

	<p><b>David Bligh (D)</b>  Suffolk County Legislature - 4th District  Non-Incumbent  (Incumbent: Tom Muratore)</p> <p><u>Professional Background/Education:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional engineer in the state of New York</li> <li>• Worked as an environmental engineer at a Suffolk County consulting firm, investigating properties for the presence of soil, groundwater, and soil vapor contamination and designing the cleanup plans and treatment systems to protect both the environment and members of our community</li> <li>• Has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, and several local community leaders running for political office</li> <li>• Civil engineering graduate of the University of Delaware</li> </ul>
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### Personal and Professional Initiatives:

- In response to Question 1, which asks the candidate to share their *accomplishments* or *experiences* that indicate their commitment to advancing a pro-environment agenda, candidate responded:
  - o “The environment has always been a passion of mine, so much so that I’ve chosen a career dedicated to the environment. For the last 15 years, I’ve had the distinct pleasure of working for Roux Associates, an environmental consulting and management company. At Roux, as an environmental consultant and NYS professional engineer, I work with our clients to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and best practices to prevent spills, reduce emissions, etc.”
  - o “I have investigated properties for soil, groundwater and soil vapor contamination; and I have designed remedies to clean up contaminated soil, groundwater, and soil vapor to protect human health and restore the environment.”

### Questionnaire Highlights:

Supports all of the initiatives of the NYLCV, with the following additions:

- In response to Question 2, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to *Sustainable & Transit-Oriented Development*, the candidate responded:
  - o “Our public transportation programs must be made more accessible and sustainable as our County grows. One way that this can be achieved is through implementation of better bus programs, including ones that integrate with existing infrastructure like lead to train stations and airports. Public buses are a vital source of transportation for many Long Islanders. An important part of making public transit investment more attractive and feasible is to improve the quality, efficiency, and speed of buses to reduce costs of operation and increase revenue by attracting people that are willing to pay for a reliable source of transportation. The system of Bus Rapid Transit provides

- a model that can reach many of these goals. This system would create bus only lanes, which would reduce the length of time they spend sitting in traffic, further incentivizing riders to utilize the service. The program could also put in place off-board payment stations in which passengers pay prior to boarding the bus, reducing the time spent purchasing tickets on board.”
- o Another important piece to creating a sustainable transit system in Suffolk County is creating protected bike lanes, bus lanes, and sidewalks, combined with bike and car share initiatives.”
  - o “Lastly, the LIRR is a critical component to Long Island transportation and moves record numbers of people every day. The lack of investment has resulted in delays and safety issues. The LIRR needs to be properly maintained and upgraded with the needs of the future in mind. Some of this work has begun with the additional of second and third tracks in some areas of the Island, but there also needs to be investment in electrifying more lines.”
- In response to Question 3, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Public Health***, the candidate responded:
    - o “Public health is one of my number one concerns and would be a priority for me as Legislator. In my work as an Environmental Engineer, my job is to investigate properties, industrial emissions, etc. for contaminants and to ensure they are cleaned up, addressed and properly managed to protect human health and the environment.”
    - o “I would encourage the adoption of electric public transportation vehicles, such as public buses and school buses.”
    - o “As Long Island becomes more and more developed, it is also essential to preserve parks, community gardens, nature preserves, and farms across the island. In my district, I would preserve existing parks and nature preserves, while looking for additional options, including community gardens that promote increased access to healthy food options, and protect our island’s natural ecosystems. This is a special concern for me in the Fourth District as there are no parks located close to my home that are close enough that I would eventually allow my young children to ride their bikes to, for example.”
    - o “In my capacity as an Environmental Engineer, but more importantly as a resident of Suffolk County, I have been keeping a close eye on the Emerging Contaminants of PFOS/PFOA/1-4,Dioxane. In fact, PFCs were recently found in a nearby drinking water well near Islip Airport and I attended the SCWAs presentation of the facts at Connetquot Library. I look forward to following developments on this topic and seeing at what levels NYS determines these chemicals are deemed “safe” in our drinking water.”
  - In response to Question 4, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Open Space Preservation***, the candidate responded:
    - o “One method of promoting the preservation of these precious spaces is to reduce property taxes on open spaces. Large organizations that own property to be used for development can be incentivized to keep a certain percentage of the land preserved as an open space.”

- o “Funding from local and state governments, such as from the legislature, can be used to create conservation land trusts and revenue streams devoted to conservation. The Suffolk County Legislature already has a revenue stream devoted to conservation, and I, as a Legislator, would make it a priority to maintain the use of this fund to ensure our district’s beautiful open and natural spaces are sustained.”
  - o “Conservation land trusts are also important tools in the conservation toolkit. Groups like the Peconic Conservation Land Trust already exist here on Long Island and they have done great work to conserve farms, agriculture, and natural spaces.”
- In response to Question 5, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Energy***, the candidate responded:
  - o “We can adopt green building standards and create incentives for existing buildings to “go green”, in ways such as adding solar panels, microgrids, wind, and other clean energy sources. Buildings and homes that switch to clean energy sources can receive tax incentives, rebates, and/or loans. Educating the public in forums, that could be held by the legislature, on the financial and environmental benefits of switching to clean energy could also incentivize people.”
  - o “Green building standards, such as those created under LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), encourage environmental sustainability to be considered at all steps of building development processes, from construction and usage, to demolition and remediation. The energy choices applied to the building from construction, or in existing buildings can be given a rating by organizations such as LEED and encourage buildings to follow clean energy codes and regulations. Suffolk County was a leader in the country on LEED certification and should continue to lead on this important topic.”
  - o “Our island’s power sources are threatened more frequently from storms caused by climate change, we must act to create a more sustainable, clean, and resilient energy sources for our constituents.”
- In response to Question 6, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Sustainable Public Asset Management***, the candidate responded:
  - o “In order to create a cleaner environment on our Island, we must manage our public assets in a sustainable way. This starts at the local level, such as managing our transportation in a sustainable way by using hybrid and electric buses and municipal fleets. We must also expand the efficiency and geographic accessibility of our buses and public transportation to encourage their use through programs such as reloadable bus cards and making bus lines connect with train stations and airports.”
  - o “Our streets are another way we can work towards sustainable management of public assets. As a legislator, I would push to implement street trees to preserve our nature even in developed areas. By working with the Brookhaven Highway Department, I would also work towards using LED street lights, instead of the outdated, no longer used street lights that are utilized all too often throughout the 4th legislative district, and Brookhaven at large.”
  - o “As an environmental consultant, and a father of three, I truly appreciate our public

parks, farms, nature preserves, and open spaces. I would like to hold events at these parks, especially for local families, to raise awareness of these beautiful spaces to encourage their use by more people here in my legislative district, and on Long Island.”

- In response to Question 7, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Waste**, the candidate responded:
  - “The most efficient and environmentally sustainable way to handle the waste disposal issues on long island is to reduce the amount sent to landfills in the first place, increase recycling, and find more proficient ways to eliminate the waste we do have. To reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills, composting programs can be developed and encouraged in places like schools, restaurants, public facilities, and through compost sites.”
  - “In order to more efficiently reduce the waste that is sent to landfills, anaerobic digestors can be extremely beneficial. Brookhaven is becoming home in 2020 to the first “stand-alone” large scale anaerobic digester to help reduce waste. As legislator I would fully support the use of this facility, and education to the public on its purpose of reducing waste through the digestion of waste by bacteria in a zero-oxygen environment.”
- In response to Question 8, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Water Quality and Aquifer Protection**, the candidate responded:
  - “Lake Ronkonkoma should be a natural jewel for the community of the Fourth District. I’m encouraged by the leadership of Dawn Hopkins of the LRCO; because of Ms. Hopkins’ efforts, a Lake Management Plan is nearing completion by a grad student. The Lake Management Program should help to provide a blueprint for the future to return the lake to a swimmable condition and eliminate the fishkills that are prone to occur in the Summer months.”
  - “The County has been pursuing alternative septic systems to our antiquated cesspools as well as building sewers. I fully support efforts to reduce nitrogen and other pollution from entering our aquifer.”
  - “As discussed above, I have dedicated the last 15 years of my career to cleaning contaminated sites all throughout NYS. This is a topic I am passionate about and will continue to be passionate about as a legislator.
- In response to Question 9, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Natural Resource Protection**, the candidate responded:
  - “In order to protect our wildlife and waters, plastic use must be reduced as much as possible. Suffolk County’s plastic bag fee was a great first step in reducing single use plastic bags that pollute our land and oceans, often killing wildlife, and encouraging reusable bags. We should promote the planting of more trees and native plants in developed areas. Planting native plants when landscaping is essential to preventing invasive species from limiting biodiversity and taking over regions.”
  - “The protection that estuaries provide from storms is absolutely critical with the ever-increasing threat of climate change. The Long Island Sound, Peconic and South

Shore Estuary Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMP) recently implemented must be continued and funded to remediate and protect Long Island estuaries.”

- In response to Question 10, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Farms and Local Food***, the candidate responded:
  - “I have supported local civic associations such as the Farmingville Residents association in their successful efforts to develop successful food markets that work in coordination with local farmers.”
  - “If elected to the Suffolk Legislature, I will work diligently to secure funding to expand these great efforts. Specifically, I would like to make the FreshConnect program in our area more robust. Our district is home to a substantial amount of people that qualify for SNAP or are Veterans. Significantly increasing this program would provide countless people access to healthy, nutritious food.”