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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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Scheduler’s name and email: same as above

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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| Personally, I was raised to be someone who loves and appreciates the natural world around me. My family spent many years camping, hiking and surrounding ourselves in nature. As a cub scout, I was taught at a young age the importance of the ecosystem around me and its these lessons that have stayed with me throughout my life.  Professionally, I have advanced a pro-environment agenda as Legislator Kate Browning’s Chief of Staff over the last 11 years. I helped preserve over 1000 acres of open space, implemented storm water remediation projects and secured funding to replace over 2000 antiquated cesspools with a state-of-the-art sewer system in Mastic/Shirley. I also chaired the Yaphank Master Plan Committee that protected over 130 acres of County property from being cleared. I am currently working on creating a comprehensive renewable energy construction plan for Suffolk 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 am fully committed to expanding our renewable energy sources. I am currently helping to create a comprehensive renewable energy construction plan for Suffolk County that will lay the groundwork for building solar, wind and other renewables in areas that need it the most while having the least impact on our environmental resources. |

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

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| I am fully supportive of the County’s septic improvement grant program that provides $10k grants to homeowners to install innovative alternative systems. I have helped increase outreach and education about the program and will advocate for new State funding to expand this program. I will also continue to pursue federal and state funding to expand sewers. The $200 million Shirley/Mastic project is designed to take in additional communities and we need funding to bring this to fruition. I support dedicated funding for these water quality improvements. |

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 is far outside of my legislative district but support all efforts to improve mass transportation that take cars off our roadways. I will advocate for more transportation options and resources in eastern Suffolk County where it is desperately needed. |

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 believe any upgrades to County facilities should include charging stations at all of our parking lots and will pursue public/private partnerships to expand these services on private property. |

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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| A major barrier to revitalization and smart growth in my legislative district is the lack of sewers. Therefore I advocated for new sewer districts and successfully secured funding to do so. Once constructed, TOD’s and other sustainable growth will be achievable. I will support County subsidies for affordable housing for these projects. |

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

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| Electrifying the LIRR into my district, expansion of our County bus system with hybrid buses and bike sharing programs are all options I support to achieve these goals. |

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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| Strategic retreat in flood prone areas and wetlands restoration is something I have been successful in achieving in Mastic Beach and other environmentally sensitive areas as Chief of Staff to Kate Browning. I also helped preserve over 1000 acres of open space in my district alone and will continue to support aggressive preservation efforts. Mastic Beach has included a environmental education center in its comprehensive mater plan and I will help advance this goal. We are also doing this in Brookhaven Hamlet in partnership with a non-profit organization on land I helped preserve and save from development 9 years ago. |

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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| Suffolk County has been a leader in solaring our parking lots and is moving forward with energy storage projects the will help meet these goals. We have started to purchase hybrid vehicles and I support doing this with all of our fleet. I helped secure support and funding for a new center at the Suffolk County Farm and support these educational programs for the public. We have already banned pesticides on County land. |

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 support this at all County buildings and will advocate for it on private property, but the County does not have jurisdiction over these regulations. |

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

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| I will continue to install storm water filtration systems on County roads, expand on-site alternative wastewater systems and grants, and construct centralized sewers in my district. |

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

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| I will fight to close the Brookhaven landfill that is impacting air quality and water quality in my community. I will aggressively protect conservation zones like the Mastic/Shirley conservation area and continue purchasing land to prevent development. Lastly, I will focus renewable energy construction on disturbed properties so as not to trade green for green. I feel we need to reduce the number of cars on the road and increase hybrid fleets. I also support the transport of goods via rail to remove trucks from our highways. |

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

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| I have supported community gardens, farmland protection and will continue to promote locally grown products to support our agricultural community. As Kate Browning’s Chief of Staff, I have helped purchase the development rights of several farms and will continue to pursue these programs. We also have several local farm stands that are staffed by our youth. |