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|  | <p>Susan Berland (D) Suffolk County Legislature, District 16 Incumbent (elected in 2017)</p> <p><u>Leadership/Committee Membership:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair of the Veterans Committee • Vice Chair of the Economic Development Committee • Member of Public Works • Member of Transportation and Energy, and Recreation and Budget and Finance <p><u>Professional Background/Education:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former President, Vice President and Treasurer of Huntington Recreational Association • Elected to the Huntington Town Board (2001, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015) • Former Town of Huntington Assistant Town Attorney • New York State Assistant Attorney General in the Prisoners Litigation Division • J.D, Hofstra University School of Law, currently serves as a Special Instructor • SUNY Albany |
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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:
 - o “Most recently, I voted for laws to prohibit the use of polystyrene foam containers in Suffolk County and to require that single-use beverage straws and stirrers be distributed in Suffolk County “by request” only.”
 - o “Pursuant to a resolution I sponsored, and which passed with the overwhelming support of the Legislature, the Department of Parks has installed free sunscreen dispensers at 21 Suffolk County parks, golf courses and beaches.”
 - o “I have sponsored the remediation and redevelopment of ‘brownfields’ through the Suffolk County Landbank and have addressed many other issues directly concerning environmental protection, sustainable development and a clean-energy future.”
 - o “In Huntington, I put a stop to the planting and proliferation of destructive and environmentally deleterious running bamboo.”
 - o “Advocated for a ban against gasoline powered leaf blowers.”
 - o “Supported several iterations of the town’s Open Space Bond Act (which, absent exemptive state legislation, can no longer be renewed because of tax cap).”

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 have supported brownfield redevelopment through the Suffolk County Landbank

and have voted in favor of Rails to Trails and for exploring the feasibility of establishing a Bike and Hike Network.”

- o “I authored legislation to improve the County’s Affordable Housing Programs by making a percentage of all affordable housing units supported by County dollars affordable in perpetuity.”
 - o “I also continue to support the expansion of the Suffolk County transit system and the modernization of the system’s transit bus fleet with new hybrid-electric buses.”
 - o “As a member of the Public Works Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature, I have supported the Ronkonkoma Hub, Wyandanch Rising and the LIRR Double Track expansion project.”
 - o “I will continue to advocate for transit-friendly developments that also include pedestrian trail networks, protected bike lanes and connections from residential areas to commercial areas, parks and green spaces.”
- In response to Question 3, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Public Health**, the candidate responded:
 - o “I voted to prohibit the use of polystyrene foam containers in Suffolk County and to require single-use beverage straws and stirrers be distributed in Suffolk County “by request” only.”
 - o “I also voted to prohibit the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies.”
 - o “I voted in support of exploring the feasibility of bringing legal action against manufacturers of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), such as PFOS, PFOA and GenX which, in certain concentration affects the quality of our drinking water.”
 - o “I supported notification of the use of certain chemicals at professional garment cleaners.”
 - o Accepted grant funding for the Rabies Control Program and for the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.
 - o “Collaborated with the Suffolk County Water Authority and constituents on water usage forums and supported Ryan’s Law.”
 - o “I sponsored legislation to ban wood burning devices to protect our air quality and created an informational brochure educating residents about this legislation and teaching them how to properly to burn wood in their fireplaces.”
 - o “I was the sponsor of the Town of Huntington’s Dark Skies legislation.”
 - o “I helped enact legislation banning smoking at Town of Huntington beaches.”
 - In response to Question 4, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to **Open Space Preservation**, the candidate responded:
 - o “I supported Rails to Trails as well as exploring the feasibility of establishing a Bike and Hike Network.”
 - o “As a member of the Huntington Town Board, I voted to save hundreds of acres of open space from development.”
 - o “I advocated for the approval of the 2003 open space and parks improvement bond, continuing the work of the EOSPA committee established in 1998.”
 - o “In 2008, I voted for the extension of the terms of the program and its expansion to include support for a wider range of ‘green’ projects.”

- In response to Question 5, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Energy***, the candidate responded:
 - “I am fully supportive of proposals to modernize our electric grid to achieve net-zero carbon emissions. I voted to appropriate funding to facilitate energy conservation at county facilities.”
 - “I focused on shrinking the Town’s carbon footprint to the greatest extent possible by making facilities more energy efficient and sustainable, reducing overall energy usage, cutting energy costs, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, reducing energy consumption and turning to clean and renewable energy sources.”

- In response to Question 6, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Sustainable Public Asset Management***, the candidate responded:
 - “Supported purchase of hybrid-electric buses.”
 - “I have also supported the removal of toxic and hazardous materials from County parks and facilities and the replacement and cleaning of fossil fuel, toxic and hazardous material storage tanks at County facilities.”
 - “I supported the installation of energy efficient LED light bulbs in all Town buildings and street lights.”

- In response to Question 7, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Waste***, the candidate responded:
 - “I fully support the County’s effort to educate our students on the benefits of recycling.”
 - “I have and will continue to advocate for E-Waste recycling programs and the proper disposal of hazardous waste.”

- In response to Question 8, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Water Quality and Aquifer Protection***, the candidate responded:
 - “I have voted for the expansion, construction and appropriations for numerous sewer districts, and I continue to support the development and construction of sewer systems throughout Suffolk County.”
 - “I have also supported the creation of a grant program for the installation of advanced innovative alternatives for septic systems to mitigate nitrogen pollution and improve drinking water.”
 - “I supported the appropriation of state funding for the Suffolk County Drinking Water Improvement Program and the authorization for the acquisition of land under the new and old Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program. as well as the acceptance and appropriation of federal passthrough grants from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for the State Pollutant Discharge System Water Quality Management Planning Program administered by the County Department of Health.”
 - “I voted to reauthorize LICAP (the “Long Island Commission for Aquifer Protection”), and I have participated in numerous LICAP meetings. I collaborated with the Suffolk County Water Authority to assemble my constituents to provide their

- o opinions on local water usage.”
 - o “I worked with the Village of Northport to upgrade the Northport Sewage Treatment Plant, reduce nitrogen emission levels, control the outbreak of red tide and monitor and control domestic out-flow pipes into our waterways.”
 - o “I conducted a Fisherman for a Day contest for elementary school students to instill in them an appreciation for our waterways.”
- In response to Question 9, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Natural Resource Protection***, the candidate responded:
 - o “I supported the acceptance and appropriation of funding for the Peconic Estuary Program, the restoration of post-Superstorm Sandy lands in the Mastic/Shirley Conservation Area, the reconstruction of the Fire Island Barrier Beach and Dune Network and the funding of the Carman’s River Fish Ladder Project.”
 - o “I advocated at the Town in support of New York State’s “MS4” regulatory program, which includes assessing storm water run-off from various upland sources and then devising a plan to treat or eliminate both pathogen and nitrate impacts to our waterways, as well as the implementation of bio-swales, rain gardens, permeable pavements, green roofs and other stormwater run-off mitigation efforts.”
- In response to Question 10, which asks the candidate to indicate their level of commitment to ***Farms and Local Food***, the candidate responded:
 - o “I have voted on 11 resolutions supporting the development, protection and or preservation of farmland under the Suffolk County Drinking Water Improvement Program.”
 - o “I have also supported capital improvements to the Cornell Cooperative Extension - Suffolk County Farm and Education Center.”
 - o “I have, in addition, supported the aquaculture lease program in conjunction with the Long Island Farm Bureau and the Long Island Oyster Growers Association, and I serve on the Marine Industry Revitalization Advisory Council.”
 - o “On the Huntington Town Board, I supported the protection and fostering of numerous farms and farming programs, including ELIJA Farms, a not-for-profit organization that provides programmatic opportunities for special needs individuals, Friends of the Farm and Manor Farm.”