in the public school system & to help public school students improve their healthy eating habits and would be enthusiastic in exploring new ways to do so.  Finally, I am interested in updating the FRESH program – which provides zoning bonuses for the creation of new supermarket space in underserved areas – to make it more flexible and to evaluate its expansion to include the preservation of existing grocery store space. |
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5. Homes that offer Protection and Savings – 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 supporter. I am a supporter of both providing financial incentives for energy efficiency and building resiliency, but also removing legislative or regulatory barriers to implement energy efficient strategies in buildings. I support programs like the NYC Retrofit Accelerator, which helps buildings become more energy efficient (and it’s important that we not just adjust laws but provide pathways to compliance). |

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

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| Strongly committed. Parks and open space must be a priority in new development and large-scale rezoning’s, including the City needing to give serious consideration to requirements of new open space. As a member of the Land Use Committee on Community Board Six, I have worked on issue of development, parks, and open space. We have a policy of ensuring no-net loss of park space so that any new development of space has to be replaced with new space (often with upgrades). We also need to provide better oversight and enforcement of privately owned public space (POPS), which are supposed to be available to the public in exchange for density bonuses. Unfortunately, many POPS are not.  The City Council also needs to make sure that there is appropriate spending on both the creation of new park space and the maintenance of existing space. I will be a strong supporter of new capital funding dedicated to parks. |

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

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| Strongly committed. As a Council Member representing the waterfront on the East Side, I applaud the recent announcement from Mayor de Blasio to fund the waterfront. It will be the responsibility of the next Council Member to make sure it becomes a reality, not just a press release. We have to do more, though: We have to reclaim the waterfront for public and recreational use, we have to push for clean rivers & waterways, and to fund the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at appropriate levels.  I have called for the creation of a new agency dedicated to the waterfront to help promote its development and use, plus ensure coordination amongst the dozens of agencies that oversee the waterfront. |

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

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| Strongly committed. I have a strong plan for public transportation, including:   1. Exploring the use of traffic-free options on 14th Street during the L-Train shutdown 2. Implementing a “Safe Streets East Side” program that creates a safer pedestrian and biking infrastructure on the East Side of Manhattan. 3. Prioritize completing the Second Avenue Subway so that it is a one-seat ride from the Upper East Side to the Financial Street. 4. Evaluating the ability to expand pre-tax benefits to employers below 20 employees. 5. Expanding ferry service and the use of our waterways for public transportation. |

9. 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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| Strongly committed. Living near the East River, I remember vividly the impacts of Hurricane Sandy on my community. We are currently undergoing efforts to strengthen resiliency on the East Side. As a member of Community Board Six, I have worked on resiliency and recovery issues around the East River and believe that all communities deserve protection. |

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

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| Strongly committed. The City and State often lose track of funding infrastructure over time, which requires us to pay for emergency repairs or find funding when it’s too late. I am deeply interested in ensuring that City agencies have the necessary funding for repairs and upkeep, such as ensuring that the Department of Transportation (DOT) has funding for street repairs and the DEP has funding to upgrade water infrastructure. |

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

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| Strong supporter. This is a critical juncture for solid waste. The City needs to make sure that the SWMP is fully implemented and that we invest in infrastructure. I am also interested in pursuing policies to increase recycling rates in New York City and to evaluate financial incentives that can be used to encourage recycling. |

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

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| Strong supporter. The Mayor’s new workforce development provides an opportunity to increase education and training for green jobs. The large overhaul of Back2Work and other HRA related workforce programs is an opportunity and as a Council Member, I will make sure that these jobs are included in new job programs and RFP’s. |