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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: Rose Marie Walker

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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.

I have been working collaboratively and diligently with the DEC, EPA, Villages and Water Districts on many environmental issues within the communities I serve and Nassau County as whole. I also work with local environmental groups on their specific projects and host neighborhood clean-ups in our parks and preserves.

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

This past year I voted to approve PACE financing for commercial properties that would enable businesses to install renewable energy systems and products. I fully support all means to streamline the process and provide tax credits to all that do such installations.

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

As a Legislator representing Bethpage, I know all too well how the environment impacts our water quality. In reference to failing septic systems, I support the government adoption of recent funding in the State budget. I have supported funding for the ocean outfall project and to link Point Lookout, who are currently on septic systems, and the Long Beach to Bay Park System. I supported funding for improvements in the Glen Cove area. We are moving forward on the projects at the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant to reduce nitrogen discharge by 50%. Lastly, I think it is most suitable and I have requested all the data collected by Suffolk County on new septic treatment equipment and will be recommending the county adopt this program as well.

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

I fully support and have joined Gov. Cuomo and the LIA in supporting this project. It is much needed in our area to reduce traffic congestion and improve our environment

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

Utilizing County Department of Public Works facilities which are spread throughout the county, we could implement an EV program county-wide in the coming years.

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

I am proud of the work that has been done in downtown Farmingdale and Mineola, where the county IDA assisted in supporting tax and sales tax breaks for the Transit-Oriented Development projects. I support the application for funding to do the same in the Hicksville area.

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

I support all such programs, from increasing movement by rail, bus rapid transit (BRT) and others.

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

With little open space left in Nassau County, it is important to protect resources. Having learned from Sandy, we must continue to improve drainage corridors, streams and ponds. I support the Mill River improvements and other bay area improvements along with improvements to our parks and recreation.

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

Over the past years I have supported funding for the installation of LED lighting in all our traffic signals, installation of LED lights in the Nassau County Correction Center, motion-activated systems in our restrooms, use of better boilers and windows in renovation projects, and I will continue to look for other ways to conserve energy.

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

Smart metering and real-time data must be installed in all our water, electrical and gas systems. These installations, which have been done in counties in New Jersey, have led to a huge reduction in use. They have detected leaks immediately and a wide range of utilization of power in off-peak times, and have allowed the utilities to better educate businesses and homeowners, saving both money and consumption.

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

As I mentioned earlier, protecting water is paramount. By reducing nitrogen levels in our bays through upgrades to our sewage treatment programs, recreational opportunities will improve. Fish life will return and the number one priority in my next term is to see the ocean outfall completed. We must continue to manage storm runoff and support projects that complete our beaches and bays and improve recreational opportunities for our residents. It is very apparent that the completion of the Zacks Bay Outfall Connector to Cedar Creek Outfall has increased water quality in Zacks Bay and improved opportunities for the residents. I was very proud to support that project.

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

It is vitally important that we all work together on every level of government to protect all of our natural resources.

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

I have supported the purchase and improvements to several farms on county property, from Old Bethpage Village Restoration to Grossman's farm. I will continue to support similar projects going forward. Community Gardens and Farmer's Markets help to provide a means of working together thereby providing both healthy, fresh food for our residents and an opportunity to educate the community on the importance of preserving and using our natural resources wisely.