



30 Broad Street – 30th Floor
New York, NY 10004
212-361-6350

politics@nylcv.org / www.nylcv.org

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**
 - County Executive/Legislature, Supervisor and Mayor candidates only
 - The completed questionnaire is mandatory for endorsement consideration and must be submitted via e-mail as a Microsoft Word file to: politics@nylcv.org
 - 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: Laura M. Schaefer

Office sought: Nassau County Legislature

Campaign e-mail: lmschaefer11@gmail.com

Campaign phone: (516) 238-9916

Website:

Facebook page:

Twitter handle:

Campaign manager's name and email:

Press Secretary's name and email:

Scheduler's name and email: John Hommel, jhommel1@optonline.net

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.

Most recently, I sponsored Local Law 102-19, which passed through committees on May 6, 2019, and I expect it to pass at the full Legislative meeting on May 20, 2019. This law seeks to prohibit the use and sale of Polystyrene foam containers in Nassau County. In addition, the legislation creates a special revenue fund for environmental investigation and clean-up of Nassau County properties. In addition, I have been proactive in the movement by many here on Long Island to clean up our drinking water, most especially in my district where the Navy Grumman Plume is located. As you well know the plume is not just in Bethpage but has spread so it is of great import that we are vigilant in supporting our water districts in obtaining the funding they need to keep our drinking water clean. In that regard, I have held local meetings on water quality and attended many more in order to stay abreast of how clean water projects are progressing and to be able to share that information with my constituents. I supported our Open Space legislation which encourages clean-up of all of the open space properties in Nassau County that are intended for the use and enjoyment of our residents. I will also continue to support any funding needed to clean-up, upgrade and improve our sewage treatment plants, including the outflow pipe from Zack's Bay to Cedar Creek and to closely monitor any dumping activity and subsequent penalties for same in an effort to prevent future contamination of our environment.

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

In my role as a legislator, I have had the opportunity over the last term to be supportive of several sustainable and TOD initiatives/projects. First, I have supported the Nassau County Complete Streets Policy initiative so as to consider all users of roadways in new construction and development, including pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders. In that regard, I have also approved funds for the creation of pedestrian and bicycle pathways throughout Nassau County and most recently right along Eisenhower Park, which is adjacent to my district. In addition, I have continued to support the NICE bus system, which runs on Compressed Natural Gas, minimizing its carbon footprint while providing much needed transportation services throughout Nassau County. Furthermore, I have also supported the third track project which runs through a large portion of my district, including Westbury, Carle Place, Garden City and Hicksville.

3. Public Health

As a member of the Health and Social Services Committee, I have the opportunity to approve resolutions and contracts that are a part of managing and supporting public health programs and initiatives throughout the County. One such initiative that I supported in the legislature was to approve funding for Integrated Mosquito Management for mosquito abatement. This approach uses multiple control measures such as education and biological controls, rather than just one chemical control. In addition, I have approved funds for the U.S. Geological Survey, which provides for the collection of hydrogeological data collection, reporting and monitoring of Nassau County's ground and surface water resources. Furthermore, as previously stated, I participate in the Restoration Advisory Board meetings and I frequently communicate with our water districts, especially in Bethpage and Hicksville, which have been directly and adversely impacted by the Grumman Plume.

4. Open Space Preservation

As Chair of the Planning, Development and Environment Committee, I am absolutely in support of preserving open space in Nassau County, which has gotten increasingly crowded over the last fifty years. Specifically, we recently passed Local Law 14-2018, which is a local law amending the county government law of Nassau County to require public access to all parkland and open space in Nassau County. One requirement under this legislation is that the Department of Public Works must prepare an annual report for the legislature, which provides details as to all of the open space and parkland that is owned and operated by Nassau County. This report must also include a description of the wildlife and plant life that may be found at such properties. In addition to support of this legislation, I also voted to approve \$5 million dollars of Capital Plan money to support it.

5. Energy

I am very proud of the fact that my colleagues in the Legislature joined me in supporting Local Law 16-2018, which is the Sustainable Energy Loan Program for Nassau County businesses. This program provides financing for the installation of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements by the property owner. Some of the improvements that can be made through this program include the installation of energy efficiency boilers or insulation of them and the installation of solar energy systems. These efficiency measures will help the business keep its expenses down and are secured by a benefit assessment lien on the property, thereby being paid through the business owner's tax bill.

6. Sustainable Public Asset Management

As you may already be aware, Nassau County has been taking the necessary steps to become a Tree City USA community, one of which includes the planting of trees on County rights of way and in parks and on the grounds of other County facilities. In that regard, I have proudly voted to approve the funding for those plantings as well as for the funding for much needed improvements to our sewage treatment plants, such as Bay Park and Cedar Creek. I will continue to advocate for improvements for all of our public assets so that they are well-maintained and preserved for future generations.

7. Waste

Although recycling has become the “norm” in society since its inception many, many years ago, we are now finding that we are not recycling enough and need to do more with what we can recycle and how we recycle it. Although public recycling is not within the jurisdiction of the County, we do work with our three towns (TOH, TOB and TONH) to promote responsible and efficient means by which our residents may recycle and dispose of hazardous waste, electronic equipment and even prescription medications, which may not be recyclable but should be disposed of safely. Education is a continuous effort and I am always looking for ways to further that education through mailings, email and social media.

8. Water Quality and Aquifer Protection

As you may already be aware, I have a portion of Bethpage in my district, which is an area that has been dealing with water contamination by the Navy Grumman Plume since the '40s. As such, there is a lot of information to obtain and disseminate in our efforts to get the proper parties to address the damage that's been done and to prevent more damage for occurring in the future. In that regard, I have attended many Restoration Advisory Board meetings, water quality meetings, was invited to be on and participated in the Groundwater Protection Project and hosted and co-hosted various water quality seminars of my own in conjunction with Legislator Walker and the surrounding water districts. In addition, I joined many of my colleagues in government in lobbying the New York State and Federal Governments for additional funding to help address the NG Plume contamination as well as to support clean water projects throughout the County.

9. Natural Resource Protection

As for Natural Resource Protection, as mentioned previously, I voted to approve Local Law 14-2018 which seeks to preserve and clean up where necessary, the many acres of open space in Nassau County and allow our residents to use and enjoy that space, as is their right. In addition, my work in support of clean water and aquifer protection will continue by helping to educate the public on water conservation and the proper disposal of hazardous waste so as not to contribute to our current contamination issues.

10. Farms and Local Food

I will continue to support the County's partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension which provides educational resources to the public regarding farming, nutrition and sustainable farming practices for home gardens.