## NYLCV_logo_jpg

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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
	+ 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: Peter Koo
Office Sought (district if applicable): City Council Member, District 20
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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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| I am the prime sponsor on Intro 241, a bill that would require recycling or reusing discarded carpeting from commercial units or buildings. This is a bill that I am currently working with NYLCV to further study and strengthen. Also, as a medical professional by trade, I understand the impact that one’s environment can have on one’s heath. Furthermore, I recognize that the decisions we make today, can make a huge difference in the world that our children and their families inherit.  |

**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 am a proponent of cleaning up Flushing Creek and am working with all levels of government to do so. We must also protect our drinking water and make sure that our schools and childcare centers have drinking water that is free of lead contaminants. |

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

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| As a medical professional, I understand the health concerns and complications that polluted air can create and especially the impact that this can have on our youngest residents (ex. asthma). I regularly partner with local non-profits to host anti-smoking seminars and events and have submitted legislation that would limit second hand smoke exposure.  |

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

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| My district has an abundance of supermarkets with affordable and fresh produce. To ensure that residents are able to access health and local food, my staff works with eligible constituents to apply benefits, like SNAP, and assist them when problems arise with their benefits. I also fund several food pantries in my district, including the only South Asian food pantry in the city.  |

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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| We are currently building affordable housing in our district that will comply with Enterprise Green Community Standards, including rooftop solar panels, low-flow water fixtures, Energy Star appliances in all units, and energy-efficient air conditioning units. I will continue to support these efforts to build green and sustainably. |

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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| I have a vast amount of parkland in my district and have consistently allocated funding to upgrade, renovate and maintain our parks. This includes funding for new parkland by way of creating a meditation garden, also known as the “Healing Garden”, which was a community priority for years. My staff and I also invest our own time and effort each year to help maintain our parks. We team up with local civic, student, non-profit organizations and businesses each year to host park clean up events to supplement the Parks Department efforts. During last summer alone, we had 4 weekends where we organized a team to go clean up our local parks.  |

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 am currently working with DCP and the owners of waterfront properties in our district to find ways to bring downtown Flushing towards the waterfront, and explore options for cleaning Flushing Creek. I have also advocated for an additional CSO tank in the Flushing Creek area to assist with cleaning up the creek, and for additional green infrastructure. |

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

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| I am a proponent of the fair fares campaign, and for the LIRR to match the NYCT’s fares when traveling within city limits. We must encourage more use of mass transit. |

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 Hurricane Sandy, our office created a resource guide for residents (and their families) who were impacted by the storm. We must better prepare for future disasters by ensuring our transit, homes and hospitals are prepared for future 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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| Infrastructure improvements are critical to our city. We need to invest in mass transit, school construction and new housing to both create jobs. Mass transit reduces our carbon footprint and new schools and housing should be built in a green, environmentally sustainable way whenever possible. |

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 am the prime sponsor on Intro 241 to recycle commercial carpeting to help reduce the overall construction waste that goes into our landfills.  |

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

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| We partner with and fund Queens Botanical Garden’s Green Jobs Training Program through the Greener NYC initiative.  |