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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**
 - The completed questionnaire is mandatory for endorsement consideration and must be submitted via e-mail as a Microsoft Word file to: politics@nylcv.org
 - Questions or 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: Thomas McKevitt

Office sought: Nassau County Legislature, District 13

Campaign e-mail: legislatorcmckevitt@gmail.com

Campaign phone: (516) 253-5721

Website:

Facebook page:

Twitter handle:

Campaign manager's name and email: Rick Amorini famorini@verizon.net

Press Secretary's name and email:

Scheduler's name and email: Lynn Schafering lschaefering@aol.com

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.

I have been in elective office for fourteen (14) years, twelve (12) in the New York State Assembly, and two (2) in the Nassau County Legislature. I believe I have had a strong pro-environmental record in both offices. In the Assembly, I advocated and voted in favor of increasing the Environmental Protection Fund and consistently voted in favor of the Child Safe Products Act, as well as the constitutional amendment for clean air and water for all New Yorkers. In the County Legislature, I have supported the Sustainable Energy Loan Program and exploring vehicle charging stations at Nassau County parking facilities.

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

We should encourage Transit-Oriented Development Projects that have been successful in Mineola, Rockville Center and Farmingdale.

3. Public Health

While in the Assembly, I hosted a forum on increasing the use of biofuels as well as consistently supported legislation requiring the use of biofuel over #4 and #6 home heating oil.

4. Open Space Preservation

Nassau County should continue to purchase available open space in order to preserve it as an asset. In addition, this past year we adopted regulations allowing for signage and public access to the inventory of properties the county already owns.

5. Energy

We must not only continue to make Nassau County buildings as efficient as possible, but I am exploring the installation of solar panel facilities at several County properties to increase the use of renewable resources. In the County Legislature I supported amendments to the Energy Improvement Corporation to eliminate barriers for the program to reach full potential to finance renewable energy systems.

6. Sustainable Public Asset Management

Currently Nassau County does not have any electric vehicle charging stations. I have been working with Legislator Laura Schaefer in meeting with PSEG to explore installing such stations at several county facilities. The NICE bus operates one of the largest Compressed Natural Gas fueling stations in North America and we should ensure it continues its dedication to operating a cleaner gas fleet.

7. Waste

Due to changes in the recycling markets, continuing and expanding current programs has been challenging. Nevertheless, we must continue to make efforts to increase recycling rates.

8. Water Quality and Aquifer Protection

We must ensure that conversion of the Bay Park Sewage Treatment facility into a pump station becomes a reality, as well as continue to implement the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan.

9. Natural Resource Protection

I will be supporting a ban of polystyrene products in Nassau County.

10. Farms and Local Food

Nassau should work to expand the FreshConnect program with additional farmers markets in the area. The County must ensure the continued operation of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau Horticulture center and Demonstration Gardens in East Meadow.