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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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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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| I have demonstrated my commitment to environmental protection throughout my public service. As a member of the Freeport School Board for nine years, we installed new doors, windows, roofs and boilers that were energy efficient. As a Freeport Village Trustee, I helped develop a five-year capital plan to incorporate these same improvements into the Fire Houses. I have also worked, successfully, to install solar street lighting. We are in the process of implementing our downtown redevelopment project, which includes protecting and expanding green spaces, and improving pedestrian safety. As the Village Trustee for a town on Long Island’s South Shore, water quality and marine conservation is a necessity for my community, and we have partnered with volunteer organizations to ensure marine preservation. I have also been a leader in promoting healthy and sustainable foods through classroom healthy eating standards during my time on the School Board, and through our Village Farmer’s Market as a Trustee. If elected to the Nassau County Legislature, I would continue my leadership on environmental conservation in Nassau County. |

 **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 would certainly be in favor of anything that will encourage renewable power. As a Freeport Village Trustee, we’ve been installing solar street lighting in the village and have solar panels on the headquarters of the Fire Department. I am supportive of the county taking measures to rely more on renewable energy sources, including solar and an expansion of the wind power project started at Point Lookout. |

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

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| Failing septic systems are a major contributor to the Nitrogen overload problem here on Long Island. We need to improve and preserve our water quality, and one way to do that is by developing creative financing mechanisms for replacing failing septic systems. The county needs to proactively seek any available state and federal grants, and properly incentivize these vital infrastructure projects. |

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 am definitely in support of completing the planned third main rail line. Anything that can reduce congestions, given all the problems that we’re having now, is a great asset to the commuters. Reducing crowding, avoiding delays, and providing faster routes would increase ridership, a necessary component of reducing carbon emissions. As a Freeport Village Trustee, I am the Village’s liaison with the LIRR. It is my job to improve safety for the people at my station. One of the measures that we took is to bring all new LED lighting on the platform, improving public safety in an environmentally conscious way.  |

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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| Facilitating this infrastructure development is necessary to encourage the use of Electric Vehicles. At the Freeport LIRR station, we have charging stations for EVs. If elected, I would certainly be interested in pursuing improvement and expansion of this infrastructure county wide, as well as looking into having the government vehicles be electric. |

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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| I have experience in creating livable and sustainable communities through my work as a Village Trustee. We have a big project on the major road next to the train station. We recently went into contract on this parcel and will be building apartment housing. We are also overseeing a downtown development project, making main street a more desirable place. We are putting in benches and planters, as well as curb bumps to increase pedestrian safety.Environmentally sound, mixed-use urban development would be a priority for me in the county legislature. |

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

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| I have already publically stated my support for more diverse and regular bus routes. While the Freeport train station is a major hub for bus routes as well, too many of our public transit routes are not properly interconnected. We need to ensure that the routes are responsive to the needs of the community and that the schedules are well publicized and easily accessible. |

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 Freeport Village Trustee, we are currently developing pocket parks designed to beautify the entrances to the village and provide green space; the first of these parks is open now. The county needs to preserve open space, including encouraging cluster housing. The county also needs to take care of our existing green spaces. Deferred maintenance ends up costing money because you pay more after parks fall into disrepair. We need to take care of problems in responsible ways; deferring does not make good fiscal sense in the long run and also limits the enjoyment of parks. As the President of the School Board, we took care of our infrastrtucre, including the playgrounds and outdoor play places.  |

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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| While on the Freeport School Board, we replaced all the roofs, windows, doors, and boiler systems to make them more energy efficient. As a current Freeport Village Trustee, we are doing these same improvements with the Fire Department. We went through each Firehouse and came up with a five-year capital plan. Projects that had been deferred are now being addressed in an environmentally sound manner. Going forward, as the county does infrastructure improvements, they need to use energy efficient materials so they are maximizing their resources. Technology is making things more affordable and more efficient.  |

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 a member of the school board, we were proud to have the lighting and heating in school buildings put on an automatic system, which could be controlled remotely via computer. The lights are shut off by section of the building when not in use and the heating and cooling are off when the building is empty. Because it’s remotely controlled, problems can be solved off site. My experience demonstrates my commitment to making government buildings greener, and my concern that the county structure their rules and regulations to encourage people to build in the most energy efficient manner. |

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

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|  As a Freeport Village Trustee, we have been overseeing road projects, including replacing undersized and failing water mains. This year 4,315 linear feet of water mains will be replaced, with continuing work each year. This vital project conserves resources by preventing leaks and also ensures that the highest health standards are being with the new piping. Regular maintenance ensures that the infrastructure will never be in a crisis situation, and will be usable for future generations. Most of Long Island gets their water from aquifers, and we must continue to regularly test the water. We also need to ban certain pesticides and ensure the safe disposal of chemicals to maintain our uncontaminated water supply. As a Village Trustee, I approved the grant to SPLASH, a Freeport based local volunteer organization that picks up garbage in the water to keep the waterways clean. Clean, unpolluted water promotes local fish farming, including the clamming industry, as well as the many aquatic recreational pursuits on the south shore of Long Island. Government needs to contribute to these efforts, as well as fostering community engagement in preserving our marine environment through great organizations like SPLASH. |

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

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| Natural resource protection is major priority and needs to occur at all levels. My family composts at home, on the School Board we educated students on the importance of recycling, and as a Freeport Village Trustee we have our village recycling program. Green space is such a limited resource, particularly in Nassau County, and we need to fight to protect it. Maintaining and improving our outdoor play spaces was an important factor during my time on the School Board. As a Village Trustee, we have incorporated the planting of new trees into our downtown revitalization project, and the planting has already begun on Main Street.As a Village Trustee, I am proud of Freeport’s participation in the South Shore Blueway, a local waterfront revitalization grant. It’s a safe, legal network for water access points, which allows access for human recreation while protecting wild life and the safety of trail users. |

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

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| As a Freeport Village Trustee, we have overseen a farmer’s market run every summer at the Village Recreation Center. This is a student run market that provides fresh food and nutrition education for the community, as well as teaching the students healthy and sustainable eating habits for life. As a member of the school board, we ran a big campaign to educate and promote healthier choices in the lunchrooms, healthy snack standards in the classrooms and educate and encourage healthy eating habits.  |