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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 (ijklainberg@nylcv.org)

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Legislator Leslie Kennedy
Office Sought (district if applicable): Su Holk County Legislature
E-mail: Leslie for Legislature@gmail.com
Mailing Address: 1200 Veterans memorial Hwy Suite 350, Hawppauge NY 11788
Phone: 631-767-6230
Website: N/A
Facebook Page: Facebook / Legislator Leslie Kennedy
Twitter handle: N/A
Campaign Manager's name and email: Ali Nazir , Ali.Nazir.1983@gmail.com
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.

See Atch



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

see Attachment

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

See Attachment

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

see Attachment

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

See Attachment

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

See Attachment

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

See Attachment

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

See Attached

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

See Attachment

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

See Attachment

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

See Attachment

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

See Attachment

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

See Attachment

Personal Information

As both a legislative aide and now as the Legislator for the 12th District, I have worked tirelessly to preserve the environment both in my district as well as throughout Suffolk County.

- A. I worked to secure a \$975,000 New York State Environmental Quality Bond Act Grant to continue groundwater remediation and flood control along the Northeast Branch of the Nissequogue River. This will allow for the continuation of a previously commenced silt remediation effort for an additional 7500 Feet of stream bed in the Village of the Branch and the replacement of two sets of undersized and inefficient barrel culverts with a more properly aligned box culvert. This will facilitate the flow of surface waters during periods of heavy precipitation, and serve to further minimize the impact on adjoining residences and septic systems.
- B. I have sponsored an effort to acquire environmentally sensitive property adjoining New York State Veterans Highway, Route 454. This property has sensitive wetlands, and is a habitat to the only indigenous trout population of Long Island. I have partnered with Seatuck and volunteers to clear foreign debris from the property.
- C. I have chaired and worked with colleague legislators to promote restoration and enhancement of Lake Ronkonkoma. I was able to engage Professors and Students from SUNY Stony Brook Marine Sciences Program, to undertake water sampling. I engaged Bill Pfeifer, a prominent local diver, to undertake a complete mapping project of the lake bottom. This valuable tool has served as a platform for additional water quality testing and monitoring.

This year, I was able to secure \$150,000 in the Capital Budget to fund the removal of railroad ties and debris at the former Bavarian Inn site. Work has already begun, and I am collaborating directly with community partners to propose a passive, environmentally friendly development of these additional 2 acres, with a plan to annex this parcel to the adjacent Suffolk County Park property.

Added to these most recent efforts has been my past work to support the dedication of an adjoining 95 acres of general park property to nature preserves. I continue to remain dedicated to the preservation and restoration of this unique natural amenity, the only kettlehole lake on Long Island.

In addition to the above, I remain dedicated to supporting local volunteer groups such as the 7 Cents Club, which has taken on the ongoing litter removal and upkeep of Crooked Hill Road, and Commack Road in the Southwest corner of Commack. I worked with the Suffolk County DPW to make bags and gloves available to volunteers, as well as to ensure a regular schedule for debris pickup.

I have also continued to support efforts on the part of the Commack Civic Association to preserve the Marion Carll farm, one of the oldest intact farm properties in Suffolk County.

I welcome the opportunity to use my office to work on the behalf of environmental preservation and enhancement, and will continue to do so in my next term.

2: Expanding Renewable Power

I have supported Suffolk County Capital Project CP1664, which supports energy conservation, both through renovation of existing structures as well as for new design. These initiatives include energy efficient lighting retrofits, replacement and upgrade of HVAC systems, and use of improved energy management systems throughout County buildings. While Suffolk County does not have direct land use powers, I do support use of solar, wind turbine and geothermal where available throughout the county.

3. Improving Water Quality: Identifying Financing to Replace Failing Septic Systems

In this past year, the legislature has approved a pilot program to install nitrogen-reduction septic systems in areas proximate to degraded water bodies. While a modest amount, approximately \$2 million, has been authorized, the primary mechanism for increased funding should be the ¼ cent dedicated portion of the Sales Tax. I will fight to secure greater amounts of this 30 year old water quality funding stream to expand this initiative.

4. LIRR Third Track

Meaningful expansion of railroad capacity and schedules should be undertaken, and I will support the same.

5. Expanding Electric Vehicle Infrastructure:

Suffolk County has previously been awarded federal and state grants to expand both CNG and charging stations. I will continue to support the same.

6. Sustainable + Transit oriented development:

I have supported both a study, as well as the production of bid-ready plans for the sewerage of both Kings Park and the Main Street Smithtown business community. Both areas are ideally situated for downtown development, as each community is a stop on the northern branch of the LIRR. Only with the multiple benefits to be derived from sewer connections can additional density be considered. The additional restaurants, medical facilities and other types of wet uses associated with a sustainable downtown are directly dependent on sewerage. I proposed an increase of 2 million in the 2018 County Capital Budget to leverage the \$40 million commitment made by New York State to support both projects. I will work directly with the Smithtown Town Board to bring the development of a new sewage treatment plant in Smithtown to fruition.

7. Transportation and Mobility Options

The largest industrial park, the Hauppauge Industrial Park, is located within the 12th Legislative District. I have worked with the board of the Hauppauge Industrial Association (HIA) to identify traffic concerns and needs within the park to help facilitate the smooth flow of 50,000 workers in and out of the park each day. Improved and sequential signaling, upgraded street lighting, and staggering of work hours are just some of the initiatives that have been a past focus.

In specific hamlets, I have secured funding to extend and fill in sidewalks on County Road 16, Smithtown Boulevard, and will advocate for the same on Townline Road, County Route 76, greatly enhancing the safety of pedestrians, and school children in particular.

8. Open Space preservation:

I have already indicated efforts towards key habitat question efforts, and I will continue to seek out additional acquisition opportunities. It is critical that collaboration associated with acquisition occurs at this point, as Suffolk County now owns more than 40,000 acres of park property, and does not have the resources to maintain or patrol the same. Joint acquisitions with towns and villages would achieve the ultimate objective of preserving habitat and maintaining greenery, yet would leverage the benefit of local maintenance and patrol.

I would be willing to support the concept of the biotic corridor; however the opportunities within the district are limited.

9. Sustainable Public Access Management:

Suffolk County currently has an operating budget deficit in excess of \$160 Million. A component of the annual 2.9 billion dollar operating budget is the annual debt service component, which represents, the aggregate of all capital borrowing, both present and past. Therefore, any acquisitions should provide public parking and access.

10. Energy Efficiency

As stated above, I have supported a substantial investment each year for Capital Project 1664, which funds retrofitting of existing, outdated lighting and HVAC systems for county properties. I will also work to insure that any workforce housing projects partially funded by Suffolk County also include energy efficiency component.

11. Water Quality and Aquifer Protection:

I have worked tirelessly to clean up Lake Ronkonkoma, a body of water fed by our natural water aquifer, and partnered with the Suffolk County Executive on his nitrogen reduction and septic tank reduction programs. As a result, I was instrumental in converting the County Park's archaic sewage system into a modern nitrogen reducing system and I am looking forward to taking the next necessary steps needed to replace all other municipal park lands along Lake Ronkonkoma into nitrogen reducing systems.

12. Natural Resource Program

As Chair of the Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory Board, I was able to execute an inter-municipal agreement between the three stake holding towns to form an inter-municipal organization.

This organization will apply for grants and has begun clean-up initiatives on the banks of Lake Ronkonkoma; furthermore, the IO has put a priority on the ethical treatment of the Canadian Goose Issue

13. Farms and Foods

I have worked with local producers and community members to organize various farmers markets in Nesconset and recently in St. James. I will continue to organized and collaborate with local producers to bring into fruition more initiatives centered on "farm to table" concepts. In addition, I support the continuation of the development rights of active forms throughout Suffolk County.

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