



Sarah Anker (D)

Suffolk County Legislature: 6th District
Incumbent (Elected in 2011)
Endorsed in 2017

Leadership/Committee Membership:

- Senior & Consumer Protection Committee - Chairwoman
- Budget & Finance Committee: Vice-Chairwoman
- Veterans Committee - Vice-Chairwoman
- Environment, Planning & Agriculture Committee - Member

Professional Background/Education:

- Founded Community Health and Environment Coalition (CHEC) and led the organization in its campaign for greater awareness of how our environment affects our health
- Helped spearhead the creation of Brookhaven Town's first Energy Department. Implemented the Green Homes Go Solar programs, which provided energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities for Brookhaven residents.

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:
 - “I have worked to advance many forms of environmental legislation that protect our sole source aquifer, improve our waterways, protect the Long Island Sound, and preserve environmentally sensitive properties as open space.”
 - I have supported Suffolk County's legislation to ban microbeads, voted to approve Suffolk County's Septic Improvement Program which will provide grant and loan assistance to homeowners to upgrade to advanced wastewater treatment systems to reduce nitrogen, and co-sponsored the ban on plastics and styrofoam. I have spearheaded many resolutions to preserve environmentally sensitive parcels in Suffolk County and have support over 2,000 acres of open space and farmland preservation acquisitions.”
 - “After joining the Mt. Sinai Civic Association 20 years ago, I became involved in preserving and protecting our environment by advocating against development on the Chandler Estate, which became a county park. I founded Community Health and Environment Coalition, 17 years ago to address the issue of the high incidence of cancer and diseases in my area.”
 - “Prior to being a County Legislator, I facilitated the creation of Brookhaven Town's Office of Energy and Sustainability. I was designated the Director of the Department and oversaw the implementation of the Green Homes and the Go Solar Programs.”
 - “As a County Legislator and member of Suffolk County's EPA Committee (Environment, Planning and Agriculture) and former member of the Soil and

Water Conservation District Committee,

- I have supported land preservation and legislation to protect our environment, as well as legislation to protect our agricultural community. I have sponsored Resolution 29-2012 to exempt county sales tax on commercial installation, to support the solar industry and encourage the use of clean energy. An article regarding this piece of legislation was featured on the NYLCV website. I have also co-sponsored Resolution 747-2011 to ban the use of coal tar, and Resolution 1091-2012 to eliminate sales slip receipts with chemicals that are known carcinogens. In addition I support higher fines and penalties, working with law enforcement, to address illegal dumping.”
- o “I have facilitated the North Shore Coastal Erosion Task Force, which was created through legislation I sponsored to address the severe erosion on Long Island’s north shore. I am also working with Cornell Cooperative Extension and Long Island Native Plant Initiative with the Education Agricultural Sustainability Initiative (EASI), which is legislation I sponsored to address the decline in pollinator species particularly the monarch butterfly and the bee population.”
- o Finally, after 50 years since its inception I am proud to facilitate the Rails to Trails Recreational Path, a 10-mile bike and walking path from Mt. Sinai to Wading river, which is slated to begin construction in the fall of this year and completed in 2020.”

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:
 - o “I support county legislation to provide reduced sewer connection fees to developers who create additional affordable units.”
 - o “As the first Energy Director for the Town of Brookhaven, I worked to create incentives for residents and contractors building new homes to invest in Energy Star-rated appliances and I also ran the Green Homes and Go Solar programs which provided grant funding through NYSERDA to homeowners to upgrade their homes to be more energy efficient and install solar panels.”
 - o “As a Suffolk County Legislator, I have supported energy saving programs throughout the county including the installation of solar carports and LED lighting in county buildings.”
 - “In addition, we have invested in hybrid vehicles for our Department of Public Works fleets and are currently working on mapping a blue ways trail utilizing grant funding.”
 - “In addition I worked with LIPA and PSEG to create a rebate program for residents with all electric energy, focusing on many seniors in my district who pay up to \$1000 per month because they do not have access to oil, gas or renewable energy alternatives.”

- “Through legislation I initiated the concept of a PYAC, Planned Young Adult Community (similar to a PRC, Planned Retirement Community), which provides affordable housing for young adults located on or near college campuses.”
 - “Since entering public office I have worked to move the Rails to Trails Recreation Path forward. The 10-mile, \$10 million project languished for decades and through my relationship with the stakeholders including elected officials, energy corporations and agencies and most importantly the community I was able to put it back on track and now we are moving full steam ahead! The path will not only provide a safe place to recreate but will bring a boost to our local economy.”
- In response to Question 3, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Public Health**, the candidate responded:
 - “Nearly 20 years ago I founded Community Health and Environment Coalition (CHEC) after my hometown was declared a cancer cluster.”
 - “I advocated to ban the lawn chemical application of 2-4 D (a derivative of agent orange) on school grounds, which was voted into state law. I will continue to be a strong advocate in protecting residents from exposure to toxic chemicals by: protecting our groundwater through open space acquisition, investigating chemical contamination through county law enforcement and county health department oversight, educating the public to be proactive in addressing environmental pollution by reporting suspicious activity, participating in litter cleanup programs, and by using environmentally friendly products that keeps our environment sustainable.”
 - “I have sponsored and cosponsored many resolutions to protect our environment including: banning coal tar, plastics and Styrofoam; advocating to eliminate methoprene from the county Vector Control program and using environmentally friendly products such as BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*); increasing the county’s hybrid fleet; supporting the use of renewable energy, protecting our parks and open space through the “Park Watch” programs; installing cameras in our parks to stop illegal dumping; sponsoring Suffolk County’s “Parks Appreciation Week” that provided free admission during the spring break week –April 20 through April 28, to encourage the use of county parks (parallels with National Parks Week); and supporting the acquisition of open space and farmland development.”
- In response to Question 4, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Open Space Preservation**, the candidate responded:
 - “ I support the development of clustering codes or codes, which create ‘nodes’ or ‘hubs.’ I will work with my partners at the Town to support land use projects, which encourage a tighter design to preserve green space.”
 - “I have spearheaded many resolutions to preserve environmentally sensitive parcels in Suffolk County and have support thousands acres of open space and farmland preservation acquisitions”
- In response to Question 5, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Energy**, the candidate responded:

- “I support legislation adopted in 2006 creating LEED standards which requires the Department of Public Works to adhere to LEED Building Rating System 2.2 principles for new construction projects or renovation projects with a cost of \$1,000,000 or more, and for the planning of new construction and renovation projects built for long term lease by the County.”
 - “As County Legislator, I have sponsored Resolution 29-2012 to exempt county sales tax for commercial solar installation projects, which compliments the New York State sales tax exemption.”
 - “As a member of the County’s EPA and an environmental advocate, I will continue to move forward with green energy policies and I will continue to support residential renewable energy initiatives.”
 - “I have also worked with PSEG and LIPA to create a rebate program for all-electric customers and to educate homeowners, particularly senior citizens, who live in the all-electric communities of Leisure Village and Leisure Knoll, about energy saving measures and available rebate programs.”

- 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 County Legislator, I’ve supported many eco friendly initiatives including the purchase of hybrid cars for the county and installing renewable energy technology in county buildings, including solar panels at county parking lots.”
 - “I sponsored legislation to partner with Long Island Native Plant Initiative to create an Educational Pollinator Garden at the Mt. Sinai Heritage Park, and I’ve participated in Beach Cleanups in my local district.”

- In response to Question 7, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Waste***, the candidate responded:
 - “I believe that protecting our sole source aquifer is Suffolk County’s top priority. That is why I voted to approve the Septic Improvement Program as part of the Reclaim Our Water Initiative, and why I have joined my colleagues on the Legislature in working to preserve open space and farmland development rights. I have also been working with local communities in my district to invest in several wastewater treatment plant upgrades within Suffolk County Sewer Districts.”
 - “I support working with all levels of government to encourage recycling, as well as exporting waste through rail rather than by truck.”

- In response to Question 8, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Water Quality and Aquifer Protection***, the candidate responded:
 - “In addition to supporting the Nitrogen Action Plan and Reclaim Our Water, I support storm water runoff initiatives; advocating against the dredging dumping in the Long Island Sound; investment in wastewater treatment upgrades; mapping of salt water intrusion; support of rain gardens; support pesticide reduction; providing funding for clam and oyster seeding projects in our harbors to help reduce water pollution; and addressing toxic chemicals in our groundwater by supporting testing and increased fines for illegal polluters.”

- o “I am a strong supporter of open space and farmland preservation as well as smart growth development and eliminating the chemical application of Methoprene for vector control.”
- In response to Question 9, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Natural Resource Protection***, the candidate responded:
 - o “In collaboration with the Long Island Native Plant Initiative (LINPI) I sponsored legislation to initiate the Educational Agriculture Support Initiative (EASI) that involved creating a pilot native pollinator garden at Heritage Park in Mt Sinai.”
 - o “With the decimation of the Monarch butterfly and the low population of bees, which help our farm pollinate crops and sustain our farm community, I will continue to support native plants and pollinator initiatives that promote education and awareness.”
- In response to Question 10, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Farms and Local Food***, the candidate responded:
 - o “Suffolk County has made significant investments in purchasing farmland development rights to ensure that Long Island’s historic farming communities are preserved. I am a strong supporter of this program and I am proud to also be a supporter of the Rocky Point Farmers Market.”
 - o “As a former member of Suffolk County’s Soil and Water Conservation District Committee, I worked with local farmers to bring produce to our schools and supported programs to educate our school children about the importance of locally grown produce.”
 - o In addition, Suffolk County Department of Health, partnering with Cornell Extension, provides an important presentation that encourages eating locally grown foods. I recently had the presenters at my senior health fair, and I am working to bring the program into the many senior communities I have in my district.”