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2017 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire   
for Capital Region 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 9**
* 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 Capital Region Policy Agenda](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Capital-Region-Agenda-16-17.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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Press Secretary’s name and email: -  
Scheduler’s name and email: -

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 Green Party member, I support ecological sustainability. As a Rensselaer County Legislator, I sit on the Environment Committee. I have supported resolutions aimed at investing in renewable energy, cleaning up toxic sites, encouraging organic farming. The Legislature has had to deal with a proposed pipeline for fracking purposes. At no time did I support any resolutions dealing with fracking, as I was concerned about the environmental impact. The water issue in Hoosick Falls was also a major issue for the Legislature. I supported whatever measures were necessary to ensure a clean water supply for all residents. I also support expansion of pedestrian, bicycle, and rail transportation to reduce reliance on auto-based transportation. I recycle at work and home and encourage others to do the same.  The Rensselaer County Legislature supports and funds initiatives dealing with soil and water conservation, forever farmland, agriculture and horticulture (Cornell Cooperative Extension). |

**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 Capital Region Policy Agenda](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Capital-Region-Agenda-16-17.pdf))

1. Regional Transit Analysis: Working with the Capital Region Regional Economic Development Council to develop rapid transit options (i.e., bus and light rail) between central business districts

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| I strongly support and I have utilized public transportation. As a Legislator, I support funding and incentives to encourage economic development related to rapid transit. Our highways in the Capital District cannot continue to support single occupancy vehicles traveling to and from work.  Recently I moved and I am fortunate to live next to a Troy bike trail. |

1. Renewable Energy: Streamlining and modernizing the process for obtaining government approval to install renewable energy facilities

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| I strongly agree and support any resolutions seeking government funding to install renewable energy, such as solar, in Rensselaer County. |

1. Clean and Safe Water: Working to ensure counties and localities regularly test their drinking water using EPA’s Contaminant Candidate List and Unregulated Drinking Water Contaminants

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| With the recent toxic water issue in Hoosick Falls, we cannot assume that all residents in the County have clean water. The need for testing is necessary.  The Legislature addresses issues related to wastewater treatment and storm water management, also. |

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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| As a member of the County Legislature Education Committee, all HVCC students have free access to CDTA bus services to and from the school. CDTA is an important means of transportation for city residents in the Capital District.  In addition I support all measures to increase the use of rail transit in the Capital District.  There has been a renewed emphasis on the use of bike trails. Recently, an unused bike trail near Prospect Park was cleared and connected with a South Troy trail. I foresee additional efforts to connect previously unused trails with existing bike trails. |

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

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| I promote bicycling and walking, car sharing, as well as taking advantage of bus lines in residential and commercial areas. With complaints that parking is an issue in our local cities, utilizing an eco-friendly means of transportation can alleviate the parking problems.  Locally, businesses are adapting. For example, Market 32 has installed recharging stations for electric vehicles. I support such measures. |

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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| As a member of “Friends of Oakwood Cemetery,” and a prior neighbor/visitor to Prospect Park, I realize the value of clean, open air spaces. We must manage our green space and beware of commercial exploitation. I support preserving ecosystems and biodiversity by designating areas as “forever wild”. My new home is situated near such a site.  The Legislature supports the Agriculture Stewardship Association as it works to ensure a future for farming and forestry in our County with its Land Trust program. |

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 support measures to conserve energy and protect the environment. I am in agreement that we should utilize the Environmental Protection Fund for conservation and land protection programs.  The Legislature supports and provides funding to Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Hudson Mohawk Resource Conservation District, the Agriculture Stewardship Association, and other such organizations that support sustainability. |

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

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| Infrastructure in the form of water main lines are very old in our upstate cities. Funding is necessary to stay ahead of the breaks that we have experienced in Troy.  Funding is needed for anti-pollution efforts and toxic sites clean-up.  I support shutting down landfills and waste incinerators and phasing in full recycling efforts.  Climate change has affected our area. Local government, including the Rensselaer County Legislature, plays a key role in protecting communities through initiatives and education against sea-level rise, storm surge and flooding. |

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

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| Troy has one of the best Farmers’ Markets in the Capital District – providing local, organic foods and products to consumers. Troy has the Veggie Mobile, sponsored by Capital Roots to ensure equitable delivery of quality foods to low-income, urban populations. I support all measures designed to introduce and supply healthy, fresh foods to children and their families.  Cornell Cooperative Extension has a number of programs aimed at local foods distribution.  As a Business Educator and County Legislator, I would be interested in sponsoring a farm-to-school program in the Troy School District. |

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 would encourage contractors to reuse, recycle when converting older settings to new spaces. New spaces should be designed with energy efficiency in mind.  Government should continue to offer incentives to businesses and home owners who install green energy products. |