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## 2019 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.

Here are a few guidelines:

- ☒ Questionnaires are due **Friday, May 3, 2019**
  - 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)
  - Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg ([jklainberg@nylcv.org](mailto:jklainberg@nylcv.org))
- ☒ To ensure your responses address the issues NYLCV and its partners are most concerned about, please review [NYLCV's 2018-19 Long Island Policy Agenda](#)
- ☒ After receipt of the completed questionnaire, candidates may be invited to participate in a formal interview with our Chapter Board
- ☒ All candidate endorsements will be made by the state board by July 24, 2019.

### CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate name: Debra Mulé

Campaign e-mail: [debraforLD5@gmail.com](mailto:debraforLD5@gmail.com)

Campaign phone: 516-668-1615

Website:

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/debraforld5>

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Campaign manager's name and email: Kiana Bierria - [kianareeneeba@gmail.com](mailto:kianareeneeba@gmail.com)

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Scheduler's name and email: Kiana Bierria - [kianareeneeba@gmail.com](mailto:kianareeneeba@gmail.com)

## 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.

As a Nassau County Legislator, I sponsored a bill that would require merchants to charge a 5-cent fee for each paper or plastic bag provided to customers. While the Presiding Officer has refused to even place this item on the legislative calendar, I have continued to actively advocate for this proven solution to breaking our disposable bag habit. Now that the State of New York has enacted a plastic bag ban, I will introduce legislation in Nassau County to opt in to the 5-cent fee on paper bags. Despite knowing that the Presiding Officer will not allow this to go forward, I feel it is important to keep this issue at the forefront. In addition, I secured an amendment to recent County legislation that protects environmentally sensitive lands from inappropriate public access and use.

## 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 2018-19 Long Island Policy Agenda](#) when formulating your responses.)*

## 2. Sustainable & Transit-Oriented Development

I am working closely with my partners in the Town of Hempstead on downtown Baldwin revitalization plans. This will include a transit-oriented development component, as this important business district is adjacent to ample train and bus service. To assist at the County level, I have successfully shepherded through the legislative approval process a nearly \$8 million “Complete Streets” infrastructure project covering approximately 3 miles of Grand Avenue. These upgrades are designed to improve automobile traffic flow and enhance pedestrian safety. By making downtown Baldwin more walk-able, we are not only setting the stage for successful mixed-use economic development, we are reducing the need for cars and promoting more sustainable lifestyles.

## 3. Public Health

My advocacy for sound environmental policies promotes improved environmental conditions and reduces fossil fuel consumption, a combination that is bound to result in favorable public health outcomes.

## 4. Open Space Preservation

I secured an amendment to recent County legislation that protects environmentally sensitive lands from inappropriate public access and use. Through my district office, I regularly host community cleanups, and I am hopeful that my plastic- and paper-bag advocacy raises awareness of sustainable alternatives and reduces the amount of litter marring our public lands.

## 5. Energy

I am a strong supporter of research and development initiatives that will wean our communities off of the use of fossil fuels. In my capacity as a Nassau County Legislator, I plan to support and advocate for efforts to integrate alternative energy sources, such as wind and solar power, at our County facilities.

## 6. Sustainable Public Asset Management

As one of the 19 fiduciaries elected to serve on the Nassau County Legislature, I am committed to utilizing taxpayer dollars in a manner that maximizes efficiency and preserves our cherished open spaces, leverages green energy by investing in renewable energy sources such as solar power and ensures projects such as Baldwin's Complete Streets are brought to fruition so that walkable, transit-oriented and even car-free lifestyles are feasible and desirable in hamlet centers across Long Island.

## 7. Waste

While the Bay Park Wastewater Treatment Facility has undergone extensive renovations following Superstorm Sandy, it still discharges effluent into Reynolds Channel, which has rendered the body of water unsuitable for aquatic life, swimming and almost all forms of recreational use. To correct this issue, I fully support connecting Bay Park to the Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility, which discharges its effluent several miles out into the Atlantic Ocean, where it is more effectively diffused.

#### 8. Water Quality and Aquifer Protection

My advocacy to redirect effluent discharge into Reynolds Channel from the Bay Park Wastewater Treatment Facility to the Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility stands to yield significant improvements in water quality and make the Channel a viable body of water for aquaculture and recreation. In addition, I believe that my efforts to reduce the use of disposable paper and plastic bags through the legislative process raised important awareness that will lead to the use of more sustainable options, thereby protecting aquatic life from injury.

#### 9. Natural Resource Protection

As a longtime resident of Freeport and a former Freeport Village Trustee, protecting our precious natural resources is a top priority. Many of my legislative initiatives – related to smart preservation and access to public lands; reducing our reliance on disposable bags that pollute our ecosystem; and ensuring wise management of our wastewater treatment facilities – contribute to this goal. In particular, Freeport relies on pristine waterways for the preservation of centuries-old economic traditions in the fishing, hospitality and tourism industries.

#### 10. Farms and Local Food

I am a strong supporter of local farmers markets. In my district, a local non-profit hosts a series of spring and summertime farmer's markets that not only provide access to healthy, locally-farmed produce, the program provides opportunities for local high school students to gain first-hand entrepreneurial experience through their participation.