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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
* 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)

**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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| Westchester County has 17 parks, 6 golf courses, 5 conservation areas and 18,00 acres of open space. The budget for our Parks, Recreation and Conservation Departments is over 47 million dollars. Protecting the environment is a top priority. I do whatever I can to support green initiatives and ensure our parks, green spaces and nature preserves are maintained and protected. Most recently, my colleagues and I passed legislation to prohibit the uses of No. 4 & 6 fuels. Also, we just approved an historic development project, North 60, which is being built on 80 acres of land, of which 43 acres will remain green. I have a strong record of working to preserve open space and tackle flood problems along the Saw Mill River Parkway and Bronx River Parkway through green initiatives. I am a strong supporter of openings bike paths. When I started my position as County Legislator there was opposition to opening the bike path along the Saw Mill River Parkway;I was successful with having the path opened in my district. I also voted to prohibit barges on the Hudson River and to limit the size of buildings on Palisades Vistas. |

 **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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| The County board recently approved a 99-year lease agreement for the development of the Westchester Bioscience and Technology Center. This historic project encompasses 80 acres of land for mixed use including; a children’s living science center, medical offices, and restaurants; with the preservation of 43 acres of land. This project is the largest of its kind to be approved in Westchester County and is using green initiatives to ensure that open space and the environment is protected. |

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

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| Invasive species pose a threat to our ecosystem. Recently, an invasive plant, Incised Fumewort, was discovered along the Bronx River Parkway. Although, this plant originates in Asia, such invasive plants are easy to purchase on the internet for home gardens. There are over 60 plants banned in NYS - the easy access poses a major problem. The Westchester County Parks Department works cooperatively with various organizations to help educate the public and protect our parks and open spaces. Considering the recent emersion of this new plant I am currently working on gathering educational information on the various plants that are banned in New York State and how they can negatively impact our ecosystem. |

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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| In 2016, the B.O.L. passed legislation prohibiting the use of No. 6 fuel oil which will be banned on and after July 31, 2018 and No. 4 fuel oil will be banned on and after July 31, 2020. These fuels are known to be the dirtiest and most polluting types of heating oils used in buildings and home. Economic incentives will be provided for building owners during the process switching from these toxic fuel grades to cleaner, more efficient forms of energy. |

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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| Westchester County has been the leader in energy efficient vehicles. White Plains and the Town of Bedford currently have the most charging stations in the County. There is much more work to be done and I am committed to working with the County Executive and state and local leaders to develop and encourage municipalities to install electric charging station and move toward using Electric Vehicles. My voting record on the Board has consistently supported use of energy efficient vehicles including by not limited to County owned vehicles and county bus transportation.  |

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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| One of the main responsibilities of a County Legislator is to pass a fiscally sound budget that will protect its residents. Over the past seven years we have successfully accomplished protecting essential services and allocating funds to further reduce our carbon footprint and protect the environment. The County has been working on various projects such as, lighting and HVAC upgrades, solar energy installations, replacement of old windows with new energy efficient models and a centralized County-wide energy management system.  |

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

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| I along with my colleagues on the County Board in July of 2016 approved a Bond Act that will replace all articulated buses with hybrid buses that have bike racks installed. I am committed to implementing environmentally friendly alternatives.  |

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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| The districts that I represent, Yonkers and Bronxville have availability of train stations and public transportation as well as bike paths and mixed use development. However, Westchester County’s Planning Department is currently working on sustainable and transit oriented plans for the completion of the new Tappan zee Bridge, as well as, the northern parts of the county. |

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 fought for years to re-open Sprain Ridge Pool which is scheduled to open this season. Westchester Parks and open spaces sets us apart from other communities and makes Westchester the most desirable place to work and live. Westchester County has 18,000 acres of open space. I fully support the preservation of open space and the complete utilization of our parks. I take pride in the beauty of our county and the extensive green initiatives that I have taken place during my tenure on the County Board.  |

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

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| Managing and protecting our natural resources have always been a top priority for me. I am dedicated to the residents of Westchester to do what needs to be done to protect them and future generations to come. The preservation of the Bronx River Parkway and Saw Mill River Parkway are high priorities over the next few years. |

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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| There is always work to be done and room for improvement. When an issue comes before me I am always looking for ways to improve energy efficiency. As I have indicated in the questions above the County Board continues to work on numerous ways to make Westchester run more energy efficient. |

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

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| Westchester County is known as one of the healthiest places to live in New York. We have access to farmers’ markets, vegetable stands and supermarkets with healthy fresh organic foods. I will continue to support these initiatives as a County Legislator.  |