



Josh Lafazan (D)

County Legislature - 18th District
Incumbent (Elected in 2017)
Endorsed in 2017

Leadership/Committee Membership:

- Towns Villages & Cities - Ranking Member
- Finance - Member
- Government Services & Operations - Member
- Public Works - Member
- Health & Social Services - Member

Professional Background/Education:

- Elected to the Syosset School Board of Education
- Founder & CEO of Safe Ride Syosset
- Author of "Political Gladiators: How Millennials Can Navigate the 21st Century Political Minefield and WIN!"
- Bachelor's Degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University ILR School
- Master's Degree in Education Policy and Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education

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:
 - “My passion for protecting the environment was catalyzed during my time at Cornell University. I was proud to work towards the university's pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035.”
 - “On the Syosset School Board, I worked to match Cornell's initiative towards fighting for a cleaner world, implementing universal recycling in all of our 10 school buildings.” =
 - “In the Nassau County Legislature, I was proud to co-sponsor a 5 cent bag fee in the hopes of drastically reducing plastic bag usage. Lastly, I have been vocal in my position as an elected official that our county should live up to the ideals and statues of the Paris Climate Accord.”

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:
 - “As a legislator I am supportive of sustainable and smart development of communities around traffic hubs. I want to add supporting housing for recent college graduates to this focus, concentrating on areas around LIRR train stations in order to

- keep millennials here on Long Island.”
- In response to Question 3, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Public Health**, the candidate responded:
 - “I am absolutely supportive of the LCV’s initiatives surrounding public health. We need to be categorical in our protection of public spaces, and as a legislator, I voted to both ensure expanded access to public spaces, and fought for resources to expand public spaces in my district.”
 - On the county level, I will continue to advocate for state and federal policymakers to support expansion of renewable energies, and for resources for community open space maintenance, which enhances the quality of life for all of our residents.”

 - In response to Question 4, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Open Space Preservation**, the candidate responded:
 - “Community gardens and urban farms have proven efficacy when it comes to community health, and our government should work with local municipalities for the further development of both.”
 - I support preservation land trusts and community preservation funds – the North Shore Land Alliance is a perfect example of individuals working together to preserve open space.”

 - In response to Question 5, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Energy**, the candidate responded:
 - “The process for residential homeowners to make their own homes more energy efficient should be readily available on the county website. Moreover, just as the county offers lessons and workshops for property tax assessment grievances, we should also offer trainings at public libraries in all of our communities so that all homeowners have equal access to education about the benefits of installing energy saving devices.”
 - “Nassau County should upgrade the laws on the books when it comes to energy efficiency, so that every new building that is constructed meets not a bare minimum, but a high level of energy efficiency.”

 - In response to Question 6, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Sustainable Public Asset Management**, the candidate responded:
 - “As a Nassau County Legislator, I will continue to encourage the development of solar arrays in our county owned parking lots. We should implement all green energy initiatives with a return on investment of three years or less immediately!

 - In response to Question 7, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Waste**, the candidate responded:
 - “I have been a career fighter for reducing waste. I helped implement universal recycling in Syosset, and set an example for other school districts to follow. I will continue to help craft public engagement strategies for individual consumers to reduce their own waste, and have worked with the towns and villages in my district to

implement programs and community projects to reduce unnecessary waste from our mutual constituents.”

- In response to Question 8, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Water Quality and Aquifer Protection***, the candidate responded:
 - “The most important step I can take as a county elected official for the protection of our water aquifers is to connect more people to sewers. Many areas across Nassau County lack such access, and I will continue to explore sewer expansion with the County Executive’s Administration, and the Nassau County Department of Health.”

- In response to Question 9, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Natural Resource Protection***, the candidate responded:
 - “When it comes to protecting our natural resources, I believe schools are on the front lines. We need to partner with local school districts to teach our students about the importance of conservation. They will be the stewards of the next generation, and their commitment to our ecology is essential. By partnering with local districts, we can reach youths early on in their lives, and set them up to be green citizens for their entire lives.”

- In response to Question 10, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Farms and Local Food***, the candidate responded:
 - “I will work with groups such as the North Shore Land Alliance to ensure the continuation of productive farmland through the acquisition and donation of development rights, such as Meyer’s Farm in Woodbury.”
 - “It is important that all communities, regardless of income level, have access to fresh and healthy foods. That is why I will be a strong advocate in expanding the FreshConnect program and eradicating "Food Deserts" in our urban communities.”
 - “As a county legislator, I will continue to work school districts to increase education awareness for both students and parents on the importance of a healthy diet. Education will be the catalyst for the protection of our environment by the next generation.”