



Rob Calarco (D)

Suffolk County Legislature: 7th District
Incumbent (Elected in 2011)
Endorsed in 2017

Leadership/Committee Membership:

- Budget & Finance Committee: Chairman
- Government Operation, Personnel, IT & Housing Committee: Chairman
- Education & Human Services Committee: Vice-Chairman
- Public Safety Committee: Vice-Chairman
- Health Committee: Member
- Public Works, Energy & Transportation Committee: Member
- Ways & Means Committee: Member

Professional Background/Education:

- Member of the following community groups:
 - Environmental Trust Review Board, Soil and Water Conservation District, Suffolk County Sewer Agency, and Open Data Committee. Sylvester's Knights of Columbus, Sons of Italy Sgt. John Basilone Lodge, the Greater Patchogue Historical Society, the Greater Patchogue Chamber of Commerce, Medford Chamber of Commerce, Bayport-Blue Point Chamber of Commerce, Gordon Heights Chamber of Commerce,
- Bachelor's Degree in Political Science at Dowling College
- Master's Degree in Public Administration from SUNY Stony Brook

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:
 - “We have passed sweeping bills to reduce single use plastics such as the effective single use bag fee that reduced by consumption in stores by 80%, and most recently prohibiting Styrofoam containers and packaging. We continue to pursue acquisition of critical open slice parcels on our waterways and pine Barrens as well as farmland development rights.”
 - “During my tenure on the Suffolk County Legislature I have supported our very strong environmental agenda. Our ambitious program established to provide homeowners with grants to replace traditional cesspools and septic systems with innovative onsite systems that greatly reduce nitrogen loads being discharged, this is coupled with Suffolk’s first major expansion of sewers in Mastic, Patchogue, Oakdale and Babylon will allow us to start addressing pollution from our wastewater.”

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 supported the creation of bus rapid transit systems on Route 110 and Nicols Road to create better north-south transportation that connects downtown, college campuses, MacArthur Airport, business districts and our train stations to foster more use of public transportation to travel on in Suffolk; not just to get to NYC.”
 - “I also sponsored complete streets legislation and established a capital program to help provide for the cost to ensure our roads are designed for all users.”
 - We recently completed a corridor study for E. Main Street in E. Patchogue the focuses on redeveloping the corridor that has historically been an extension of Main Street in the Village.”

- In response to Question 3, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Public Health***, the candidate responded:
 - “Suffolk is a leader on public health tackling initiatives such as tobacco use by minors and dealing with the opioid crisis. Under the leadership of my colleague, Leg. Spencer we are crafting regulations to keep vaping products out of the hands of minors.”

- In response to Question 4, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Open Space Preservation***, the candidate responded:
 - “I have consistently supported acquisition of open space never voting against a purchase. We have made some very good ones in my district recently including parcels on the Swan River and Tuthill’s Creek in Patchogue, in the Pine Barrens in Middle Island.”

- In response to Question 5, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Energy***, the candidate responded:
 - “I have supported Suffolk’s energy efficiency program and every year we invest millions to retrofit put facilities with everything from changing lighting fixtures, installing motion sensors, remote temperature controls, to installing solar and geothermal energy systems.”
 - “Very excitedly, we are on the verge of becoming a hub for NYS ambitious wind energy goals. Not only will we be the center for location off our shores, but we can be the launch point for installation and even production. Thereby allowing Suffolk to benefit economically and environmentally.”

- In response to Question 6, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Sustainable Public Asset Management***, the candidate responded:
 - “Suffolk implemented a policy that I support to construct all new buildings in accordance with LEED standards to ensure our facilities have the smallest environmental footprint possible. In addition, given that we are a coastal County with infrastructure in vulnerable areas, especially due to climate change and rising seas, we now require infrastructure to consider the potential impact of a 500 year storm.”

- In response to Question 7, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Waste***, the candidate responded:
 - “While Suffolk doesn’t handle municipal waste and therefore does not handle residential recycling programs, as mentioned above we have taken actions to reduce the plastic waste stream. I also fully support efforts to establish a biodigester facility that takes organic (food) waste and turn it into energy. Suffolk recently approved the contract to take the sludge by product to our scavenger waste processing facility at Bergen Point sewage treatment plant.”

- In response to Question 8, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Water Quality and Aquifer Protection***, the candidate responded:
 - “Protecting water quality is critical and as mentioned above we implemented programs to address nitrogen pollution through IA systems, sewerage and land purchasing purchases. Equally emerging importance as sewerage expands is recharging to maintain aquifer water levels, and monitoring for new contaminants such as 1,4 dioxane, and PFOS.”

- In response to Question 9, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Natural Resource Protection***, the candidate responded:
 - “Protecting our aquifer is protecting our most critical natural resource, the water. This also includes taking care of our surrounding waterways, and why I have supported so many water quality projects, two big ones in my district are in process.
 - One is a project to remove invasive plants from Canaan Lake, once complete we will have a clear lake providing better habitat for the fish population, as well as a better asset to the surrounding community.
 - Another in Shorefront Park will remove the bulkhead, restore the natural mouth to little creek, and implement living shoreline elements; all of which improves the ecosystems, removes nitrogen, restores a fish breeding ground, better protects from storm surge, and provides a better park for recreational activities.”

- In response to Question 10, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Farms and Local Food***, the candidate responded:
 - “I have always supported farmland development rights acquisitions, as well as current efforts to protect underwater lands used for aquaculture in the agriculture district program. I also now serve on the board of trustees for the Suffolk Soil and Water Conservation District, which provides a host of services to farmers, last year we did a farm tire recycling program and successfully took in two large truck containers of tires. We are expanding the program in hopes of recycling even more this year.”