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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
 - Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg (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: Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

Office sought: Nassau County Legislature, District 11

Campaign e-mail: dderiggiwhitton@yahoo.com

Campaign phone: 516-316-9135

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Campaign manager's name and email: Toni Kessel – tadkessel@yahoo.com

Press Secretary's name and email:

Scheduler's name and email: Toni Kessel – tadkessel@yahoo.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.

I am dedicated to protecting and conserving our natural environment and I believe my political actions and decisions have adhered to that vision. My district includes a large amount of coastline and I have made it my top priority to preserve and restore our water quality for the benefit of our communities and our future generations. This passion has inspired me to pursue and explore new, environmentally friendly legislative initiatives and build important relationships with local environmental groups within my district so that I can solicit ideas for improvements that I can implement at the County level.

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 a supporter of transit-oriented and sustainable development. By supporting and expanding mass transit options available to our residents, we can reduce Nassau County's historic reliance on cars for transportation, which will make our communities more attractive to young people and more livable for our seniors. Better mass transit will also make our communities more walkable, and the sum of these parts will reduce our carbon footprint by empowering people who do not want to drive to pursue a car-free lifestyle without any limitations. One way I followed through on this vision is by securing funding to restore shuttle bus service connecting the Port Washington and Roslyn train stations to better serve industrial parks and senior-living facilities along the route.

3. Public Health

Nassau County has a unique role and responsibility in ensuring the success of Nassau University Medical Center, which provides quality health care to our residents – many of whom are in need and would otherwise lack access to care. In addition, I am a firm believer that by advancing environmentally sound policies, we are taking a step toward better public health by reducing the instances of health problems caused by impure food, water and air.

4. Open Space Preservation

In an age of ever-increasing development, I believe it is essential to protect and conserve our natural environment through County-led preservation efforts and emphasizing smart development choices that blend economic development while maximizing the preservation of green spaces in our county. I support Nassau County's efforts to acquire and preserve open space not only for use and enjoyment by the public, but also protect environmentally sensitive parcels and protect our single-source aquifer from contamination and the risk of salt-water infiltration.

5. Energy

I fully support efforts to increase the County's reliance on "green" and renewable energy source such as solar and wind power to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. Furthermore, I am an ardent opponent of fracking and at the local level spearheaded efforts to enact bipartisan legislation that prohibits the County from using snow-melt pellets made from fracking water.

6. Sustainable Public Asset Management

I take my role as one of the 19 fiduciaries elected to oversee the County's budget process very seriously. Due to Nassau County's ongoing fiscal struggles and tight budgets, effective service in this role is especially vital so that taxpayer dollars are used in the most effective manner possible. By spending wisely and efficiently, we can earmark more funds for green-energy upgrades that will produce environmental benefits and reduce our longterm fossil fuel reliance and energy costs.

7. Waste

Within the 11th district, I have been a tireless advocate in partnership with the City of Glen Cove to deduce the source of waste contamination that has resulted in the extended closure of Crescent Beach. I have aided the City's efforts to correct this issue by securing County resources for water quality studies and including a study examining long-term solutions for the problem in our Capital budget plan.

8. Water Quality and Aquifer Protection

I am deeply committed to improving water quality and have supported efforts to bolster our sewer infrastructure within my district. I played a role in completing a sewer study in coastal portions of my district, advocated for replacing failing streamside septic systems and assisted in efforts to secure \$12 million to repair degrading sewers in Glen Cove. I will continue to be an advocate for improvements in this realm and remain committed to finding long-term solutions for remediating the contamination of Crescent Beach and preserving our single-source aquifer. I am also continuing to work closely with the County's soil and water conservation district and other environmental issues to preserve and clean up our waterfront lands.

9. Natural Resource Protection

As I have stated throughout this questionnaire, I believe it is essential for a viable future that we preserve our green spaces and shun risky short-term energy sources such as fracking and instead reduce our reliance on fossil fuels by embracing green alternative energy solutions. I am an ardent supporter of the County's open space program and believe that recent changes to improve public access to these parcels strike the right balance between empowering the public to enjoy these natural treasures while protecting environmentally sensitive lands and waters from misuse.

10. Farms and Local Food

I am an advocate for organic farming and locally grown food and am proud to work with local organizations to support local farmer's markets that bring make these products more widely available to the general public.