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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](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 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](mailto: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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| The protection of our environment is at the utmost of importance for me as Oyster Bay Town Supervisor. I have a proven track record in environmental protection and sustainability as an elected official, as I led the fight for the complete hydraulic containment and remediation of the Grumman Navy Plume, which plaques communities located throughout the Town.  As a state Assemblyman, I authored and passed milestone legislation to begin the State’s process of cleaning up the largest and most highly-concentrated plume of dangerous chemicals in a sole source aquifer anywhere in the nation. As Town Supervisor, I proactively advocate for Grumman to test for radiological materials along with 1,4 dioxane. In fact, I recently worked with the DEC to compel Grumman to test for radioactive and other harmful chemicals at the Bethpage ballfields which have been closed for years. Additionally, my administration retained a nationally recognized law firm to enter ligation with Grumman regarding pollution of our properties under Federal anti-littering laws. As Town Supervisor, I will continue to work together with our residents, local water districts and important community groups to create the highest levels of collaboration, cooperation and communication in an effort to convince responsible parties that we need to once and for all stop the migration of this plume and remove all contaminants.    In my short tenure as Town Supervisor, I have already successfully directed the implementation of new programs and policies that help protect our environment for future generations. The Town is a leader in protecting our environment through popular recycling and collection programs, both at residents’ curbsides and through drop-off sites. Just this month, we announced that the Town would soon increase these initiatives with an unprecedented single-stream recycling program which will include curbside cardboard recycling for the first time in Town history. Not only will this new initiative greatly reduce the amount of municipal solid waste that the Town collects, but also eases the burden for our residents to take part in our recycling efforts and enhance our overall goal of greater recycling in the community. |

**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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| In my short tenure, I have worked diligently with our new Planning & Development Commissioner and our Department of Environmental Resources to strengthen and streamline our programs for the greater protection and conservation of our Town. We have worked to implement clean energy programs and initiatives throughout our Town, including increased efforts in making the expansion of renewable power a simpler and more attractive process to our residents. We have made initiatives such as solar panel installation and other renewable energy sources at the forefront of our new and improved permitting process, allowing residents to apply for and receive permits for such initiatives in the very same visit. Additionally, we have begun installed LED lights in our parking lots and in our Town Hall. |

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

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| As stated earlier, my career in public service has always focused greatly on water quality. As an avid fisherman and lifelong boater and water enthusiast, I am a strong supporter of protecting our shoreline resources. In the Town of Oyster Bay, we are surrounded by water on both our north and south shores, and we work hard to protect our waters. The issue of failing septic systems, as is the case for many similar issues, is that of entities having the proper finances in place to be able to properly address any failures in infrastructure. I believe that all levels of government need to work together in helping to maintain our important infrastructure that helps protect water quality, whether it be through grant initiatives, rebates or other measures. As an example, I was instrumental in helping to secure funding for the rebuilding of the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant in Nassau County, which had been significantly damaged as a result of Superstorm Sandy. We need to continue similar efforts on all levels of government. |

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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| This project is a very important economic engine for our Town, as we were recently the proud recipient of a highly competitive $10 million state grant, which included the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council’s weighing in of various criteria. Since becoming Supervisor, I took the lead on this great initiative, with the support and help of my colleagues on the Town Board, councilmembers Rebecca Alesia and Anthony Macagnone. Our being granted this funding as the third track initiative moves forward is a huge benefit to ensuring that the downtown of the Hicksville area becomes all of the great things it has the potential of being. This award in state funding and investments will revitalize Hicksville’s downtown and generate new opportunities for long-term growth, as it is a prime location for revitalization, new jobs and new housing opportunities.  These economic development funds will assist the Hicksville community and all of our residents by creating new jobs, new housing opportunities and by transforming downtown Hicksville into attractive, walkable and bicycle-friendly environment. |

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 am supportive of increased use of plug-in electric vehicles. The Town encourages their use by providing free public parking stickers as well as free beach stickers to Town residents who drive hybrid or plug-in vehicles. We also provide parking spaces at our popular parking garage specifically for electric vehicle drivers. |

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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| In addition to the downtown Hicksville initiatives which most definitely fit into this type of criteria, we have shown that we are in favor of such developments where feasible in other areas of our Town. I am very much in support of appropriate development that fits within the suburban nature of our communities. The Town currently has many expansive projects underway or in progress in various areas, the largest of which include the Country Pointe development to be constructed in Plainview; the evolving plans for the Hicksville downtown; and the redevelopment of the Cerro Wire property. These developments all help create livable and sustainable communities in various neighborhoods. |

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

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| The Town is very supportive of finding ways to help maximize environmentally-friendly mobility options in and around our communities. This is largely shown by the above-mentioned developments we have recently passed and are presently working on, such as the downtown Hicksville revitalization initiative, as well as other recently approved multi-use developments. We would continue our positive relationship with the MTA and the LIRR, as well as any other appropriate entities, to ensure the safest, most efficient and cost effective way to assist our residents while looking out for our environment. |

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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| The Town has greatly advanced open space preservation over the years, with many sensitive lands being protected from development through bond-funded acquisitions. I’ve continued these efforts under my tenure, and have diligently looked for ways to further advance this initiative. My administration has actively looked for creative ways in which we could work with other levels of government, including our colleagues in New York State, to help further permanently preserve and protect open space, giving particular attention to properties that are sensitive to the recharge of our groundwater, as well as sensitive to many species and plants and animals. |

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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| In just a few short months as Town Supervisor, I have looked for every avenue possible for ways to save money, while making sure to not impact the great services Town residents have come to expect. We’ve taken many steps in ensuring we save energy and increase sustainability, including the recent implementation of LED lights throughout our Town, not just in our street light replacement program but also in Town facilities. Most recently, our Town opened a new, futuristic satellite office at our Town Hall South facility. Thanks to my administration’s efforts, we not only successfully received LED lighting through a municipal grant offering with PSE&G for that office, we are now working to replace the lighting throughout the entire building. These creative efforts are cost efficient not just for our Town, as they were all performed free of charge, but they clearly also benefit our residents. Moving forward, we will continue these types of initiatives to find smart, creative ways to save money while working more efficiently. |

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 am very supportive in advancing businesses and our residents efforts in increasing energy efficiency. To further help forge the relationship between the Town, residents and local businesses, I have made many changes in our Town’s Department of Planning and Development, which oversees the development of properties and zoning initiatives. Since taking office, I made changes to the management in that department with the appointment of a new commissioner, as well as staff changes, to help all residents and businesses achieve the most efficient and positive experiences in our Town. |

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

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| As stated earlier, I have been a leader in the fight to preserve and protect Long Island’s drinking water. My efforts and successes in the State Assembly have only grown during my tenure as Town Supervisor, and I will continue to proactively advocate for Grumman and the Navy to test for hazardous materials and once and for all cleanup and remediate the Grumman Navy Plume, which directly affects the residents of our Town. I will continue to work together with our residents, local water districts and important community groups to create the highest levels of collaboration, cooperation and communication in an effort to convince responsible parties that we need to once and for all stop the migration of this plume and remove all contaminants.  As an avid fisherman and lifelong boater and water enthusiast, I am a strong supporter of protecting our shoreline resources. In the Town of Oyster Bay, we are surrounded by water on both our north and south shores. These areas are cherished by our residents, and we will continue to do what is necessary to protect our harbors and bays. Our efforts include working closely with a myriad of environmental groups through our Department of Environmental Resources, and hosting various programs throughout the year, such as our harbor cleanups. We will also continue efforts, through existing protection programs and reviews and strengthening of plans, to help mitigate any negative impacts various discharges have on our waterways. |

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

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| As stated earlier, the Town has greatly advanced open space preservation over the years, with many sensitive lands being protected from development through bond-funded acquisitions. I’ve continued these efforts under my tenure, and have diligently looked for ways to further advance this initiative, as well as advancing the protection of our natural resources. During my tenure, I’ve worked with our Department of Environmental Resources, as well as made many changes in our Town’s Department of Planning and Development, to help further these efforts. |

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

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| I am supportive of efforts to provide residents with increased access to healthy and fresh foods. We have some community garden locations in our Town, which assist in this effort by calling our communities together to plant food for their own local use. Additionally, we have many groups, including Boy and Girl Scout troops, who utilize Town facilities to plant food to be donated to local food banks. Furthermore, my administration has worked with Nassau County to provide State food vouchers to low-income seniors for free fruit at local Farmer Markets. |