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## **2019 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire for New York City Public Advocate Candidates**

### ***Campaign Contact Information***

**Candidate name:** Nomiki Konst

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### **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

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

As an activist, reformer, and investigative journalist, I have continually held elected leaders and political party organizations accountable to a progressive pro-environmental agenda. As an appointed member of the 2016 DNC Platform Committee, I advocated and helped to achieve the most progressive environmental platform in the Democratic Party's history. As an appointed member of the DNC Unity Reform Commission, I pushed for major reforms in accountability and transparency in a national party structure that all too often has allowed anti-environmental interests to dictate its priorities and agenda. As an investigative reporter I extensively covered the disastrous environmental impact of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, seeing up close the human toll of climate change.

### **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 2018 NYC Policy Agenda when formulating your responses.*)**

#### Energy and Infrastructure

Less than 4% of New York's electricity came from solar, wind, tidal or geothermal energy in 2016. To get to 100% renewable energy by 2030, New York will need a politically independent Public Advocate who is committed to an aggressive, bold timeline and won't be afraid to hold city government accountable to it. The city must ramp up support for startups and research, get ahead of the regulatory hurdles, dedicate funding for renewable energy adoption in low-income neighborhoods, and undertake a massive building retrofitting project.

#### Resilience

Climate change poses one of the top threats to the health, safety, and security of New Yorkers. The next Public Advocate must be dedicated to ensuring city government is protecting its citizens and planning for the effects of climate change. That includes revenue for coastal infrastructure, tying proposed development to climate change impact assessments, natural barrier conservation, protecting New Yorkers from extreme heat conditions, and a comprehensive plan for protecting critical city infrastructure that could be affected by climate change.

#### Solid Waste

We need to encourage the minimization of residential waste through usage-based collection fees, ensure that waste siting is a shared burden throughout the city, design building for waste minimization, and educate the public on how New York can achieve zero waste.

#### Clean Air

Clean air is a public health issue for all New Yorkers, and is particularly a crisis for 800,000 New Yorkers living in public housing. I support a program to review the inspection of homes for asthma triggers and other indoor pollutants as well as a renewed commitment from the city to transitioning homes to clean heating fuels. As Public Advocate I will also strongly advocate for auto emissions reductions, focusing on residential delivery policies, charging infrastructure, and eliminating diesel.

#### Clean Water

I am committed to ensuring New Yorkers always have access to clean and safe water through rigorous testing of building drinking water for contaminants, strict compliance with sewage standards, and adoption and expansion of green infrastructure.

#### Sustainable Food Systems

As Public Advocate I will be a strong supporter of urban agriculture and will advocate for food access programs to center and prioritize healthy, local produce.

#### Mobility

We need to radically rethink our public transportation system. We must use fair congestion pricing to fund infrastructure, get ahead of autonomous vehicle impact, address transit gaps in all boroughs, and support bike programs and dedicated lanes for bikes and buses.

#### Parks, Waterfronts and Natural Areas

The parks budget must be fully funded, with more transparency and accountability on project design and decision-making, incorporation of climate change impact assessments, and a stronger commitment to waterfront parks for public access and as a tool for resiliency.

