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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: Rafael L Espinal jr.  
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Facebook Page: rlespinaljr  
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Campaign Manager’s name and email: N/A  
Press Secretary’s name and email: N/A  
Scheduler’s name and email: N/A

**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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| **Now more than ever it is important that we focus on policy that will green our city. Especially since the federal government has taken a position in denying climate change.**  **When I worked to rezone ENY I ensured that investments included improvements in infrastructure. Bio swells, park space, and improved streets was a priority to improve our air quality and water systems.**  **I also strongly supported 100% of NYLCV policy agenda because I truly believe it is up to us locally to take action in protecting our 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 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 agree. We must clean our polluted waterways and urge the federal government for clean up dollars. Bio swells are also important in protecting and filtering runoff and must continue constructing them across the city. |

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

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| I strongly agree. I am currently working on an initiative to push the MTA to switch diesel fueled buses to an electric fleet. Especially during the L train shutdown where the MTA has dedicated 200 buses for the North Brooklyn area when the time comes. |

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

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| YES. I fund Grown NYC to provide farmers markets and food box programs in all parts of my district. Healthy food is vital part of a healthy lifestyle. |

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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| Yes. Energy efficient homes Lower our carbon footprint and costs of maintaining a building. It also helps lower the amount of energy we use during extreme weather conditions, and reduces the chances of power 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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| Yes, I am currently one of the leading Brooklyn City Council Members, who have allocated the most dollars to improving local parks. Parks are important in creating a sustainable community. They improve air quality, while also lowering temperatures in urban settings. People should also have a recreational space that would help in improving their lifestyles. |

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 strongly agree. |

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

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| I strongly agree. Affordable transportation is important in helping lower income families gain access to work, school and recreational activities outside their communities. The use of mass transit is also important in lowering our carbon footprint. |

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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| Yes. As we have seen in neighborhoods impacted by hurricane sandy, if we do not have a plan in place and infrastructure in place to deal with extreme weather, we put millions of people at risk of displacement, migration and disrupting their financial stability. It is important now more than ever, as we will continue to feel the effects of climate change to make our communities resilient. |

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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| Yes. I currently have a bill that would require new construction to implement green roofing either with Solar panels or vegetation. That will not only green our city, but create jobs in the solar energy and agriculture fields. |

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. Composting and recycling facilities in our city will create thousands of jobs, and save the city millions of dollars. |

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

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| Very important initiative that I would be 100% in support of |