



Kara Hahn (D)

Suffolk County Legislature: 5th District
Incumbent (Elected in 2011)
Endorsed in 2017

Leadership/Committee Membership:

- Environment, Agriculture & Planning Committee - Chairwoman
- Parks & Recreation Committee - Chairwoman
- Economic Development Committee - Member
- Education & Human Services Committee - Member
- Public Safety Committee - Member
- Seniors & Consumer Protection Committee - Member

Professional Background/Education:

- Served as President of the Civic Association of the Setaukets and Stony Brook
- Earned the Village Times Herald's 2009 "Civic Woman of the Year" distinction
- served as Public Policy Coordinator for a Child Care Advocacy organization in the City of Philadelphia, Senior Public Relations Specialist in the corporate communications division of a multinational high technology corporation and the Director of Communications for the Suffolk County Legislature
- Holds a Master's degree in Social Work Policy from the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor's degree with distinction from the University of Delaware

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:
 - limit the use of single use plastics by prohibiting the distribution of plastic straws at eateries unless for use by someone with a medical need and establishing a upon request only policy governing distribution of biodegradable straws
 - ban the distribution or sale of polystyrene (Styrofoam) food service products, including ones for household use, and polystyrene packaging products
 - prevent toxic hydrofracking waste water from coming to Suffolk for disposal
 - ban the sale of products containing microbeads
 - keep toys with toxic chemicals from being sold to unsuspecting consumers
 - increase penalties and fines for illegal dumping create the community watch inspired Parks Watch program to stop the degradation of our public land
 - require the County to test our groundwater for the emerging contaminant 1-4 dioxane - a Group B2 probable human carcinogen.”

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:
 - “While zoning falls within the purview of local towns and villages in Suffolk County, I fully support these efforts and have even committed funding to allow a proposed “hub” location within the my Legislative District surrounding the Port Jefferson LIRR station to potentially connect to an adjacent sewer system (Capital Project 8154) thereby allowing for the increased density with respect to sanitary requirements.”
- In response to Question 3, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Public Health***, the candidate responded:
 - “During my tenure in the Suffolk Legislature, I have worked to protect public health by protecting the County’s drinking supply and sole source aquifer, banning the sale of toxic toys and working on multiple initiatives aimed at reducing deaths and expanding treatment options for victims of the opioid epidemic.”
- In response to Question 4, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Open Space Preservation***, the candidate responded:
 - “We as a County have preserved thousands of acres through multiple open space programs, which have slowed suburban sprawl and protected our drinking water.”
 - “Since 2012 I have served as the Chairwoman of the Legislature’s Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee, and during my entire tenure, the consideration of new parcels for inclusion in our open space program has been central to our committee’s work.”
 - “Locally, within my district which is highly developed, I continually look for opportunities to preserve my community’s limited remaining open spaces and have sponsored bills to preserve land in Port Jefferson Station, Setauket and along the Stony Brook/Smithtown border.”
- In response to Question 5, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Energy***, the candidate responded:
 - “While most initiatives that support this effort fall outside of the County’s jurisdiction, I have supported and, in some instances, co-sponsored a number of policies that were within our purview including County Capital Projects that encourage energy conservation within County facilities, developing a comprehensive renewable energy construction plan for the County and the creation of a Sustainable Energy Loan Program.
- In response to Question 6, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Sustainable Public Asset Management***, the candidate responded:
 - “Suffolk County, like many municipalities throughout the nation works to maintain an aging infrastructure network with a limited budget. Where practicable, I support the use of sustainable construction designs and materials to maintain or rehabilitate

the critical structures that are central to the lives of our residents.”

- In response to Question 7, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Waste***, the candidate responded:
 - “While waste collection policy falls within the purview of local towns and villages in Suffolk County, I have worked to reduce waste produced within our County – particularly plastic waste – by creating a Single Use Plastic Reduction Task Force, working with the Task Force – which I serve as its chairperson – on its “Strawless Suffolk” campaign and sponsoring legislation to prohibit single use plastics in Suffolk Parks, plastic straws at eateries and Styrofoam food service products, packaging and water bottles.”
- In response to Question 8, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Water Quality and Aquifer Protection***, the candidate responded:
 - “Currently, Suffolk County has a multifaceted approach to water quality protection including preserving open space and launching the Reclaim our Water initiative that seeks to promote the installation of Innovative and Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems by property owners currently relying on cesspools and septic systems in order to reduce nitrogen pollution.”
 - “This is an important time for Suffolk County and I am extremely supportive of these and other initiatives that will be central to protecting water quality.”
- In response to Question 9, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Natural Resource Protection***, the candidate responded:
 - “As the Legislature’s Chairwoman of the Parks and Recreation Committee, I have taken up the issue of illegal dumping within our protected treasures and am committed to stopping those who use parkland as a dumping ground to evade dumping fees. After the discovery of illegally dumped debris in a park within my district, I sponsored legislation that increases financial penalties for dumping on County parkland, and for the first time, can be punishable by jail time. I also worked with the Suffolk County Police and Parks Departments to have surveillance cameras placed in targeted parks to discourage and, if necessary, to help identify illegal dumpers. Finally, I established a Parks Watch program, which is similar to the successful community watch program, in order to encourage parks users and adjacent property owners to report suspected illicit activity to police and parks officials.”
- In response to Question 10, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Farms and Local Food***, the candidate responded:
 - “Suffolk County, through its farmland program, has purchased the development rights to thousands of acres of farmland allowing farmers to continue to do what they love, farm, while removing economic pressures to sell the land to developers.”
 - “Preserving our local farms ensures residents can access locally grown products and as Chairwoman of the Legislature’s Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee which vets each potential purchase of farmland development rights, I fully support this program.”

