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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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| **As Islip Town Councilman, I initiated efforts that resulted in the first pump out boat for the Great South Bay boating community. I am an active participant of the Islip Town Environmental Committee (ITEC). In that capacity, I led the effort to label our storm drains with medallions educating the public not to pour pollutants in them as it all leads to the bay. I am a supporter and active participant of Keep Islip Clean (KIC), an organization of which my children were junior commissioners. I have sponsored numerous clean up and gardening days throughout the town, such as Brookwood Hall and West Islip Beach. I have lobbied for and been a zealous advocate for sewers in the un-sewered communities of the Town of Islip. I have supported and helped to expand the Town of Islip’s clam and oyster hatcheries and aqua farming leases. I led the effort to create an educational video for our public access channel to advocate the importance of recycling and to educate about our resources at the town compost facility and our STOP Day (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants).** |

**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 led the effort in the Town of Islip in getting our first solar panels at our compost facility. We have since expanded that effort at our capped landfills. I have also hosted solar energy education classes for the public with the solar industry. As a County Legislator, I would continue my commitment to see renewable energy expanded whenever possible both in the public and private sectors.** |

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

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| **Protecting the precious resource of our water quality needs to be a top priority of anyone in government. As we have seen in recent headlines from places like Flint, Michigan, ignoring the problem can only have disastrous results. The amount of nitrogen now going into the aquifer is unacceptable and unsustainable. Replacing antiquated septic systems and expanded sewering has to be part of the solution. I would work with public and private partnerships to insure the most effective efforts are made to protect water quality.** |

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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| **Suffolk County’s population is roughly 1.5 million people. Nassau’s is 1.4 million. Combine that with Brooklyn and Queens and this island that is 1,401 square miles is home to almost 7.7 million people. Our dated and crumbling infrastructure is a disgrace and improving access to public transportation is a must to protect the 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 would wholeheartedly support the facilitating the development of a larger network of charging stations and the expanded use of electric vehicles in both the public and private sectors. We should enhance incentives to those individuals and companies that utilize electric vehicles.** |

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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| **I have been one of the leaders in the Town of Islip pushing these efforts. Bay Shore has become a model community fo sustainable and transit-oriented development and has proved what a good effect this can have on the local economy. I have been honored to receive two awards individually and others as a group from Vision Long Island recognizing my efforts in this area. I will continue to be a zealous advocate for Smart Growth in the county.** |

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

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| **I have been a part of securing grants for walkability and bike paths in communities such as Bay Shore and Central Islip among others. We have also been able to successfully encourage builders and developers to make these part of their building plans. I would certainly continue the types of efforts on the county level.** |

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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| **At the Town of Islip, using just this type of strategy, we were able to successfully negotiate the rezoning of the former LaSalle Academy property from sprawl zoning to cluster zoning and thereby protected open space and wetlands. Through my efforts, the town received the land from the county and we were able to develop a pocket park in the former blighted area of Redington and Brook Avenue in Bay Shore. I would continue these common sense, beneficial to all efforts in county government.** |

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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| **I enthusiastically support common sense measures that would go a long way in protecting our natural resources for future generations through reasonable and sustainable public access management plans. At the Town of Islip’s yearly Earth Day event, our emphasis was on educating the public about simple measures they could do to protect the environment from earth friendly vendors, demonstrations and educational workshops.** |

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 helped to pass town zoning legislation that enabled a developer to receive increased residential density on an application if that developer could demonstrate that he was making the project energy efficient. I will continue to look to implement common sense solutions like this that helps to make us more energy efficient while not costing the taxpayers a dime.** |

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

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| **While I covered many of the pertinent points to this question in Question 3, it bears repeating that protecting the aquifer and the quality of our drinking water priority has to be a top priority for anyone in government. I have been actively working on securing grants and many projects in the Town such as: the Greene’s Creek Watershed in West Sayville, Great Cove in Bay Shore, tree planting programs (which I assisted on starting in the Town), storm drain sponges and rain gardens in planning designs. Again, I will continue to work with public and private partnerships to insure the most effective efforts are made to protect water quality.** |

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

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| **Most of my many efforts to protect the quality of our air, water and land have been covered in the preceding questions. I can only repeat here that I will continue this commitment, in whatever capacity that I serve, to ensure the protection of our natural resources for the benefit of those here today and for future generations.** |

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

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| **At the Town of Islip, we have leased some unused land in East Islip to Organics Today which is a small organic farm specializing in organic heirloom tomatoes, organically grown fruit and Vegetables, raw honey and locally grown eggs. We have also started and expanded bay bottom leases for clam and oyster farming. There are many more common sense (no tax) measures we can employ on a county level to encourage stores and restaurants to offer more “farm to table” choices for consumers.** |