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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
* 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](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/LIChapterAgenda16-17.pdf)
* Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg (jklainberg@nylcv.org)

**Campaign Contact Information**

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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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| I have participated in a number of community-organized events focused on cleaning up various Town and County parks that were unattended, as well as local waterfronts on the North Shore. Most recently, I have worked with a local organization, Residents for a More Beautiful Syosset, to plant a memorial community garden, and I have worked with Nassau County’s Department of Public Works to ensure proper, regular maintenance of previously unmaintained sumps throughout the district. I have advocated for solar heating for residents in my community, as well as increased solar panels on our parkways and roadways. I have also advocated for the replacement of all street lights with LED bulbs. I have expressed my support for the LIRR’s Third Track so as to improve the daily commute for thousands of passengers and to encourage more residents to use mass transit, thereby reducing the numbers of cars on the road and likewise, reducing pollution. I am an advocate for clean water here on Long Island and have held numerous town hall meetings to address issues within my district, such as the various remediation efforts being conducted by the NYS Department of Conservation, and to keep my constituents up to date on these efforts. I am currently planning a larger forum in conjunction with the Plainview-Old Bethpage Water District and PSEG to address issues pertaining to water quality concerns within the area. I am also working to keep my constituents informed about the Bethpage plume and its potential effects. |

 **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](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/LIChapterAgenda16-17.pdf))

1. Expanding Renewable Power: Streamlining and standardizing regulations that will spur innovation and wide-spread adoption in the residential and commercial sectors

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| I fully support the removal of roadblocks within existing Nassau County codes and regulations and the replacement of those codes with those that would seek to offer property tax subsidies for the installation of solar power and green roofs in new commercial and residential construction. Additionally, I support a net power buyback program, in conjunction with PSEG & LIPA, use of LED lighting in all streetlights and upgrade of those not already equipped with LED lighting, as well as the conversion of government buildings to LEED standards with a goal of all county-owned facilities being platinum by 2025. |

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

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| The replacement of infrastructure upgrades may be achieved through state, federal, and private grants for areas identified as problematic for upgrades to county and municipal sewage systems through programs like the EPA’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and HUD programs.  |

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

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| I support the expansion of the LIRR via the Third Track. When completed and if implemented properly and in accordance with existing regulations, this will reduce congestion of commuter rail systems and will greatly reduce the number of vehicles on our already-congested roadways. Additionally, I support downtown revitalization projects and will utilize a portion of anticipated Community Revitalization Project funds for projects such as these. I also strongly support the development of affordable housing in order to foster and promote the growth of our workforce population, and to keep the workforce in Nassau County, as well as the updating of current zoning laws. |

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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| I support the installation or expansion of existing charging stations at all government facilities, such as the charging station located here at Nassau County’ executive building. I will advocate for the installation of public charging stations at shopping centers and other areas of high traffic, and I will partner with automotive companies and local dealerships to subsidize the installation of charging stations.  |

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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| Since my election to the Nassau County Legislature, I have been a vocal advocate for public transportation and NICE Bus. I have worked to prevent the elimination of many routes, including the N78/N79, and I will continue to work with NICE Bus and my partners in government to identify a sustainable source of revenue so as to prevent the future elimination or reduction of bus service. Providing more public transportation options will promote growth and will offer cleaner alternatives to the number of vehicles on the road. |

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

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| I will continue to fight for increased local and state funding for regional transit through sustainable sources of revenue, and I will work to use any increase in funding to increase bus routes and to enhance and improve connectivity between inter-county and intra-county commuter systems (bus to train, train to train, bus to bus). I fully support the creation, designation, and expansion of dedicated bus lanes and bike lanes. |

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 would support tax incentive programs for developers who set aside a predetermined percentage of purchased land for open and green space. I am also in favor of incentives for conversion of open space currently used for recreational purposes, such as golf, other sports, and parking to park and natural space, while keeping it available for public use. |

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 am a staunch supporter of replacing street lights with energy-efficient LED bulbs. I will advocate for legislation to require the purchase of Energy Star-certified equipment in all government facilities. I will also work to adopt a plan to phase out all government vehicles that do not meet standards of energy efficiency or emissions standards, and to replace them with hybrid and/or electric models. |

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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| I will work to incentivize green building initiatives in all new commercial and residential development while working with my partners in local government to repeal antiquated laws and/or regulations that inhibit sustainable energy. I support the implementation of smart technology (such as thermostats) which would control energy settings within a given environment. The required use of simple, smart solutions like greenery, entry mats, and window film to improve air quality, reduce necessary cleaning of facilities, and energy loss through old windows and door gaps, while investing in renovating and upgrading facilities with more energy efficient but historically representative windows, entryways, and heating and cooling systems will improve the work environment and will have an effect on overall health of not only the facilities but the employees of those facilities. |

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

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| I support nitrogen management initiatives, and I will promote legislation to require regular participation in aquifer testing. I will to seek federal funding to educate homeowners and to incentivize business developers who participate in water quality training programs. |

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

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| I fully support the initiation of many management solutions to protect natural resources, such as the implementation of food composting programs (like those in NYC) in conjunction with local municipalities, the implementation of tree re-planting and regeneration programs, especially in high-traffic commercial and downtown areas, and I will also work local and state leaders to meet and exceed the standards set by the Paris Climate Accord.  |

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

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| I am fully committed to supporting access to healthy, fresh foods through the creation of community gardens and through educational programs, such as those administered by Homegrown Change, a local organization that aims to grow community by teaching youth how to grow sustainable, healthy food locally.  |