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2017 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire
for Capital Region 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 9**
* 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 Capital Region Policy Agenda](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Capital-Region-Agenda-16-17.pdf)
* Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg (jklainberg@nylcv.org)

**Campaign Contact Information**

Candidate Name: Meg Kelly
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Scheduler’s name and email:

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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| Thank you for the opportunity to address some of your concerns. State Senator Adriano Espaollat said it best “Every child in every community deserves to inherit a planet filled with opportunity and not one damaged by toxic water or air.” NYLVC has a proven record and a persistent and progressive agenda in their effort to make this happen. As Deputy Mayor of Saratoga Springs I have worked with many organizations in the continued development to public transit, pedestrian networks, protect water, and maintain open space, preserving farmland, promoting land acquisition for open space, and farmland preservation.I am passionate about our greenbelt trail which will consist of miles of connected trails around the city for bicycling and walking. I am an advocate in the process of developing 4 Pocket Parks with one to start this summer. I am involved with preserving open space including the Pitney Farms Project, electric vehicle charging stations in the downtown area, free CDTA trolley serve in the city in which the ridership tripled from 2015 to 2016. |

1. **Please share your accomplishments or experiences that indicate your commitment to advancing a pro-environment agenda. These experiences may be professional or personal.**

**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 Capital Region Policy Agenda](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Capital-Region-Agenda-16-17.pdf))

1. Regional Transit Analysis: Working with the Capital Region Regional Economic Development Council to develop rapid transit options (i.e., bus and light rail) between central business districts

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| I mentioned prior that the city runs a free trolley around the business districts in which ridership is continuing to increase each year. I am also currently working with CDTA to launch in July 2017 a Bike Share Program. Bicycles will be for rent and located in four locations in Saratoga Springs. |

1. **Renewable Energy: Streamlining and modernizing the process for obtaining government approval to install renewable energy facilities**

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| Our city is involved with Sustainable Saratoga that facilitates a public-private tree planting campaign and uses education, advocacy, and action to advance sustainable practices and protect natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations. Their program “Treetoga” which started in 2015 is reclaiming our grand tree vision and leaving a legacy for our children and the grandchildren. I am, as well as many of the city citizens are advocates of the Sustainable Saratoga’s Centennial Trees project which is officially affiliated with the City’s. |

1. **Clean and Safe Water: Working to ensure counties and localities regularly test their drinking water using EPA’s Contaminant Candidate List and Unregulated Drinking Water Contaminants**

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| I support and advocate for Congressman Paul Tonko and Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) legislation that would allow for a reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act and allocate funding over the next five years to be provided to local water-line improvements. As seen in both Flint and Hoosick Falls, toxic pollutants have been brought to light. It is imperative that additional resources be allocated to the revolving state funding act all which helped, lead to the formation of AQUA, the Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act.The Saratoga Springs DPW and NYSDOT are working on a $7 million project replace the dam at the city aquifer to maintain the safety of the drinking water. In a partnership with another federal agency, we are securing the safety of the water with security cameras.  |

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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| There are currently several projects in Saratoga Springs to create workforce housing: two on the west side of the city and one on the south end of the city. Both of these large projects are directly on the bus route and one is within walking distance from the train station. Providing affordable housing is a priority in my agenda. |

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

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| As you might have seen recently in the news, Upstate New York will finally be able to enjoy safe, reliable, affordable and fast transportation services like Uber and Lyft that New York City and many other parts of the country have enjoyed for some time. Ride sharing will help cut down on drunk driving, create new jobs in our area and be a tremendous benefit to our small businesses for commerce and business traveling and for those who need transportation to medical appointments or grocery shopping. This will be especially helpful for people with disabilities and those who need rides in our rural and suburban areas that don’t have easy access to public transportation. I have advocated for this change and am delighted to now have this service for our community. |

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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| I have been involved with and supporter of pocket parks within the city. During the planning process, 4 areas were chosen which the first one starting this summer on South Broadway. |

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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| As leaders, we are responsible for watching over and protecting. This duty requires planned management in a wide variety of areas. Water, air, land, waste, access, and sustainability all interact when we make our decisions. Comprehensive planning is vital to providing a safe and livable environment and this is critical as we move into the future. |

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

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| The city water’s security, dam replacement, and the Greenbelt trails throughout the city, continued land preserving and electric vehicle charging stations are all area that I am passionate about and will continue building upon. |

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

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| Saratoga Springs has two farmer markets: one at High Rock Park and one at the Saratoga Spa Park. I am active and involved in the development and promotion of the Pitney Meadows Community project. This is a school teaching and empowering community members to grow food with access to communal equipment and coaching from experts.  |

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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| Our planning and zoning departments work with residents and builders to bring awareness of the benefits of using energy efficiency technologies. Through the use of modern techniques and cooperative efforts achieving energy efficiency is a constant concern of all party’s involved. |