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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: Siela Bynoe

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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 use biofuel at my home and use solar power for my external landscape lighting and my back-up generator. In addition, in my role as an executive director of a housing authority, I've spearheaded the conversion of a multifamily heating service from oil to gas, purchased high efficiency gas fired boilers and hot water heaters. Moreover, we invested in low energy- high efficiency lighting in each unit and installed individual electrical meters as an energy conservation method for our residents.

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

I would support the expansion of renewable power by streamlining and standardizing regulations that will encourage innovative initiatives to reduce the dependence on current energy sources for both residential and commercial users.

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

While I am encouraged that the State's 2017 budget includes funding that will lead to water quality improvements, I believe the current state of water quality issues on Long Island requires Federal intervention.

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

As a forty plus year resident of Westbury and one of the local elected officials, I support the installation of the third rail. In addition, I've worked closely with LIRR, the State Representatives and the Westbury Mayor to garner support from community residents.

5.

I support the development of larger network of charging stations that would encourage municipal, private businesses and individuals to switch to EV's 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

As an executive director of a local housing authority and a former housing authority commissioner, I have worked to development sustainable housing. In my current role, I've advocated for local government support for the Transit-Oriented Development and rehabilitation in the Village of Hempstead.

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

I actively lobby for funding and efficiencies in the NICE Bus contract to not only maintain bus service for Nassau County ridership, but to also enhance service. My efforts were undertaken with the understanding that not only would a fully service bus service enable convenient and cost effective transportation, but that it would also avail residents to an environmentally friendly approach to transportation.

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

As a director of the Nassau County Land Bank, I am working with my colleagues to identify, acquire and re-develop zombie homes throughout Nassau. It is our desire to assess opportunities to create pocket parks, where appropriate, in overly developed communities, as oppose to housing.

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

I agree that governments could benefit from purchasing energy from renewable sources, installing solar and wind generation on public buildings and convert their fleets to clean energy or hybrid vehicles. Further, all physical need assessments should always incorporate energy efficient initiatives.

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

In my role in housing over the last fifteen years, I've been able to work to ensure the upgrading of all mechanical systems were equipped with new technology to reduce energy consumption. I believe that both new and existing buildings could benefit from the use of cutting edge technology.

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

As a representative of several southern Nassau communities, I have worked very closely with New York American Water to ensure that they invest in installation of water filtration/treatment plants, the replacement of water mains and in-house water quality testing to ensure that residents receive premium water quality for their everyday use. Moreover, I support the initiatives that would protect Long Island's Aquifer.

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

As a consumer, I shop using re-usable bags. As an elected official, I would support permeable paving surfaces, would prioritize the tree regeneration program work to restore streams and other water resources.

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

In my role as an administrator of affordable housing, I've partner with the local community garden to promote the awareness of the local garden and provide space for meetings and tutorials.

Moreover, in my role as the local elected, I've sponsored the annual farmer market to ensure its sustainability and to hire local young people to provide practical employment experience.