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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: Robert J. Rodriguez  
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Scheduler’s name and email: Gabriel Hernandez, schedulingforamrodriguez@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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| In 2015, when Governor Cuomo’s administration announced their intention to ban hydraulic fracking, I came out vehemently supporting him. In a statement I said that I commend his administration for thorough information gathering and investigation into the health risks associated with fracking and its threat to our environment. I believe that the short term economic gains that could be made through the practice of fracking do not justify the much longer term impact on our state’s natural resources and the health and well-being of all New Yorkers. I still feel this way today, and I will not jeopardize our state’s natural resources or the health of New Yorkers by allowing hydraulic fracking to continue. |

**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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| As I mentioned above, I strongly support the Governor’s decision to ban hydraulic fracking so that our air and water supplies remain clean. I will not jeopardize our state’s natural resources or the health of New Yorkers by allowing hydraulic fracking to continue.  In this year’s state budget, we allocated $2.5 billion for water infrastructure to help ensure clean drinking water by repairing and replacing ole pipes and water mains, as well as preventive measures, such as water land acquisition, to keep water from becoming polluted. New York City will receive $200 million for drinking and wastewater infrastructure improvements in its watershed. |

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

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| Last year, I introduce the Move NY Fair Plan with the aim of slashing traffic inside and outside the Central Business District while generating $1.35 billion in annual revenue. The money will be used to improve the City’s roads and bridges and finance a $12 billion program to upgrade and expand the region’s mass transit system, with a particular focus on bringing new transit service to underserved communities in places like Eastern Queens, South Brooklyn, Staten Island, and the East Bronx.  Just as we require smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in our buildings,  it is imperative that we include methane detectors in every home. That is why I sponsored legislation requiring the installation of combustible gas detectors in all residential dwellings. This legislation will save lives, property, money, and the environment from needless destruction and waste due to gas leaks. |

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

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| Every family, regardless of income, should have access to healthy, local produce. I am supportive of LCV’s mission to extend SNAP benefits to more farmers’ markets and food providers, and to use the power of the City’s food budget to provide affordable, healthy, locally grown food. |

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 am supportive of all efforts that promote the use of clean energy and efficiency in one’s home. |

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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| Last year, I worked closely with NYC Parks, Randell’s Island Park Alliance, and other colleagues of mine in elected office, to revitalize the East Harlem Esplanade. Their work on improving Randall's Island has been remarkable, and we look to build on their successes with a shared vision that expands recreational activities and green spaces, enhances resiliency, and gives East Harlem the waterfront it deserves. |

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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| Creating open spaces and access to the East River Waterfront has been one of my top district priorities. This year, I was able to secure an additional $1 million in capital funding for Pier 107 on the East River. This money is an investment in East Harlem community park space and brings us one step closer to our goal of revitalizing one of our most underutilized recreational assets in the district. These appropriations will be added to the funds acquired in 2016, moving our efforts in the right direction towards realizing our community vision and expanding our ability to address necessary repairs on the waterfront. |

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

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| Last year, I introduce the Move NY Fair Plan with the aim of slashing traffic inside and outside the Central Business District while generating $1.35 billion in annual revenue. The money will be used to improve the City’s roads and bridges and finance a $12 billion program to upgrade and expand the region’s mass transit system, with a particular focus on bringing new transit service to underserved communities in places like Eastern Queens, South Brooklyn, Staten Island, and the East Bronx. |

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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| In May of 2015, I passed legislation which would give special powers to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corp. intended to protect the safety of New Yorkers and their communities in times of crisis. Protecting the citizens I represent is of the upmost importance to me, and I will continue to defend them from the increasing danger of climate change. |

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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| In January of 2015, I was the primary sponsor on bill NY – A2547. This bill amended the public service law, requiring liquid petroleum pipeline facilities to accelerate the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of pipelines that are either leaking or at high risk of leaking. Seeing our natural resources destroyed or contaminated forced me to act. As the primary sponsor of the bill, we acted quickly to protect the communities of New York, both upstate and down, by drafting legislation to improve the infrastructure. |

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 fully supportive of LCV’s mission to achieve effective solid waste management, particularly the idea of implementing a program to increase the recycling of commercial waste while creating good jobs for NY-ers. We need to do everything we can to establish a cost-effective, reliable, and environmentally safe system for managing the City’s waste over the next few decades.  In response to the Mayor’s plan to build the E. 91ST MTS, I, along with my colleagues in government and environmental group Pledge 2 Protect, advocated for the city to take more meaningful steps towards reducing the amount of waste we produce by diverting much needed funds to promote sustainable waste management practices, including recycling, composting, reducing and reusing. |

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

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| Last year, I co-sponsored A10342, enacting the New York State climate and community protection act, which relates to climate change, renewable energy program, labor and job standards and worker protection. This bill will help put New York on track to minimize the adverse impacts of climate change through a combination of measures to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions and imp rove the resiliency of the state with respect to the impacts and risks of climate change that can not be avoided. |