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## 2021 Environmental Questionnaire for New York City Candidates

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the New York League of Conservation Voters Questionnaire.

To ensure your responses address the issues NYLCV and its partners are most concerned about, please consult [NYLCV's 2021 New York City Policy Agenda](#) when answering the questions.

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 the 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, February 26, 2021**.
- ☒ The completed questionnaire is mandatory for endorsement consideration and must be submitted via e-mail as a Microsoft Word file to: [politics@nylcv.org](mailto:politics@nylcv.org)
- ☒ Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg ([jklainberg@nylcv.org](mailto:jklainberg@nylcv.org))
- ☒ After receipt of the completed questionnaire, candidates will be invited to participate in a formal interview with a local Chapter Board.
- ☒ Candidate endorsements will be made by the NYLCV State Board on April 29, 2021.

## CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate name: Adrienne Adams

Office sought & district number: NYC Council District 28

Campaign e-mail: [adamsfornyc@gmail.com](mailto:adamsfornyc@gmail.com)

Campaign phone: 718-926-7240

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Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AdrienneEAdams1>

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Campaign manager's name and email: Jamal Wilkerson [jamalwilkerson@gmail.com](mailto:jamalwilkerson@gmail.com)

Press Secretary's name and email:

Scheduler's name and email:

## 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.

As a member of the new York City Council, I have proudly co-sponsored several pieces of legislation during my first term, indicative of my continuing commitment to advancing a pro-environment agenda. Additionally, my Colleagues and I passed the Climate Mobilization Act (CMA) in 2019 on a nearly unanimous basis via a package of bills that worked to ambitiously set New York City on a path to reducing its carbon emissions, leading to cleaner air, protecting our climate and incentivizing job creation in industries like energy efficiency and clean technologies, I signed on to a letter to protect the Climate Mobilization Act's Local Law 97, addressed to Governor Cuomo 2 weeks ago. The letter combats an effort by the state to include a provision within the proposed Executive Budget that would completely override Local Law 97, the City Council's signature component of our legislative package. We will not accept a delay in the reduction of carbon emissions or the ongoing threat of climate change to our city.

On a personal level, I am a huge proponent of water conservation and eco-friendly solutions. I have utilized rain barrels for many years to help reduce run-off pollution and cut down on the amount of water used to undergo energy intensive sewage treatments.

## ISSUES

Each year, NYLCV works closely with New York's leading environmental, public health, conservation, energy, environmental justice, and transportation organizations to identify the most pressing priorities on fighting climate change, conserving land and water, and protecting public health. These issues drive NYLCV's advocacy work throughout the legislative session, influence the bills we select for NYLCV's Environmental Scorecards, and informs the decision on the candidates we choose to endorse. To ensure your responses are in alignment with the issues NYLCV and its partners are most concerned about, please review [NYLCV's 2021 New York City Policy Agenda](#) when formulating your responses.

Please indicate your level of commitment to, and if applicable your recent personal and professional activity concerning, all the policy priorities of our partners per the following issues:

### Top Priorities

Transportation isn't only the number one source of greenhouse gas emissions in our state—it is also a major source of air pollution, causing respiratory and other public health issues. This is particularly the case near New York City's many major highways where too often, these communities are low-income and communities of color.

#### 2. Encouraging the Shift to High Efficiency, Low Emission Forms of Transportation (p. 3)

I am wholly committed to the reduction of pollution no matter the source. The issue of air quality is most concerning in my district as it impacts the health of my constituents and many other

communities of color in the City of New York. The rate of asthma for our children, in particular, is very high. It is imperative that we increase our efforts to move toward greener transportation means and methods.

More than ever, New Yorkers realized the value of our parks and open spaces in 2020 as our cultural institutions were closed and we had to practice social distancing. Open green space is one of the City's most valuable environmental assets but also contributes to the well-being of our residents and our economy.

### 3. Conserving New York City's Parks and Natural Areas (p. 3)

As a member of the Committee on Parks, I introduced legislation, Intro 1651, specifically to require the Department of Parks and recreation to report on all parks and playgrounds that have failed inspection and submit a plan to the Council on how these issues would be corrected. I know the immense value of our open green spaces and natural areas and the positive impact they have on our residents. These beautiful spaces were needed pre-pandemic but have become literal life-saving sanctuaries during this crisis. The maintenance of physical health and well-being is dependent on the conservation of our parks and open spaces.

Reaching the City's Zero Waste goal by 2030 will require work from all New Yorkers—cooperation of city officials and private industry, and buy-in from the public. Stimulating behavioral change is critical to meeting this goal, as is ensuring the City has programs in place that promote waste reduction, diversion, and sustainable waste management.

### 4. Common Sense Waste Management (p. 3)

I was disappointed to see the City's compost program paused this year as my community began to become more comfortable with composting. I want to make sure we bring this program back with a more robust public education campaign to bring anyone who had been hesitant to participate in the past on board. Recycling and composting are simple and easy ways for folks to be involved in the environmental movement, but I believe it's also a gateway to teaching people more about how their habits affect our planet and could lead to more participation.

## Combating Climate Change

The time to act on climate is now. The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report makes it clear that we must make radical changes in short order to avoid catastrophic climate change. We will

work to advance policies that decrease emissions from all sectors, prepare us to meet the unavoidable impacts of climate change, reduce waste, and foster a strong green economy. We must also ensure the changes we make to tackle climate change benefit disadvantaged communities and provide for a just transition.

5. Energy and Infrastructure (p. 5)

I was so proud to see the Renewable Rikers Act passed recently, which I was a cosponsor of the bill. While Rikers Island has been a longtime place associated with controversy and negativity, I'm happy to have worked alongside my city council colleagues to make this island a place that will address the impacts of climate change in a positive way. I'm in full support of creating more green unionized jobs with local hire mandates and I believe that as we enter the post-Covid recovery period, the jobs that a true Green New Deal will bring, can help New Yorkers avoid the disastrous effects of an economic downturn.

6. Transportation (p. 5)

My district is a transportation desert and I'm focused on commissioning studies alongside the Dept. of Transportation to expand the availability and safety of alternative forms of low emission transportation such as bike lanes, dedicated bus lanes and cleaner access a rides for seniors. We need more and safer bicycle infrastructure and should create more dedicated bus lanes, perhaps even a busway. Roads are approximately a quarter of New York's land and we must find ways for everyone to share the roads especially with my district running alongside the Van Wyck Expressway.

7. Resiliency (p. 6)

My district has been long impacted by flooding and the low water tables which have been exacerbated by climate change. As a member of NYC Council, I will fight to ensure we are proactive in our approach to damage mitigation. In District 28 in particular, I will continue to push for more flood mitigation infrastructure to be upgraded and expanded throughout Southeast Queens. Jamaica Bay has also been greatly impacted by climate change and I've been in support of the Queens delegation's efforts to clean and create buffers to mitigate the storm damage from future weather events.

8. Solid Waste (p. 7)

I am strongly in favor of increasing our recycling and composting program citywide, and hope that we can establish strong education programs to ensure that all New Yorkers are well apprised. And of course, the City needs to be the leader in all of these initiatives. City agencies must be citywide leaders in a greener future and I'm disheartened that we cannot expand recycling and composting within my district. As a member of the Budget Negotiation Team, I will advocate for more funding to be directed towards expanding our recycling program since many are working from home and create more waste. Our city should lead the effort in reimagining our recycling program post COVID to address the migration from offices to home.

### Protecting People and Natural Resources

All New Yorkers deserve indoor and outdoor environments that are free of contamination and pollution. We will promote policies that provide access to healthy air and water, protect our open spaces, and improve the well-being of all New Yorkers.

#### 9. Parks, Natural Areas, and Active Waterfronts (p. 9)

As a member of the Committee on Parks, I introduced legislation, Intro 1651, specifically to require the Department of Parks and recreation to report on all parks and playgrounds that have failed inspection and submit a plan to the Council on how these issues would be corrected. I have a large population of seniors who are dependent on parks and now post COVID, will rely on the open space to socialize safely. I know the immense value of our open green spaces and natural areas and the positive impact they have on our residents. These beautiful green spaces were needed pre-pandemic but have become literal life-saving sanctuaries during this crisis. Our city needs to invest in more green space post COVID so that we can continue to keep numbers low while allowing residents to socialize.

#### 10. Lead Poisoning Prevention (p. 9)

I have been a strong proponent of expanding our lead poisoning prevention education, more renovations especially in NYCHA housing. Reports of inauthentic testing leading to the poisoning of children in NYCHA is a citywide health crisis and can only be indicative of the situation in other older public buildings that perhaps do not yet have a city mandate to test. My district has been greatly impacted by lead poisoning in our NYCHA developments and our city needs to do more to make repairs and upgrade apartments as quickly as possible to

prevent the next generation of children exposed to lead.

11. Reduce and Mitigate Heat Vulnerability (p. 9 – 10)

My district has a high concentration of seniors and I was very frustrated that this past summer, the City refused to open cooling centers since many residents were forced to stay inside and out of publicly cooled locations due to Covid risk. I fought for there to be more easily accessible cooling locations at all senior centers because most often they have the most difficulty with mobility. I have advocated for more air conditioning at every senior center and I will continue to advocate for the expansion of the Cool Neighborhoods Program which is most needed in my district.

12. Clean Air for All (p. 10)

By electrifying all of our access a rides, public school buses and all vehicles used by any other city agency, we can make huge strides in cleaning the air for all New Yorkers. I believe that these goals are easily achievable and combined with efforts to reduce emissions from public buildings, our city can reach zero emissions by 2040.

13. Clean Water for All (p.11)

I absolutely support having higher standards for our city agencies when it comes to reporting on our water quality, and increasing our investment in green infrastructure. I also have been a strong supporter of the Green New Deal and commit to enacting this legislation by engaging with our city, state, and federal elected officials so that our children will have access to clean water at public facilities.

14. Sustainable Food Systems (p. 11)

I'm a sponsor of Intro 1650 which requires HRA to provide information about the Health Bucks program and Farmers Markets in the city to all individuals who receive or apply to receive supplemental nutrition assistance program

benefits. I have always been a champion for ensuring that all New Yorkers are given access to fresh, quality, nutritious food and would love to see an expansion of the food access programs that make that sort of nutrition available to all New Yorkers regardless of their income levels. I will also advocate for the DOE to create a curriculum for public school students to learn about sustainable food programming.