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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: Mark Levine  
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Scheduler’s name and email: Kyshia Smith – kyshiacouncil@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 Chair of the Parks Committee at the New York City Council, I have fought for additional funding for our City parks. Moreover, I have led the charge for greater equity in our parks system, to provide accessible green space to lower income communities in our city. I have been the primary sponsor of legislation that has created access to our parks to those with disabilities and make parks financially accessible to our seniors and veterans, and have been the co-sponsor to many bills that look to make our city a cleaner, safer place.** |

**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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| I believe that every New Yorker has the right to clean drinking water and waterways. |

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

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| I believe that every New Yorker has the right to breathe clean air. It is because of this that I have been vocal on who our biggest polluters are in the city, which including participating in a teach-in at the public space at Trump Towers who is one of the city’s worst offenders. |

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

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| I support every New Yorkers right to access healthy, local and affordable produce. As Parks Chair and in my own community I have supported the funding of community gardens for direct access to locally grown and sustainable produce. |

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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| I believe that New Yorkers deserve homes that are energy efficient and resilient to heat waves and extended utility outages. |

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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| As stated earlier, I am committed to equity in our parks system so that our low- and middle-income communities have access to clean, safe, local parks, with increases to neighborhood park funding during my tenure. |

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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| I believe that New Yorkers should have safe and public access to clean rivers, creeks, bays, harbors and other waterways. To this end, I have opened up access to these types of public spaces and extended the summer schedule of open beaches and other parks. |

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

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| I firmly believe that New Yorkers should have safe, affordable, reliable and efficient transportation options. For this reason, I introduced a car-sharing bill that supports car-sharing efforts and looks to lower the number of cars in our city. Additionally, I have introduced legislation that incentivizes electric car use through free parking at muni-meters throughout the city. As for affordable public transportation, which I support the use of, I am an advocate for fair fares so that lower income earners in our city can afford public transportation and no longer have to choose between paying to get to work or paying their rent. |

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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| I believe that our communities should be better equipped to handle 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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| I believe very much in creating local jobs that prepares this and future generations for employment in the global economy. I have pushed for more dual language programs in our city schools, as well as an emphasis on math and science. |

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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| I agree that effective solid waste management will reduce the environmental burden our communities face and support generating quality green jobs. |

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

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| As Parks Chair, I have called for an increase to Parks funding so that we can have more people working to maintain the green spaces we all love as well as Parks enforcement officers to keep our communities safe in those parks and green spaces. I will continue to fight for more green workforce development. |