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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: Stephen Levin  
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Twitter handle: n/a  
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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| **As Councilmember since 2010, I have served as a member of the Environmental Protection Committee. During that time I have sponsored or co-sponsored numerous pro-environment bills including being the lead sponsor on bills to eradicate PCBs from New York City Schools, banning fracking waste New York City entirely, and addressing the long-standing environmental injustice of waste transfer siting in New York City.** |

**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 am absolutely committed to measures to ensure high quality drinking water in New York City. |

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

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| I am absolutely committed to measures to ensure clear air for all New Yorkers. |

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

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| I am absolutely committed to advancing greater use of urban agriculture, reducing food deserts throughout New York City, and I believe we should do more within our Land Use policies to advance the production and distribution of local produce. |

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 have sponsored legislation to reduce the energy consumption of our buildings but I believe that we can and should do much more. In the coming term I hope to pass legislation to require green roofs and net zero or passive house standards for all NYC buildings. |

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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| I am fully supportive of increasing and improving open space in all of our neighborhoods. I am particularly proud of having had a role in the City’s acquisition of the final parcels of Bushwick Inlet Park this year. |

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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| We need to continue to advance Land Use policies that open up our waterfronts for public access and also allocate capital funds to continue to build that public access. |

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

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| I am in full support of policies and budget priorities that advance environmentally friendly modes of transportation, including continuing to build out our bike infrastructure, better maintenance of our subway system, and expanding the ferry system. |

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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| I witnessed firsthand the impacts of Sandy in the 33rd district in Greenpoint , DUMBO, the Navy Yard and Gowanus and I believe its imperative to ensure that all new development be able to withstand Sandy level storm surges and that existing buildings are retrofitted to ensure that they can withstand another Sandy-like event. |

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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| I am entirely in support of prioritizing green jobs as we look at economic development policies in the coming decade. |

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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| As lead sponsor on Int 495 which would bring some environmental justice to historically overburdened solid waste communities, I have become keenly aware of how NYC policies can improve or exacerbate our solid waste system. I am fully supportive of DSNY organics program and have supported new infrastructure for use by National Grid of the byproduct at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in the 33rd District. |

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

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| I believe that green infrastructure and economic development is an enormous opportunity for good jobs for all New Yorkers-to that end I am working closely with NYCHA as they prepare to do $100 million worth of work with FEMA funds for resiliency measures at Gowanus Houses in the 33rd District. |