

30 Broad Street – 30th Floor

 New York, NY 10004

212-361-6350

politics@nylcv.org
www.nylcv.org

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**

Candidate Name: Margaret A. Cunzio
Office Sought (district if applicable): County Legislator – District 3
E-mail: cunzio@yahoo.com
Mailing Address:
Phone:
Website:
Facebook Page: facebook.com/margaretcunzio
Twitter handle: N/A
Campaign Manager’s name and email:
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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| **During my first term at the Westchester County BOL- I have voted for many pieces of legislation concerning environmental issues. I also am proud of the work that was accomplished on the North 60 project in my district. The project was voted in with a 17-0 vote. This project will designate over 46% of the land as “green space” and will incorporate LEED technologies during the construction. The BOL has also focused on incorporating LED lighting, hybrid vehicles and new articulated buses into the county system. I am a member of the LPPH (Labor, Parks, Planning and Housing) committee where we have voted for improvements to Lasdon Park, Kensico Dam Park, Cranberry Lake Preserve, Kingsland Point Park and focused on preservation of land and our parks. I also chair the Appointments Committee that has confirmed over 100 appointments, including Tim Carey, the “Energy Director” for Westchester County. As a life-long Westchester County resident, I am proud of our commitment to preserve 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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| The North 60 Project (Westchester Bio-Science and Technology Center) in the Town of Mt. Pleasant was unanimously passed by the BOL (17-0). This project incorporates green space, bio-tech labs and retail, while still preserving and protecting wetlands and incorporating a “walkable community”. The Town of Mt. Pleasant is the lead agent- and their Planning and Zoning boards will be working on this project to enforce the zoning regulations. |

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

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| The BOL continues to work with the Cornell Cooperative Group. They provide education on this topic through their “master gardener” program and on other topics as well. Education is an important piece while implementing any policy changes. |

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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| The BOL has a resolution on this topic that is currently in committee. |

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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| The BOL is currently working on this topic. |

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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| Westchester County has been on the forefront of environmental advancements. The North 60 project combines economic development and environmentally sound proposals. Resources will be used wisely. The county has incorporated LED lighting, solar panels and hybrid vehicles. |

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

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| The BOL has passed legislation for new articulated buses that are environmentally sound, as well as hybrid vehicles for the county. We also have invested in our bike trails, parks, roadways and have incorporated a “walkable community” within the North 60 project. |

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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| District 3 has many livable and sustainable communities within Sleepy Hollow, Pleasantville, North Castle and Mt. Pleasant that incorporate bike trails, farmers markets, access to articulated buses, and county parks. We have invested in infrastructure through the capital project budget for items such as Kingsland Park on the Hudson River. |

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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| The North 60 project will help keep and preserve a large percentage of “green space” within the project. District 3 is the home of many parks and areas of green space. The county also has IMA’s with many municipalities to preserve and maintain these areas. |

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

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| Our county park system helps manage and protect our regional natural resources. We have many parks in the district and work hard on preserving these. Many municipalities are working on their comprehensive plans that focus on these resources and the county has partnered with some of these municipalities to offer assistance.  |

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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| With the North 60 project in which LEED technologies will be utilized- I hope that this will lead the way for more cutting-edge technologies. I have also voted for Energy Conservation Bonds, the use of solar panels and LED lighting.  |

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

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| I worked with Phil McGrath at WCC to introduce legislation that enabled WCC to increase its budget line to purchase fresh and local food for their culinary program. This enables students to have access to fresh and local food and prepare meals with this food. I am a frequent visitor to the Pleasantville Farmers Market and I have recognized Devin Juros (Pleasantville) for his work with the Hillside Food Pantry and their “Donation Day”- which I also participated in. I have also voted in favor of additions to the Agricultural District.  |