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**2017 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire   
for Westchester 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 Westchester Policy Agenda](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-17WestchesterAgendaFINAL.pdf)
* Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg ([jklainberg@nylcv.org](mailto:jklainberg@nylcv.org))

**Campaign Contact Information**

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Scheduler’s name and email: TBD

**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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| **My district, district 6, is one of the most vulnerable districts in Westchester in regards to environmental policy, and accordingly, it deserves a representative with a strong record of pro-environment stances. During my tenure as Count Legislator, I have time and again opposed all proposed changes to the Terminal Use Agreement of the Westchester County Airport. Furthermore, I have stated emphatically that any proposal to change the Terminal Use Agreement would require an environmental impact investigation to even be discussed.**  **While our proximity to the Westchester County Airport puts my district at risk, it also means that we have the most to gain by supporting environmentally friendly policies. Many environmentally-friendly policies, such as capping the number of daily flights out of the airport, also raise the quality of life in Westchester by reducing noise and traffic.**  **I am gravely concerned with the recent proposals to install permanent deicing facilities at the airport, and I have opposed and will continue to oppose all plans to do so. The safety of our water and local tributaries to our water sources, like the Blind Brook, are of paramount importance. Back in 2013, I voted to authorize the County Attorney to sue HUD in order to maintain funding for a wide variety of projects, including $150,000 for the elimination of sewer pollution. Keeping our water potable and clean is my number one environmental priority.**  **In addition, I am insisting that any proposal to privatize the airport be strictly scrutinized for environmental impact, including on noise, air pollution, ground traffic, air traffic, stormwater management and deicing fluid.** |

**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 Westchester Policy Agenda](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-17WestchesterAgendaFINAL.pdf)*)*

1. Sustainable Development: Advancing modernized zoning to encourage mixed land use and compact development

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| **As the District 6 County Legislator, I have opposed attempts by the federal government to try to take zoning out of the hands of local municipalities. Should the attempts have succeeded, zoning procedures would have been handled on a federal level, limiting the ability of the municipalities in Westchester to promote stringent zoning protocols.**  **I wholeheartedly support and have supported the Affordable Housing Settlement, which, when completed, will have financed the construction of 750 modern, environmentally friendly, affordable housing units. Additionally, I pledge to support the use of mixed land use to attract business and increase commerce in a sustainable fashion.** |

1. Invasive Species: Educating the public on this problem and implementing better management practices

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| **As County Legislator, I promise to support any and all regulations that target the Emerald Ash Borer as well as any other invasive species. Specifically, I am concerned about the Zebra Mussel as it threatens the balance of the waterway ecosystem by reducing the food supply for other marine life and as such endangers the purity of our water.** |

1. Cleaner Air: Speeding up conversions and retrofits of home heating oil No. 6 and No. 4 to more efficient heating systems

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| **To begin, I wholeheartedly agree with any proposal that would seek to reduce home heating oil No. 4 and 6 in favor of No. 2. In 2016, I supported an initiative which created an online heating-oil tracker which allows homeowners to more easily track their consumption. This technology will enable homeowners to make more informed decisions about heating their house as well as regulate their environmental footstep more effectively. I would like to see this tracker expanded to demonstrate the impact on the environment that each homeowner is responsible for and specifically the impact that each heating oil has. This way, citizens can make more economical choices that are better for the environment.**  **Additionally, I’d like to see a growth in alternative forms of home heating. I would support additional subsidies on renewable energy, but I would like to see the county focus on ground-source heat pumps. Ground-source heat pumps are expensive to install, but oftentimes will pay for themselves in roughly 5 years. If the county subsidizes their installation, there will likely be an uptick in the number of people switching from oil heating to natural ground heating.** |

1. 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

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| **In my next term as County Legislator, I would like to see the county increase the availability of EV charging stations. While there are already EV charging stations at many Metro-North stations, I would like to see access expanded to more public facilities such as municipal government buildings and parks.**  **That said, the benefit of expanded EV infrastructure is amplified by an increase in the development of renewable energy sources in Westchester. I’d like to see any initiative to expand EV infrastructure coupled with a simultaneous initiative to increase green energy to ensure that the energy that powers the electronic vehicles is clean.** |

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

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| **I think that there are many ways that the county can spend money more efficiently in order to promote environmental health. The county spends a great deal of money every year and ambitious environmental projects that are relatively inefficient like solar panel conversion. That’s not to say that solar panels are a poor investment. In fact, it’s quite the opposite. We should be investing in solar panel research now in order to make the solar technology more efficient in the future while at the same time using the savings to invest in technology that has an immediate impact like the implantation of more bike lanes. It is a poor use of money to deploy resources now that are not able to live up to their technological capability, but we should continue to subsidize and aid their development.**  **Another way that the County can efficiently allocate resources is to look into the creation of infrastructure like roads. According to the American Road and Transportation Association, it costs roughly $3,000,000 to create one mile of an undivided two-lane road. Now, according to the UNC Highway Safety Research Center, it costs on average $133,170 per mile to construct a bike lane. That comes out to less than 4.5% of the total cost of a mile of road to construct. In the grand scheme of infrastructure construction, I’d like to see the County focus even seemingly miniscule features that could improve the health of the environment since many times they are oftentimes very cheap relative to the project.** |

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

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| **Similar to the previous question, I believe there are many affordable ways that the County can become more environmentally friendly, and many relate to transportation. First and foremost, I believe that the County should designate more commercial zones as being pedestrian, and therefore traffic-free. The exhaust generated by vehicles in busy commercial regions stuck in traffic is toxic to the environment and can be easily eliminated simply by preventing cars from driving in places we know to be conducive to traffic. Additionally, I would support subsidies for businesses like Uber to promote ride-sharing practices around residential and commercial centers. By encouraging carpooling, we can reduce the amount of emissions dumped into our atmosphere.** |

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

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| Westchester’s cities all recognize that making their environment appealing to millennials is a key to development. Port Chester, which I represent, New Rochelle and White Plains all realize that proximity to transportation, entertainment, restaurants and reasonably priced housing are the key to keeping and attracting young people, which will in turn help attract employers to these cities. |

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

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| **I believe that a preserving the land is a community effort, not just the work of a singular County Legislator. For that very reason, I secured $3000 from the Westchester County Legislature Appropriations committee to fund an after-school garden greenhouse program at the John F. Kennedy School in Port Chester. I am deeply troubled by the overdeveloped land in District 6 and I pledge to do my part and work with the community for the preservation of our open-space.** |

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

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| **The protection of our water supply and the quality of our air are my top priorities as an environmentalist County Legislator. I have time and again opposed any and all attempts to change the Terminal Use Agreement at Westchester County Airport because any change in the TUA would likely result in additional flights and consequently reduced air quality and more noise pollution. Additionally, I have vehemently opposed the instillation of additional de-icing facilities as such a proposal would endanger the quality of water near the airport. I’m also extremely concerned with the current proposal to privatize the airport because the environmental ramifications of that agreement remain unknown. As such, I have demanded that detailed environmental impact details be disclosed in advance of any proceeding.** |

1. 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

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| **As previously stated, there exists technology like solar which at the moment are not at their optimal efficiency but will eventually reach that point after more research. Again, that is not to say the technology is bad; it just needs to be operated efficiently. The older, more inefficient technology should be relegated to residential use, while the newer, cutting edge technology should be used for more energy-demanding commercial uses. As such, I would be interested in a County solar marketplace, where anyone with old solar technology is able to trade it into the County in exchange for subsidized newer technology. Consequently, the older technology would go on sale to homeowners at a significantly lower price. While somewhat costly, this type of program could generate an enormous amount of clean energy.** |

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

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| **Local agriculture is a growing field, and it will only get more popular as additional people want regionally produced food. As a county, we should do everything in our power to promote locally grown and produced food because not only does it have a significantly healthier environmental impact because there are fewer emissions from transport, but it also helps local farmers financially. In order to encourage and protect local farming, I would support a public relations campaign that calls for supporting regional famers as well as a stricter crop rotation laws to ensure the sustainability of our local farms. I have requested and am expecting to receive a grant for a community garden to be located at the Port Chester Housing Authority complex and which will be oriented toward seniors.** |