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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

- ☒ Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg (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:

[Alicka Ampry-Samuel](#)

Office sought & district number:

[City Council District 41](#)

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Campaign manager's name and email:



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Press Secretary's name and email:

Campaign Manager

Scheduler's name and email:

Campaign Manager

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.

Throughout my term as a member of the New York City Council representing District 41, I have been committed to advancing pro-environmental legislation. As a member representing a district where the majority of residents are minorities, this issue really hits home for me. People of color are historically more likely to be affected by adverse conditions related to climate change which is why environmental justice is a main focus of my legislative efforts. So far I have co-sponsored 38 bills related to renewable energy, waste regulations, coastal protection, clean water, lead paint, and many more sustainability related issues; 22 of which have been enacted. As the primary sponsor, I have introduced 6 bills related to issues such as protecting green spaces, water contamination, and urban agriculture; 2 of which have passed.

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 have co-sponsored the following bills related to reducing the city's greenhouse gas emissions, regulations regarding accessibility of e-bikes and e-scooters, and a resolution calling on Congress to pass the Green New Deal. Int 1253-2018; Int 1250-2018; Int 1264-2018; Int 1266-2018; Res 1222-2020

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)

I was the primary sponsor of legislation to ensure that community gardens are classified as open space, outdoor recreation, a community garden or other similar description of land in a database maintained by the department of city planning. Int 1652-2019

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 have co-sponsored the following bills related to organic waste drop off, community recycling centers, researching the feasibility of wastewater treatment on Rikers Island, scrap metal collection, among others. Int 1942-2020; Int 1943-2020; Int 1591-2019; Int 1586-2019; Int 1574-2019; Int 1259-2018

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)

During the current session, I have co-sponsored many pieces of legislation related to renewable energy and infrastructure. Some of which include creating a plan to protect the entire shoreline and the creation of an office of waterfront, studying the feasibility of renewable energy sites on Rikers Island and at unutilized municipal sites, requiring the departments of environmental protection and of buildings to report on green infrastructure and green roofs respectively, among many others. Int 2189-2020; Int 1656-2019; Int 1620-2019; Int 1593-2019; Int 1399-2019; Int 1251-2018; Int 1252-2018; Int 1182-2018; Int 1031-2018; Int 1032-2018; Int 0982-2018

6. Transportation (p. 5)

I co-sponsored legislation which would require the department of transportation to submit a plan every five years to include protected bike lanes, bus stop upgrades, and pedestrian signals, among other provisions. Int 1557-2019

7. Resiliency (p. 6)

I have co-sponsored legislation to create a comprehensive five brough plan to protect the entire shoreline as well as the one for the creation of a new department of sustainability and climate change which would address issues of resilience as one of its main priorities. Int 1399-2019; Int 1620-2019

8. Solid Waste (p. 7)

Our city runs better when we have robust public and private partnerships. That is why I cosponsored the bill that would mandate the establishment of commercial waste zones and have the department of sanitation contract with private business to operate in these zones. I also co-sponsored legislation to prevent the department of sanitation from charging non-profits to collect waste and recyclables. Int 1259-2018; Int 1574-2019

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)

I was the primary sponsor on a bill which requires the department of city planning to categorize community gardens as open space, outdoor recreation, a community garden, or other similar description and also prohibits DCP from categorizing such

gardens as vacant land which would protect them from future development and preserve them for the surrounding communities. Int 1652-2019

10. Lead Poisoning Prevention (p. 9)

I have co-sponsored numerous bills in relation to the presence of lead contamination. Some of which included provisions that would require city agencies to make materials available which outline landlord' responsibilities as it pertains to mediation and testing, requiring an investigation when a pregnant person test positive for lead, requiring outreach and education about childhood lead poisoning, requiring building owners to provide tenants with water filtration devices, among others. Int 1117-2018; Int 0904-2018; Int 0881-2018; Int 0865-2018; Int 0864-2018

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

I co-sponsored a bill that would require the department of health and mental hygiene to report on neighborhood heat vulnerability and the number of heat related deaths. Int 1945-2020; Int 0948-2018

12. Clean Air for All (p. 10)

I co-sponsored legislation that would require an office or agency designated by the Mayor to distribute to each tenant of the New York City Housing Authority a pamphlet that contains information about the court-appointed mold ombudsperson, the mold ombudsperson's call center, and how to make a complaint to the mold ombudsperson and to prevent the city from spraying pesticides. Int 1911-2020; Int 1524-2019

13. Clean Water for All (p.11)

I introduced legislation to require the department of health to conduct additional inspections of locations where water tanks where harmful bacteria have been found or where violations have occurred. I was also a co-sponsored on a bill that would require building owners to inform tenants of the presence of harmful bacteria in water. Int 1138-2018; Int 1384-2019

14. Sustainable Food Systems (p. 11)

I introduced legislation that would direct the department of parks and recreation to develop a system to permit community gardens to operate farmers markets within community gardens and one that would require the planning department to develop a comprehensive urban agriculture plan. Int 1653-2019; Int 1058-2018