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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
	+ Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg (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**

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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.

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| As a member of city council, I’ve been a sponsor of multiple pieces of legislation aimed at addressing environmental issues including a law that requires electric charging stations for electric vehicles in every borough. Additionally, I am the founder of “Car Free NYC,” a celebration taking place on Earth Day that encourages New Yorkers to leave their cars at home and use other means of travel to cut down on emissions. This is on top of my extensive work as Chair of the Transportation Committee to prioritize mass transit and policies to reduce car usage. |

**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 our natural resources and that provide access to basic needs.

1. Water Quality — Every New Yorker has the right to clean drinking water & waterways

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| I believe strongly that every New Yorker has the right to clean drinking water and waterways. It is why I support New York Restoration Project with discretionary funding as they work to revitalize the wetlands at Sherman Creek in my district along the Harlem River. It is also why I held community meetings when DOE lead levels were elevated. |

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

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| Air quality is vital, particularly in my district with high number of asthma rates due to the Cross Bronx running right through it. I am a major supporter for freight movement reform, calling for investments to be made in rail for freight transportation instead of the trucks that clog our roadways. |

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

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| Through discretionary funding, I support City Harvest, which brings fresh produce to residents of the Dyckman Houses weekly for free. I also support the Inwood Greenmarket, which is a major source of fresh foods for the entire Inwood community. I have been an advocate for community gardens and green roofs, supporting local schools to develop these gardens to start healthy habits early. |

1. Homes that offer Protection and Savings – 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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| Energy efficient homes and buildings are an important step in making New York City a leader in alleviating environmental impacts that a city of our size often has. I’ve co-sponsored legislation in the Council alongside my colleagues raising efficiency standards for city buildings and others reducing the use of harmful heating oils in residential 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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| This is a policy that benefits all New Yorkers. We should continue to look for ways to designate additional parks when possible and make it easier for people to reach the parks already in existence. Furthermore, finding new ways to be creative with open space is key. I have been a big supporter of the plaza program and reducing vehicle space to give back to people. Parks equity is a major issue in our city and I remain supportive of efforts to create or enhance parks in underserved, lower income communities. |

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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| I believe that the waterfronts of New York are one of our biggest and best resources. Improving access to waterways can encourage many great things including economic development, community building, and environmental awareness. The more people have access to the waterfronts around them, the more they will want to protect them. A key aspect of the discussion to rezone Inwood pertains to the underutilized waterfront along the Harlem River. This waterfront would be reinvigorated with any rezoning that takes place uptown, a huge benefit to our community. |

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

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| As the chair of the transportation committee, I remain the leading voice behind efforts to expand the energy efficient and healthy Citi Bike network to more communities. I have sponsored and passed legislation to address transit deserts, or areas without subways. I continue to push for the Fair Fares initiative to reduce the price of public transit for those in deep poverty and I remain focused on delivering any and all possible transportation options to more communities throughout the five boroughs.  |

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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| This is a major equity issue as well, as many of the hardest hit communities during Hurricane Sandy were lower-income. Particularly with NYCHA housing, we need to be sure that buildings are resilient and that utilities have fail-safe mechanisms to maintain power, water and gas. I was a co-sponsor of a bill that became law aimed at tracking the funds meant for Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts, following reports of waste and abuse. Much of this stems from design challenges and I fully support efforts to plan for the next 100 years of weather patterns rather than the last, meaning stronger buildings and protections from flooding.  |

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 have been a sponsor of a few pieces of legislation attempting to push the federal government to provide more funding for infrastructure spending so that we don’t have to pass the cost onto our city taxpayers. In addition, I’ve sponsored pieces of legislation that are meant to take account of our underground infrastructure to prevent poor planning and the resulting cost/time overruns. I’ve also sponsored legislation to assess the quality of everything from roadways, bridges, electrical grids, and natural gas pipes. The key parts of our infrastructure however is our public transit, because without it, our economy collapses. Putting more cars on the roads is not the answer, so I’ve supported efforts to prioritize transit/cycling along key corridors and support efforts to renovate the Gateway Tunnels and the Cross Harbor Freight Tunnel. |

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 agree that effective solid waste management is an important issue, especially for a place like NYC that can create so much of it. Too often, we face equity challenges, where lower-income communities of color bear and oversized burden in managing waste. I’ve been a strong advocate for equity in this area, as upper Manhattan is a key example of a place that handles much more waste than is produced in the immediate area. |

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

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| For New York City, continuing to innovate and prepare our workers to be leaders in the coming centuries in vitally important. We should work to create new programs for workers to be trained in green jobs and for workers who are displaced from traditional manufacturing jobs to be retrained as well. New innovations that allow NYC to become more environmentally friendly will enable us to remain economically stable in the future. This also starts with education at an early age, geared toward the tech jobs in the future. If we can train our students today to develop more cost effective ways of implementing renewable energy like solar and wind power, we can benefit as a city overall, with higher incomes and a revolutionized energy grid for the future. |