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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](#)

Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg (jklainberg@nylcv.org)

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Jack M. Martins

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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.

As Mayor of Mineola, I spearheaded the Village's efforts to develop and implement a new Master Plan that embraced smart growth concepts and transit oriented development – efforts that received various regional awards. Today, the Village remains at the forefront of smart growth on Long Island and an example for other communities.

In my tenure as Senator for the 7th Senate District, I represented the views of an environmentally conscious constituency. To that end I sponsored and co-sponsored legislation aimed at protecting New York's natural resources, most notably Long Island's



unique sole-source aquifer. I participated in numerous meetings with NYLCV and other stakeholders aimed at solidifying the safety and security of our drinking water which, with Assemblywoman Schimel, culminated in securing funding for a comprehensive Long Island Aquifer Study. The sole-source aquifer faces critical challenges, such as plume flow, saltwater intrusion and pesticide pollution and the data from this long overdue study will provide a roadmap for addressing these issues regionally.

Over my career I have worked closely with state and local environmental advocates to protect our environment, preserve open space, and supported renewable energy initiatives as well as promoted green technology and job growth in that sector.

I am proud to have co-sponsored the Community Risk and Resiliency Act that would ensure that consideration into the effects of climate change be considered as it relates to state funding and permit programs.

I believe in the proverb that we do not inherit the land from our parents, but borrow it from our children. It is our responsibility to protect and preserve our natural environment for future generations of Long Islanders. I have supported and will continue to support policies that protect our environment, advance transportation alternatives, and transition our energy needs so that we are less reliant on fossil fuels.

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](#))

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

I will continue to support expansion of access to renewable energy for residential and commercial properties and commit to promoting a model code to streamline and standardize local regulations so as to remove many roadblocks to expanded use of renewable energy, especially photovoltaic power. Such an effort will require bringing local and state

officials and LIPA/PSEG together to formulate a regional strategy in Nassau County.

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

Improving water quality has been a top priority of mine for my entire time in government. Funding for the Long Island Aquifer Study is one dimension of that commitment, but denitrification continues to be one of the single most important issues (not just an environmental issue) facing Long Island as we have seen first hand the effects on coastal wetlands and consequently, on our local communities and Long Island's economy generally. The State has provided, through the budget, funding for these projects but we must be proactive in securing the funding and exploring additional dedicated revenue streams to transition our failing septic systems to systems that will properly remove nitrogen before it enters our waters. We must take a regional approach to this issue, with Nassau, Suffolk and Queens/Brooklyn working collaboratively to protect our common waters.

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

The LIRR Third Track project has been proposed in various forms over the past 40+ years. At a time when the LIRR is experiencing significant maintenance issues, the need to invest in repairing the current system, including switches, to ensure that commuters do not lose faith in mass transit is imperative. Putting an end to the all too often reality of hours-long delays must be a priority.

5. 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

The development of EV infrastructure remains a priority and would invariably provide a greater incentive for consumers to invest in the technology. With advances in battery development and charging technology, a transition to EVs is more feasible.

While in the State Senate, in the 2016 budget, we were successful in creating a zero emissions vehicles rebate program offering rebates of up to \$2,000 for battery-only electric vehicles, plug in hybrids, or fuel-cell vehicles. Also in the 2016 budget we were able to make up to \$250,000 in grants available to municipalities for the creation of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) charging/refueling stations.

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

The development of sustainable and transit oriented development is a long-standing priority and no less so than now as we look to redefine the suburban paradigm in Nassau County.

As Mayor of Mineola I led the development of the Village's new Master Plan which included smart growth and transit oriented development initiatives. The Master Plan was critical in the development of an overlay district in Mineola's downtown that allowed for the construction of projects that have created a vibrant, livable and sustainable community in and around the Mineola train station. The Village has received various awards for its smart growth vision.

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

I have worked for years to provide transportation alternatives in Nassau County. From increasing direct state funding for Nassau’s bus system to advocating for a dedicated revenue stream to ensure that the bus system is not annually the subject of budget cuts, I have fought for our regional bus needs. The need for north-south connectivity on Long Island is critically important to our economy as a region.

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

So many of our communities developed and grew organically. It is important that we take the opportunity to re-evaluate our historic development to provide resources and best practices to set the baseline for the next 100 years. We must resist the tendency to accept the status quo simply because “it’s always been done this way.” While Mayor of Mineola, as part of our redevelopment efforts, we installed streetscape improvements along our commercial corridors and replaced areas of asphalt and concrete with pocket parks.

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



As Mayor of Mineola, we consistently looked for ways to integrate good government with serving as good stewards of the environment. Through initiatives like a village-wide tree planting program, walkable downtowns, park improvements or simply using parks for various events throughout the year, we made our parks and streets an integral part of our Village.

As a State Senator, I provided state grants to municipalities replacing street lights with LEDs and installing solar panels at municipal buildings.

10. 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

The integration of new energy technology into existing buildings just makes sense – it’s environmentally friendly and saves taxpayers’ money. Likewise, working with our regional utilities to offer incentives residentially or in new buildings also makes sense.

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

Protection of our sole source aquifer continues a priority for me. As a State Senator, I have worked with my colleagues in government, environmental advocates, and water providers on Long Island to ensure that our water is not only safe, but clean. When it comes to clean drinking water, there is simply no plan “B” – it’s our aquifer and our responsibility to protect it.

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

With limited open space, it is critically important that we develop and implement regional standards for conserving and protecting our natural resources. Nassau County must take the lead, but assemble all stakeholders, as this effort will form an integral part of the revisioning of a mature suburbia.

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

Although farms are scarce in Nassau County, we must promote access to farm fresh produce through partnerships with the farming communities on Long Island. Farmers Markets are great way to remind our communities that food doesn't just come from a box in the supermarket. As a State Senator I supported the FreshConnect Program as a way of promoting fresh produce throughout the region.