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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

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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 a County Legislator and Nassau County resident I have always fought to protect our environment and push a pro-environment agenda. I fought against a liquefied natural gas terminal off the coast of Long Beach and supported a wind project that would create clean energy. In addition, I have taken a serious look at how a plastic bag ban would affect our environment and community countywide. I have consistently worked for increased public transportation options and fought for additional funding for the Nassau County bus system. To help illustrate and publicize the limits of getting around Nassau without a car, I traveled for a week using only my bike and public transportation. In that vein, I helped push through a Complete Streets project on Grand Avenue in Baldwin, which will create bike lanes and more pedestrian areas so we can create a more walkable community. In addition, I helped create the Baldwin Community Garden and have sponsored numerous volunteer clean-up projects for our parks and ponds.

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 work with our building trade unions to make sure they are equipped to build new infrastructure projects that are environmentally friendly and energy efficient. As County Executive, I will invest in new technologies and energy that will have long-term environmental and economic benefits, and will encourage new residential and commercial sectors to follow suit. We can work with our state and federal partners to incentivize builders and property owners to develop their property with green technology. I'll also look at retrofitting County buildings and adding solar panels to them. I've always been an advocate for renewable energy - fighting against the proposed LNG terminal off the coast of Long Beach and supporting a wind project in its place.

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

Our County infrastructure is aging and, in many instances, is wholly insufficient. Our sewer system, for example, is simply not comprehensive enough. We need to expand sewerage across the North Shore as a matter of urgent environmental necessity. The lack of sewers is causing excessive levels of nitrogen in the Long Island Sound and other bodies of water – potentially poisoning our drinking water and destroying our precious environment. We need to work with our partners at the State level and the EPA - but this is an urgent priority for the future of Long Island.

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

I support the Long Island Railroad Expansion Project, which will add a third track to the railroad's main line. We can't grow Long Island without expanding mass transit and the third track is an important part of that. The addition of a third track - allowing more trains to run in both directions during the morning and evening rush would help to eliminate the delays we see almost every day. This project will also create good-paying jobs for local union labor and boost our local economy.

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

We should encourage people and businesses to look at electrical vehicles for their new cars rather than traditional gas-guzzlers. I will work with our partners at the state and federal level to fund more EV infrastructure so car buyers know they have somewhere they can recharge their cars, just as they would be able to fill up their traditional gas tanks. I also will explore replacing part of the County fleet, as our current vehicles need to be replaced.

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

Clean energy jobs and development are the way of the future and a great area for economic growth. I fully support the need to invest in new and clean energies and bring our County into the 21st Century. We need to provide a welcoming culture for mixed-use development centered around our already existing transit hubs. This type of development provides much-needed affordable housing options for our young professionals and golden age communities in areas that are easily accessible by the Long Island Railroad and NICE Bus system. Having walkable downtowns leads to a healthier economy and environment, and as County Executive, I will continue her work as a smart growth advocate.

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

Reliable and affordable transportation is essential to growing our local economies. We have seen public transportation, like our NICE Bus system, have routes reduced or cut completely. I plan on tackling this issue by finding new sources of recurring revenue that can ensure everyone can get to their place of work, appointments, school, etc. In addition, I recently helped spearhead a project that will build bike lanes in Baldwin - my current Legislative District and my hometown - and I believe this is something that would be beneficial for all of Nassau County.

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

Parks are often the centerpieces of our local communities. Every Nassau resident should have access to a clean, safe, and well-maintained park. This is an invaluable asset that fosters active and healthy lifestyles, brings people together, and serves as a public meeting ground. To foster that connection, I

sponsor periodic volunteer clean-ups in the parks in my current legislative district, and will do so countywide as County Executive.

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

I will work at the local, state and federal level to ensure we have the funding to train people properly and bring our County's infrastructure into the 21st Century. I will incentivize developers and builders to use environmentally friendly materials and designs that will not only protect the environment but also save the taxpayers and the County money. We will reduce our footprint and save money, which can go toward other environmentally friendly projects and investments in new infrastructure that is more sustainable and less costly to maintain.

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

As we renovate and build our communities we need to do so in a more structurally and environmentally sound way, and the County can help lead the way. As County Executive I will work with our building trade unions and local developers to help ensure that newly built homes are modern and rely on green technologies. We have the ability to put solar panels on roofs, change the way homes are heated so they use less energy, and create wind farms that can power our infrastructure. When we renovate County property I will take the necessary steps to retrofit the existing infrastructure to run on sustainable energy sources, and develop new government-funded projects that do the same. We have also seen firsthand the power of natural disasters like Superstorm Sandy. We need to continue rebuilding our communities with more resilient infrastructure and new technologies to better withstand future natural disasters.

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

In Nassau, our drinking water comes from a single-source aquifer, and it is up to us to protect it. With that in mind, there are three issues to highlight. First, I am quite concerned about New York City's plan to renew its lease of 33 inactive wells — before the completion of a sustainability study currently underway — in southeastern Queens. This study will assess the possibility of saltwater intrusion into our aquifer, among other potential consequences of reactivating the wells. That study *must* be completed before the well permits are reauthorized. Second, we must closely monitor the Back Bays resiliency study the Army Corps of Engineers is currently conducting. Nassau County has contributed almost half a million dollars toward the study, which is exploring how the South Shore's back bays can become more resilient, though structural (i.e., flood-gates to lessen the

impact of storm surges) and non-structural (i.e. restoring marshlands, which act as buffers) means. Third, we are on the verge of launching an exciting project to deal with nitrogen in our back bays. The county is studying the viability of a century-old viaduct running under Sunrise Highway, to bring treated sewage from the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant to our Cedar Creek facility. This would cost about half of what an outfall pipe from Bay Park would have required. And it appears Cedar Creek, which already has an outfall pipe, has the capacity to handle the increased volume.

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

As County Executive, I will do everything I can at a local level to fight against the Trump administration’s assault on environmental research and protections. I fought against the proposed liquefied natural gas terminal off the coast of Long Beach, and supported an off-shore wind project. Nassau must also work with Suffolk County on planning for more sewers throughout our region. Not only will this help protect our aquifer and our bodies of water, it will spur environmentally responsible economic development.

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

I will urge the County to buy local produce for sponsored events and support local farms that promote a healthier environment, and continue to support local projects that do the same. I helped facilitate creation of the Baldwin Community Garden by convincing the County to turn over a plot of land that residents could use to grow fresh fruits and vegetables. It’s now thriving and managed by the local civic association. I’ve also supported the Cornell Cooperative Extension farm in East Meadow, which provides garden plots for local residents as well as demonstration gardens and environmental education. They also visit local schools to help students and teachers develop school gardens, and helped develop a garden at a local shelter for women and children which now can harvest its own fresh produce. As County Executive I will continue to support groups such as this, which help and educate communities throughout the County.