



NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS EDUCATION FUND

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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When 2020 began, no one imagined we would all be thrust into the middle of a global pandemic after only a couple of months. But the public health crisis only strengthened our resolve that combating the climate crisis is necessary to improving public health and the economy.

Climate action is at the crux of everything we fight for, whether it's renewable energy, clean transportation, environmental justice, building efficiency, or green jobs with family-sustaining wages. It's also the top issue that we demand candidates for office prioritize if they want our support and the top issue we ask our members to consider when making decisions at the ballot box. And climate change is the reason we make clean water, open space, and reducing waste our top priorities year after year.

That's why we are excited to publish our inaugural Annual Report so that we can provide a progress report on these issues to the very supporters who help us accomplish our advocacy, programmatic, and development goals.

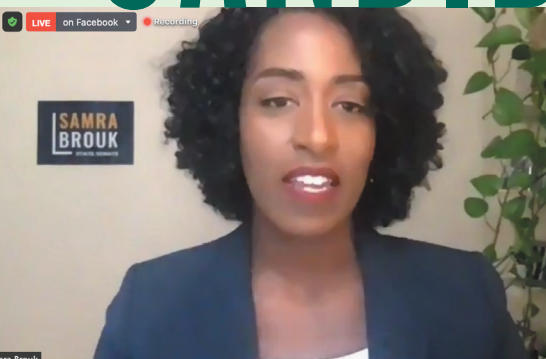
Even while adhering to strict social distancing guidelines, we were able to accomplish quite a lot in 2020. We pivoted to a virtual format for our forums and our candidate endorsement interviews, which helped us reach a much wider audience than usual. A virtual format has helped our key development programs, including Corporate Partners, thrive. NYLCV also took on leadership roles in several coalitions that are working to achieve our advocacy priorities including clean transportation and investing in our parks.



We describe all this progress and more inside our report. We could not have achieved any of this without your continued support. Thank you for generously standing with us and the conservation voter movement.

Julie Tighe
President, NYLCV/EF

CANDIDATE FORUMS



Senate District 55



Congressional District 15



Assembly District 125



Congressional District 17

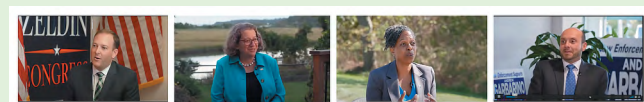
Our non-partisan candidate forums help voters learn about where the candidates stand on key environmental issues.

NYLCVEF recruits local journalists to serve as the moderators ensuring that the discussion is substantive and relevant to the community. Audience participation is encouraged as attendees are invited to submit questions.

In 2020, we held an in-person candidate forum for Queens Borough President and virtual candidate forums for Congressional District 15 in the Bronx, Congressional District 17 in Westchester and Rockland counties, State Senate District 1 on Long Island, State Senate District 55 in Western New York, and Assembly District 125 encompassing Ithaca and Cortland, as well as interviews with candidates for Congressional Districts 1 and 2 on Long Island.

Hot topics this year included siting and investments in renewable energy, how the recovery from COVID can include more sustainable policies, protecting clean water, the preservation of public lands, addressing air quality disparities in environmental justice neighborhoods, creating green jobs, and controlling the spread of invasive species.

Thousands of voters from all around the state who could not make the live event have been able to view these forums live via Facebook (facebook.com/nylcv) and on our YouTube channel (youtube.com/nylcv).



Candidate forums for Congressional Districts 1 and 2

VIRTUAL ENDORSEMENT INTERVIEWS



During most years, we hold our candidate endorsement interviews in-person. Due to the pandemic in 2020, in-person meetings were not possible. But that didn't stop us from conducting a record number of interviews virtually.

Moving these meetings to an online-only format meant that we could expand our outreach to more regions and screen more candidates than ever before. It's a new skill that will come in handy in the future as interest in our endorsement grows.

The interviews were just as productive as every election year. Ninety percent of the candidates that we endorsed won their race, which means that our relationships within the State Legislature continue to grow.

FORUM SERIES ON IMPLEMENTING THE CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT

Building on a policy forum that we held in 2019 to introduce New Yorkers to the landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), in 2020 we kicked off a series of virtual forums that focused on each sector of our economy.

The CLCPA mandates economy-wide carbon-neutrality by 2050 and each sector has its own unique challenges and opportunities. Through this series, our goal is to dive deeper into how we are going to achieve the CLCPA's ambitious climate goals in a way that is effective, efficient, and equitable. The series also aims to build

public awareness, educate New Yorkers on climate policy, and develop recommendations for how to meet those objectives.

We held forums focusing on offshore wind transmission, buildings and efficiency, and transportation, and will continue holding more in 2021. The forums featured panelists from our non-profit partners, government, and industry representatives. We discussed opportunities including new technologies and strong public policies, as well as challenges like our current fiscal crisis. If you'd like to learn more, visit nylcvef.org/CLCPAforumseries.



Our forum on offshore wind transmission

Through this series, our goal is to dive deeper into how we are going to achieve the CLCPA's ambitious climate goals in a way that is effective, efficient, and equitable.

2020: BY THE NUMBERS

Our political influence is steadily increasing as more candidates are participating in our endorsement process and more of our endorsed candidates are winning their races. Our fundraising is growing, which supports our work to achieve advocacy and programmatic accomplishments throughout the year.

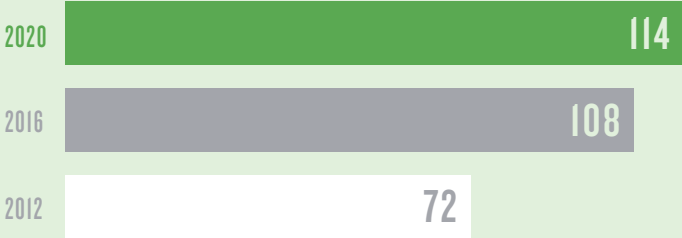
Endorsement interest increases
Questionnaires received



Endorsement activity increases
Races we endorsed in



Our relationships increase
Number of winning candidates



Percent of endorsed candidates who won

90%



*Bills we advocated
for that passed*
23



Policy forums
5



People who took action
6,006



*Funding we helped get
included in the State Budget*
\$3.8 BILLION



Candidate forums
8



Donors
682



New donors
299



*Funds raised
at Gala*
\$900,000



Eco-Breakfasts
13



Corporate partners
33



Grants received
18



*Funds raised
through grants*
\$400,000

NYC CLEAN SCHOOL BUS COALITION

The coalition is fighting for better air quality and less pollution from school buses, and will work to transition New York City away from diesel and towards electric school buses.

NYLCV Education Fund continues to work with local groups and coalitions across the state to build support for electric school buses as part of our Clean Buses for Healthy Niños campaign. We launched the NYC Clean School Bus Coalition which includes organizations working on labor, environment, social justice, public health and more to help bring electric school buses to environmental justice communities. The coalition is advocating for local legislation that would phase out diesel school buses in NYC by 2040.

During a school year full of changes, diesel pollution remains constant. The coalition is fighting for better air quality and less pollution from school buses. COVID-19 underscores the importance of improving air quality in environmental justice communities. The coalition will work to transition New York City away from diesel and towards electric school buses.



A GREENER CITY HALL?

The events give our board members, corporate partners, major donors, and non-profit partners a special opportunity to have intimate conversations with the mayoral candidates.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams



The next mayor of New York City will have the monumental task of furthering the City’s work on climate action. That includes enacting bold policies as well as ensuring we have plans to follow through with them.

To help keep the environment top of mind for the mayoral candidates, we started an event series - “A Greener City Hall?” The events give our board members, corporate partners, major donors, and non-profit partners a special opportunity to have intimate conversations with the candidates.

We ask about their plans for reducing waste and promoting recycling, expanding greenspace, keeping the city’s world-class drinking water system clean, greening our transportation sector, and making our infrastructure more resilient.

Assemblymember Carrie Woerner joined our forum on the benefits of a Clean Fuels Standard



The Clean Fuels NY coalition is led by the New York League of Conservation Voters and was formed to demonstrate the broad and diverse support for New York State to create a clean fuel standard to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.

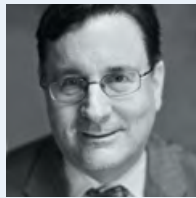
Transportation is the leading contributor to climate pollution in the state and nationwide. That’s why reducing emissions from the transportation sector is one of our priorities and we are leading a coalition that’s advocating for a policy that will help do just that.

Clean Fuels NY is focused on passing a clean fuel standard to slash emissions by holding polluters accountable and spurring widespread deployment of low and zero-emission vehicles and innovation in alternative fuel industries.





Ann Davlin



Richard L. Farren



Barbara Fife



Kevin Knobloch



Sophia Mendelsohn



Rosalind Walrath

THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD

Our board members are vital to our work. They provide support, leadership, guidance, and direction for our advocacy and programs. We appreciate their dedication to our environment and combating climate change.

A number of board members stepped down in 2020, some after many years of dedicated service. We thank them all for serving the environmental community with distinction.

ANN DAVLIN

RICHARD L. FARREN

BARBARA FIFE

KEVIN KNOBLOCH

SOPHIA MENDELSON

ROSALIND WALRATH

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NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

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NYLCV & NYLCVEF STAFF

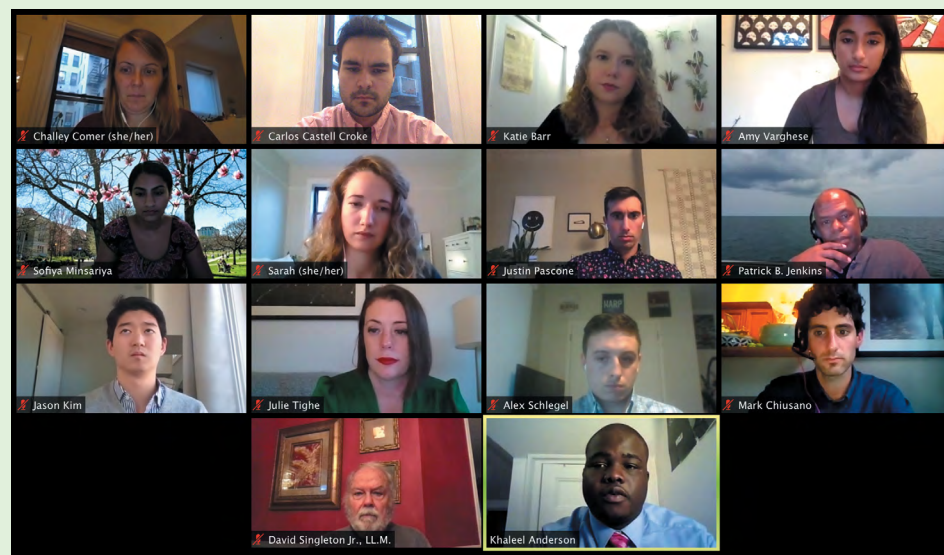
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Carlos Castell Croke, *Associate for New York City Programs*
Clare Liu, *Development and Events Associate*
Lisa Darrigo, *Program Coordinator*
Caroline Hahn, *Special Assistant to the President*

EMERGING LEADERS

Early- and mid-career professionals continue to grow into environmental advocates of the future as part of our *Emerging Leaders* program. Our events inform the next generation of environmental leaders about key sustainability issues through interactive discussions and gives them the tools to begin to make a difference now.

We held three events in 2020. At our happy hour, Assemblymember-elect Khaleel Anderson and Newsday editorial board member Mark Chiusano joined us to discuss the 2020 election season and politicking during a pandemic. They also led a rich discussion on how important the environment will be to voters in the future. At our breakfasts, Deputy Commissioner at the NYC Department of Sanitation Bridget Anderson discussed waste reduction initiatives and Senior Policy Advisor at the NYC Mayor's Office of Resiliency Julia Eiferman discussed the City's emission reduction programs and how they improve the city's resiliency.

If you know someone who would like to become a member, email us at development@nylcv.org.



Assemblymember Khaleel Anderson and Newsday's Mark Chiusano join our Emerging Leaders Happy Hour



Then-NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Polly Trottenberg joined one of our Eco-Breakfasts. She is pictured here with NYLCV State Board Chair Steven Russo and NYLCV President Julie Tighe.

We expanded our Corporate Partners program into the Capital Region in 2020. This new program offers opportunities for Albany-area organizations to meet decision-makers from the Capital Region, including top agency staff.

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Even during social distancing restrictions, our Corporate Partners Eco-Breakfast program continued to engage business, environmental, and political leaders. We transitioned seamlessly to a virtual format and held 13 breakfasts overall. We were joined by leaders in energy, mobility, and open spaces including newly appointed Deputy White House Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi, who came in his former role as New York State Deputy Secretary for Energy and the Environment, and then-NYC DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg, now Deputy Secretary at the U.S. DOT.

If you would like to become a Corporate Partner, learn more about the program, or get involved, please email development@nylcv.org.

DONORS

\$10,000+

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The Spingold Foundation
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Tishman Construction, an AECOM Company
Transmission Developers, Inc.
Two Trees Management
Rosalind Walrath
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Western Conservation Foundation
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Jacob Worenklein

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Apex Clean Energy
Arnold & Porter
Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind
Michael Avella, Dickinson & Avella
Gene Bernstein, Northville Industries
Tonio Burgos, Tonio Burgos & Associates
Capalino + Company
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EDP Renewables

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Google
Greyhound
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Harold and Lillian Tighe
Sarah Timpson
Paula Trimble
Laura Truettner
Robertta Turner
Campbell Wallace
Elizabeth Ward
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New York League of Conservation Voters

NYLCV is the only nonpartisan, statewide environmental organization in New York that fights for clean water, clean air, renewable energy, and open space through political action.

New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund

NYLCVEF educates, engages, and empowers New Yorkers to be effective advocates for the environment.

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