

30 Broad Street – 30th Floor

 New York, NY 10004

212-361-6350

politics@nylcv.org / [www.nylcv.org](http://www.nylcv.org)

**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
	+ Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg (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: **Marjorie Velazquez**
Office Sought (district if applicable): **New York City Council District 13**
E-mail: mv@marjorievelazquez.com
Mailing Address: 1841 Seminole Ave, Bronx NY 10461
Phone: 718-8772627
Website: http://www.marjorievelazquez.com/
Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/mvelazquez2017/
Twitter handle: **@**mvelazquez2017
Campaign Manager’s name and email: **Maceo Torres-Trujillo – maceo.torres.trujillo@gmail.com**
Press Secretary’s name and email: Jon Greenfield – jon@redhorsestrategies.com
Scheduler’s name and email: **Maceo Torres-Trujillo – maceo.torres.trujillo@gmail.com**

**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 Puerto Rican woman born and raised in the Bronx, I have witnessed how the quality of the environment is interconnected with many other issues of inequality that many low-income communities face throughout the city. From respiratory related health issues to access to more energy efficient transportation, and to living standards in communities with a lack of well-maintained public parks – these issues have affected my family and friends. Therefore, as Councilwoman my priority will be a pro-environment agenda to ensure residents of the Bronx have high environmental standards that will be a model for the rest of New York. |

**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 that provide access to basic needs.

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

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| Strong Commitment – I believe it is a basic human right that everyone has access to clean and healthy water. We have seen the devastating effects of polluted water in areas like Flint and Hoosick Falls, and now with elevated lead levels in our own NYC schools - we cannot continue to allow this to happen. I will fight to expand programs such as the Green Infrastructure plan, and look into making sure our sewage and excess of water do not mix when there’s severe weather. This is one of the most important issues that impacts all of us and needs to be treated as such. |

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

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| Strong Commitment – I am an avid proponent of ensuring New Yorkers are able to live without being negatively affected by the quality of the air they breathe. I believe we must pass legislation to codify surveys and implement monitoring systems to oversee air quality both outside and inside buildings. Once we determine any areas of poor air cleanliness, we will address it by implementing solutions that work, such as reducing transpiration emissions, expanding alternative energy infrastructures to reduce dirty oil pollution, and more. We cannot allow for people to suffer from any form of air pollution that results in asthma and other respiratory illnesses.  |

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

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| Strong Commitment – As an active participant of the local CSA, in addition to working with City Councilman Jimmy Vacca and the NYBG on creating a program to benefit the NYCHA residents to develop their own gardens, I believe no one should ever have to suffer from the lack of access to healthy produce because of affordability or where they live. In order to stop and prevent this dynamic from happening in the future, I believe we must extend benefits to allow it to be easily transferred to purchase healthy produce from local farmers, establish more wholesale farmers markets, as well as pressuring grocery stores to provide fresh produce in underserved communities.  |

1. 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

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| Strong Commitment – With housing prices continuing to rise, we must look to lower costs, while being environmentally conscience and efficient. The only way to accomplish this is to lower energy costs in buildings by investing in infrastructure that can provide clean energy sources, as well as implementing and adhering to sustainable building energy standards.  |

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

1. 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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| Strong Commitment – Growing up in the Bronx, access to safe and well-maintained public parks were hard to come by in underserved communities. I believe access to public parks is essential to neighborhoods and allow communities to be engaged; and therefore, as my district is home to the largest public park in NYC, we must find ways for more New Yorkers to access and utilize the space.  |

1. 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 – My district is home to one of the biggest waterfronts that expands from Westchester Creek to Ferry Point, and SUNY Maritime to Hammonds Cove, and up to Eastchester Bay and City Island – I know that access to waterfront areas are essential to communities. However, this cannot be accomplished if we privatize waterways and don’t keep them clean. Therefore, I will actively seek to expand public access to waterfronts like in my district, stop illegal dumping of boats, and find ways to keep our waterfronts safe. |

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

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| Strong Commitment – My district is a transportation desert and is overly reliant on cars to get around. One of my top priorities running for City Council is to ensure that we expand mass transit options and routes – such as expediting the additional two stops to Metro North, include more Park and Ride facilities, and expand the five-borough ferry plan to reach transit-starved Bronx communities. Often communities like mine are at a disadvantage because of the lack of access to affordable and transportation, and I am committed to changing this dynamic. |

1. 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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| Strong Commitment – Throughout New York there are disparities between the levels of weather resilience amongst communities, putting families at risk every day. In my own district I have advocated for the needed repairs in NYCHA buildings, and going forward I will fight to upgrade building energy systems, implement the 10 remaining recommendations from the Building Resilience Task Force, and utilize Community Block Grants to provide funding ensure residents are safe from extreme weather events.  |

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

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

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| Strong Commitment – The development of an environmentally sustainable infrastructure is at the core of maintaining New York City as a leader in the global economy, as well as keeping it a green and healthy city. If elected, I will prioritize expanding transportation infrastructure in an environmentally sustainable manner through Design Build contracting that will cut construction timeframes and costs substantially, as well as invest in renewable energy projects that address our current and future infrastructural developments.  |

1. 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 Commitment – When it comes to solid waste management, too few low-income communities of color have been forced to bear the burden of the city’s waste management. This environmental racism is unjust and we must expand solid waste facilities to communities throughout the city. I will be a strong voice to implement the 2006 Solid Waste Management plan, and advocate for recycling and waste prevention programs citywide. |

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

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| Strong Commitment – In order to maintain a green and environmentally sustainable city, we must inform communities on how to be environmentally conscience. Therefore, I would advocate for the development and implementation of programs that train youth and those entering the workforce on how to be environmentally sustainable with such programs as New York City Green Corps. This would not only keep New York a green city, but create more good-paying jobs in a growing market. |