

30 Broad Street – 30th Floor

New York, NY 10004

212-361-6350

[politics@nylcv.org](mailto: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](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: **Paul Vallone**

Office Sought (district if applicable): City Council District 19

E-mail: [paulv@vallonelaw.com](mailto:paulv@vallonelaw.com) and JonathanSzott@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 42-20 Bell Blvd. 6th Floor Bayside NY 11361   
Phone: 917-392-1284  
Website: votevallone.com  
Facebook Page: We Support Paul Vallone  
Twitter handle: @PaulVallone  
Campaign Manager’s name and email: Jonathan Szott jonathanszott@gmail.com   
Press Secretary’s name and email: Lionel Morales [lhmorales89@gmail.com](mailto:lhmorales89@gmail.com)

Scheduler’s name and email: Breanna Mulligan breeanamulligan@gmail.com

**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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| Serving as a member of the City Council since 2013, I am proud to support, sponsor and vote for the priority bills of the NYLCV each year that I have served. We must always commit to protecting our environment through every day examples of lowering our usage of plastic bags as well as limiting the wasting of necessities like food and water. In 2014, I received a perfect 100 by your organization and have scored an average of 89 over the last 3 years. In July 2016, I voted to amend our energy code to ensure it met all the standards that were set by the State of NY to bring our environmental records up to date. I have allocated funds to the NYC Parks Department to expand Udalls Cove Preserve in Douglaston buy purchasing adjacent lots that could have been developed into private property. It has been a pleasure to serve North East Queens and the City of New York and I hope we can continue to work together to protect the environment going forward for all New Yorkers. |

**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.

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

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| I voted for controlling water pollution and sewage (intro 1346), as well as the green buildings package to reduce the wasting of water, while serving in the City Council. I am committed to continuing to advocate and vote for protecting clean water and waterways. It is our responsibility to ensure that drinking water is delivered to New York City in a safe, secure, environmental fashion. |

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

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| I was proud to sponsor a new law that changes the city’s heating oil standard to B5 Bioheat on October 1, 2017, and implements a series of blend increases that culminate in a B20 standard in 2034. We must continue to move toward renewable fuels and away from fossil fuels. In addition, I have attended many rallies in and around my district to combat air pollution in terms of both sound and smog. Making sure that we slow the air pollution that chokes many New Yorkers every day is something that should always be our responsibility as leaders in the city of New York. |

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

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| We must do what we can to fight food deserts in this city as well as continuing to make sure produce in the city comes from local providers as well as maintaining costs so that any family can purchase healthy food for their home. The City Council and I have been an ardent supporter of our $4 million dollar Food Pantry Initiative which provides funding for 180 food pantries, many of which are located at small community- and faith-based organizations. |

1. 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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| Together with my fellow Council Members, have passed legislation with the ultimate goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050 as part of the Green Buildings package, which include the installation of sub-meters, upgrading lighting systems, as well as expanding the list of buildings required to be benchmarked for energy and water efficiency. Also, the council has been committed in ensuring the completion of the Build it Back program, making sure homes that are rebuilt withstand the impacts of powerful storms and utility outages. A multi-agency effort has been in place in an attempt to cover every basis including resiliency strategies such as protecting critical systems, dry flooding proofing, elevation and emergency power. |

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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| Coming from a district that has an abundance of beautiful parkland, we have fought tirelessly to see that it is protected and put to its best possible use. Additionally, I am proud to say that in my first three years, we have brought back over 12 million dollars for our local parks while also supporting legislation that would increase transparency and would help to expedite capital projects. I also introduced legislation allowing for safer access to parks throughout the city by requiring countdown pedestrian signals and speed humps on roadways adjacent to every park, which is especially essential for our seniors and young children. |

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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| As a city with plenty of waterways across all the boroughs it is important that we continue to make sure that any New Yorker has access to our waterways. In 2014 I voted in favor of Res 0154-2014 and LU 0020-2014 which allowed for the rezoning that was necessary to go forward with the new ferry routes in the city. I can continue to advocate to the Mayor’s Administration to expand access to our waterways and have continued to call on the Mayor to include NE Queens for ferry service. |

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

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| In the City Council, I voted in support of infrastructure that would allow greater environmental support such as Intro 1124 for Electric Vehicle charging stations. This would allow more New Yorkers to make the decision to go fully electric in their purchase of a vehicle. Also, the capital funding received by the MTA should be used primarily to update and modernize their system to ensure the existing lines of transportation operate at maximum efficiency and without interruption. Expanding their lines of service should be their secondary goal. Once again, my district is considered a “transportation desert” with no subway lines and limited bus service. I am drafting a resolution calling on the MTA to examine the location of public transportation deserts in the City of new York and conduct a study to determine solutions to increase mass transit in starved neighborhoods. Expansion of services would be greatly welcomed as my constituents have to mainly rely on their own means of transportation. |

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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| After the damage that was done to our city as a result of Hurricane Sandy, I along with my fellow Council Members, called for a renewed focus by nearly every city agency in bringing the necessary resources to the table to address any potential issues due to future storms and utility failures. Through the Build it Back program, several resiliency strategies were formed, including protecting critical systems, dry flooding proofing, elevation and emergency power. We also addressed the long waiting period for building permits to Sandy victims by allowing a waiver to proceed even where an existing violation or other condition may have delayed such work. |

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 sponsored a bill Int 0359-2014 and Int 0886-2015 which direct the city to conduct a study about the creation of an environmental justice portal that the city can use to track and ensure that environmental necessities are met. This would make sure any all environmental infrastructure jobs are done in a timely manner so New Yorkers have the environmental infrastructure they need as well as making sure the hires needed to complete the jobs are met as well. |

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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| The amount of waste created by the city is in absurdum. It is why I voted in support of the “Plastic Bag Bill” to help us save money as well as lower the amount of waste in our landfills. It is always in the best use of our resources to both protect our environment and protect against financial waste. |

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

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| As a member of the city council, I have vote multiple times for bills that create jobs in the city of New York, including Intro 739 which would specifically create a Solar Ombudsperson that would direct how we would use solar energy to become more environmentally friendly over the next few years. |