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2019 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire for New York City Public Advocate Candidates

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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.

I am proud of my strong record fighting for pro-environment legislation. As a State Assembly member, I supported the Drug Take Back Act, Toxic Show and Tell legislation, the Working Farm Protection Act, Pollinator-Friendly Solar legislation, and the State Transportation Plan.

I look forward to using the Public Advocate's office to fight climate change, conserve water, and protect public health.

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.)

2. Energy and Infrastructure

Implementing the Green New Deal is one of the top priorities of my People Over Corporations Agenda. This includes:

- Transition to 100% clean, renewable energy by 2030.
- Invest in clean energy technologies as well as sustainable businesses by providing them with grants and zero-interest loans.
- Push for the establishment of a Renewable Energy Administration to provide technical support, financing and coordination for the implementation of the Green New Deal.
- Support a Green New Deal Jobs Program, which will serve to redirect funds from the fossil fuel industry into renewable energy industries, providing jobs in transportation, manufacturing and retrofitting of energy-inefficient infrastructure.

3. Resilience

I support developing a citywide plan that tackles the long-term security of critical infrastructure along our waterfronts that are vulnerable to sea level rise, power outages, and storm surge. Additionally, I believe we should strengthen zoning codes to protect homes in vulnerable areas against the threat of climate change. I also support developing strong natural barriers along the coast with restored wetlands and salt marshes, oyster reefs, dunes, and other living shoreline approaches.

4. Solid Waste

I believe we should invest in a robust recycling and waste diversion public education program to bring New York City closer to its Zero Waste to Landfills goal. I also think we should support incentive programs for large producers of organic waste to install micro-digesters on site.

5. Clean Air



As a father and strong advocate for clean energy, I will fight to protect the health of NYC's children by advocating for the transition away from diesel school buses. Another priority of mine is reducing emissions from truck traffic by piloting alternative policies for residential deliveries, including off-peak hour incentives and neighborhood distribution centers. I will also fight to ensure that the City meets its zero emissions vehicle goals for rapid charging infrastructure in all 5 boroughs and electrification of the city's vehicle fleet.

6. Clean Water

It is imperative that every single person in NYC has access to clean water. I support creating standards to test in-building drinking water for contaminants, especially in buildings used by vulnerable populations, such as childcare and senior centers. Additionally, I will use the Public Advocate's office to urge the Department of Environmental Preservation to study restructuring water rates to develop revenue neutral recommendations that equitably generate needed funds, and promote both water conservation and widespread use of green infrastructure.

7. Sustainable Food Systems

In order to expand both community and commercial urban agriculture in NYC, I am in support of examining amendments to the zoning code that clearly define permissible urban agriculture practices in each zoning district. I will also fight to ensure every family has access to healthy, local, and affordable produce through expansion of critical food access programs such as SNAP, FRESH, GrowNYC Youthmarkets, and Health Bucks redeemable at farmers markets across the city.

8. Mobility

As a State Assembly member who represents an outer borough district, I believe that transit deserts within the five boroughs should be equipped with the necessary bus rapid transit technology, such as transit signal priority, dedicated bus lanes, next generation fare payment, and all-door boarding.

I also believe we must bolster the public transportation system in NYC with multimodal strategies, including support for bike share programs and bike infrastructure, light rail, and ferries. Additionally, I will stand up and demand our need for clarity in e-bike laws that



would make a distinction between commercial/non-commercial use and allow for pedal-assist technology to make cycling attainable to a larger group of New Yorkers.

9. Parks, Waterfronts and Natural Areas

I will use the Public Advocate's office to be an advocate for a fully-funded parks budget, with particular focus on the construction and maintenance of parks in communities underserved by parkland. I will also prioritize the conservation & restoration of natural areas across the city by supporting a long-term management plan that includes strategies to adapt to climate change & combat invasive species and illegal dumping. Additionally, I support waterfront parks as a vital component of resiliency, and continued expansion of public access to the waterfront on both public and private property.