



30 Broad Street – 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
212-361-6350  
[politics@nylcv.org](mailto:politics@nylcv.org)  
[www.nylcv.org](http://www.nylcv.org)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:jklainberg@nylcv.org))

### CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Thomas McKevitt

Office Sought (district if applicable): Nassau County Legislature 13<sup>th</sup> District

E-mail: assemblymanmckevitt@yahoo.com

Mailing Address: 147 Betty Road, East Meadow, NY 11554

Phone: (516) 286-5001

Website:

Facebook Page:

Twitter handle:

Campaign Manager's name and email:

Press Secretary's name and email:

Scheduler's name and email: Lynn Schafering (516) 761-3041

### **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 believe I have a strong pro-environment record in my 12 years in the New York State Assembly. I advocated and voted for increasing the Environmental Protection Fund to \$300 million, and have voted in favor of the Child Safe Products Act. I have hosted a forum on increasing the use of biofuels, also voted in favor of a constitutional amendment for clean air and water and a healthful environment for all New Yorkers.**

## **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 voted in favor of Chapter 375 of 2012 which allows those who lease solar energy equipment to qualify for a tax credit, as well as amendments to expand net metering in 2008, 2010, and 2011. We must continue to encourage both residential and commercial buildings to maximize the use of renewable energy.

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

Nassau County benefitted greatly from federal funding in the 1970's which allowed for the construction of the sewer system. We should aggressively pursue new financing for those areas of the County which must continue to use septic systems.

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

The MTA has recently approved the financing for the Third Track. If construction commences, we must ensure the project is completed in a timely fashion and that there is little disruption to the affected residents and communities.

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

Nassau County should lead the way by bringing charging stations to County owned parking lots, as well as encouraging installations at Nassau Community College and the Nassau Coliseum. More stations will encourage residents to purchase environmentally friendly vehicles.

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

Transit-Oriented Development projects have been popular in villages such as Rockville Centre and Mineola. We should explore growth in other villages and also provide incentives to developers to allow next generation members to be able to afford to live in such areas.

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

I supported and voted in favor of the Complete Streets legislation in the Assembly in 2011. We must also ensure that funding is provided for NICE so residents can continue to utilize busing to commute.

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

Unfortunately, there is little open space left in Nassau County. We must maximize efforts on preserving what little property is available. Pocket parks should be considered where high density development is approved.

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

Nassau County should explore installing solar panels at as many County facilities as feasible, as well as purchasing electricity from renewable sources. The streetscape program should be continued to increase landscaping and tree plantings.

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

I have voted in favor of requiring the use of B2 biofuel not only on Long Island, but throughout the state. Energy assessments should be performed on county facilities in order to maximize efficiency.

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

I co-sponsored and worked with Assemblyman Joseph Saladino on Chapter 543 of 2014 which requires the DEC to formulate a plan to hydraulically contain the Grumman plume. I will continue to advocate for programs that ensure safe water for drinking and other uses.

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

Nassau County should encourage storm water retention through green roofs and rain barrels at residences. Native plants should be utilized in County landscaping projects and utilize permeable paving surfaces where possible.

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

Nassau should work to expand the FreshConnect program with additional farmers markets in the area. The County must also ensure the continued operation of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau Horticulture Center and Demonstration Gardens in East Meadow.