



Laura Jens-Smith (D)

Riverhead Supervisor
Incumbent (Elected in 2017)

Professional Background/Education:

- Founder of Environmental Advisory Committee
- Riverhead Town Supervisor (2018-Present)
- B.A from Pace University
- Former staff nurse in the Cardiac Care Unit at Beth Israel
- Associated Degree at Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing

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:
 - “As a town well known for its rural farming community, beautiful beaches and open spaces protecting our natural resources has been a priority of my time as Supervisor.”
 - “I worked to create Riverhead’s first Environmental Advisory Committee.” “My administration will also be updating our Master plan which is now 16 years old with a focus on preservation and sustainable smart growth.”
 - “Under my administration Riverhead leads the region in its production of solar energy. We are currently poised to provide almost 50% of all of Long Island’s solar energy.”

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:
 - “I have read and support NYLCV’s sustainable and transit-oriented development goals.” As Supervisor I support these goals through advancing the revitalization of downtown with the emphasis on transit-oriented development.”
 - “Since taking office, I have been working with the MTA, LIRR and Suffolk County to improve our current transportation hub.” We are currently in the process of renovating the area to create a sustainable hub to attract increased ridership as an alternative to car travel.”
 - “We have undertaken a beautification campaign along with redesigning the area to make it more accessible and efficient for riders. We use our BOA nomination studies to identify and seek grant funding for redevelopment of brownfield sites.”
- In response to Question 3, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to

Public Health, the candidate responded:

- “The Town of Riverhead is fortunate to have an active community who partners with the Town to maintain our community garden.”
- “We are currently upgrading a septic system at one of our beaches to reduce nitrogen discharge in the area.”
- In response to Question 4, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Open Space Preservation**, the candidate responded:
 - “Zoning, respectful land use, preservation and education of the continued value of open space to our economy are essential.”
 - “This needs to be reinforced through zoning, transfer of development rights and development mitigation areas this will be addressed in our master plan update.”
- In response to Question 5, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Energy**, the candidate responded:
 - “Under my administration Riverhead is leading the way in solar energy on Long Island Approval has been granted to begin production of 20 megawatts of solar power within a year.” Two additional pending projects will add an additional 36 megawatts of solar power and 22 megawatts of generated solar power over the next several years.”
 - “Our newly created Environmental Committee will be exploring green building standard for future development projects.”
- In response to Question 6, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Sustainable Public Asset Management**, the candidate responded:
 - “The Town of Riverhead recently completed a town facility and street light energy audit and are currently implementing the recommendations including replacing our lighting with LED bulbs to reduce energy consumption.”
 - “We have put out a request for proposals and will be awarding it in the upcoming month to place solar on our landfill.”
 - “We are adding two new electrical charging stations to our downtown area. I am committed to replacing town vehicles as the need arises with hybrid and/ or electric vehicles.”
- In response to Question 7, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Waste**, the candidate responded:
 - “I believe these issues need to be addressed not just on the local level but on a County level if we are to achieve long term viable results.”
 - “Seeking out, exploring and supporting new innovated technologies to tackle this issue is necessary. Education is also a key component to achieving sustainable waste management.”
- In response to Question 8, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Water Quality and Aquifer Protection**, the candidate responded:
 - “Protection of water quality and aquifer are vital components of my administration. I

- am proud to say Riverhead maintains a state of the art sewer treatment facility.”
- “We are also about to embark on a 10 million dollar upgrade to our Calverton sewer treatment plan.”
 - “Although I have not had the support of the current Town Board to require innovative alternative septic systems, I have charged the Environmental Committee to provide guidelines for new development and home septic replacements.”
 - “Riverhead Town participates in the U.S Geological Service testing and mapping program.”
 - “We will continue to seek grant funding to help expand our sewer system in critical areas.”
 - “The Town will launch an educational program to implement best practice for homeowners and businesses to promote water quality.”
- In response to Question 9, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Natural Resource Protection***, the candidate responded:
 - “Riverhead Town will work with the Peconic Estuary Program to incorporate the CCMP recommendations into our town codes, encourage our community to manage stormwater on site and to reduce permeable paving surfaces.”
 - “Our master plan update will incorporate a forestry and street regeneration program including our downtown area.”
 - 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 continue to work with our business and agricultural community to develop incentives to make actively used farmed lands remain active and to support the farm to table movement.”
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