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2017 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire for Long Island 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.

After receipt of your completed questionnaire, you will be invited to participate in a formal interview with our Chapter Board. The interview will provide you with an opportunity to present your credentials, elaborate on your questionnaire responses, and respond to questions. Here are a few more guidelines:

- ☒ Questionnaires are due **Friday, June 2**
- ☒ The completed questionnaire is mandatory for endorsement consideration and must be submitted via e-mail as a Microsoft Word file to: politics@nylcv.org
- ☒ To ensure your responses address the issues NYLCV and its partners are most concerned about, please review [NYLCV's 2016-17 Long Island Policy Agenda](#)
- ☒ Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg (jklainberg@nylcv.org)

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Rich Schaffer

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Press Secretary's name and email: Kevin Bonner kevintbonner@gmail.com

Scheduler's name and email: Gerry Compitello gerrycompitello@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.

Advanced GOSR Sandy resiliency projects including shoreline restoration, drainage improvements, stream restoration at Carlls River, and infrastructure improvements such as American Venice Bridges.

Piping plover protection program

E-waste recycling program enacted

Solar installation company licensing and streamline of permit process

Fully funded Long Island Green Homes program for energy efficiency programs

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 2016-17 Long Island Policy Agenda](#))

2. Expanding Renewable Power: Streamlining and standardizing regulations that will spur innovation and wide-spread adoption in the residential and commercial sectors

Enacted licensing for solar installation companies and adopted streamlined process for residential and commercial permits

3. Improving Water Quality: Identifying financing mechanisms to replace failing septic systems

Partnering with Suffolk County on CE Bellone's innovative septic system program as well as sewer installation program around the Carlls River.

4. LIRR Third Track: Ensuring the Long Island Rail Road completes a planned third main line track from Floral Park to Hicksville

Member of Governor's coalition, lobbied local officials and joined in support of Third Track. Working closely with Kevin Law of LIA on major publicity campaign for support.

5. Expanding Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure: Facilitating the development of a larger network of charging stations that will encourage more municipalities, businesses and individuals to switch to EVs in the coming years

Babylon has implemented charging stations and has encouraged motorists to utilize these stations.

6. Sustainable & Transit-Oriented Development: Creating livable and sustainable communities that permit increased density and diversity in our downtowns and neighborhoods

Wyandanch Rising is progressing with future development around the original two buildings. Copiague Commons (90 units) at Copiague Train station is slated to open later this year. Working with Lindenhurst Village to provide assistance to Tri-Tec (260 units at Lindenhurst Train Station)

7. Transportation: Maximizing environmentally friendly mobility options in and around residential and commercial centers

Moving BRT Rt 110 study to completion and pursuing the reopening of the Republic Train Station to create an intermodal bus train station on Conklin Ave. in Farmingdale to spur off-campus SUNY Farmingdale housing and other residential rental housing.

8. Open Space Preservation: Planning strategies such as clustering, creating pocket parks in developed areas, and encouraging biotic corridors in less densely populated areas

Although we are 97 % developed, we are pursuing this strategy in any redevelopment projects that come in.

9. Sustainable Public Access Management: Making significant impacts on energy use and the environment simply by deciding to spend money and deploy resources wisely

Dedicated town budget items for LI Green Homes, e-waste recycling program, STOP programs and shoreline restoration and protection

10. Energy: Achieving energy efficiency in residential and commercial settings, in existing and new buildings, and with cutting-edge technology and the smarter use of older technology

Long Island Green Homes for residential homes

LEED certification for commercial properties

11. Water Quality and Aquifer Protection: Ensuring clean water not only for drinking but for recreation and agriculture

See Sandy projects mentioned earlier as well as septic system program

12. Natural Resource Protection – Comprehensively managing and protecting regional natural resources (i.e., air, water and land)

Our town Environmental Control Department is one of the top departments in the region as we take a comprehensive approach to our management of our environment including monitoring and stewardship that has been recognized by State DEC and federal EPA.

13. Farms and Local Food: Managing development and providing access to healthy, fresh foods

Funded several food programs through our community development program especially for economically distressed communities. Sponsored farmers markets to make fresh foods available