



30 Broad Street – 30th Floor
New York, NY 10004
212-361-6350

politics@nylcv.org / www.nylcv.org

2021 Environmental Questionnaire for Westchester 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 Westchester 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, May 14, 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.
- General election endorsements will be made by the NYLCV State Board on July 29, 2021.

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate name: Benjamin Boykin II

Office sought (& district number if applicable): County Legislator, 5th Legislative District, Westchester
County

Campaign e-mail: benboy78@aol.com

Campaign phone: (914) 830-9678

Website: www.voteboykin.com

Facebook page: Ben Boykin County Legislator, District 5

Twitter handle:

Campaign manager's name and email: William (Bill) Alexander bill761a@aol.com

Press Secretary's name and email: William (Bill) Alexander bill761a@aol.com

Scheduler's name and email: Benjamin Boykin II benboy78@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 worked for a cleaner and greener environment for many years. As Chairman of Westchester County Board of Legislators, I have overseen a Board that has passed more progressive legislation than at any time in Board history. Since joining the Board, I have co-sponsored legislation to ban No. 4 and No. 6 heavy heating oils. The Board has approved to purchase of hybrid vehicles, all electric vehicles, installation of electric charging stations in county-owned parking lots and parking facilities, installation of solar panels on County-owned buildings and the replacement of 108 Orion V 40-foot diesel buss with hybrid models. The County announced on May 10, 2021 that by 2030, zero-emissions for all of the County's fleet. In approving developments, the Board works to get developers to use renewable energy and sustainable materials. While on the White

Plains Common Council, I voted for transit-oriented developments. I supported our complete streets project.

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 Westchester 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:

Combating Climate Change

The time to act on climate is now. We must make radical changes in short order to avoid catastrophic climate change. New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act will require action at all levels of government to achieve its ambitious goal of reducing economy wide emissions 85% by 2050 and achieving 70% renewable energy by 2030. By allocating resources wisely, local governments can have a significant impact on energy use and the environment. Localities must also adapt to a changing climate and include resiliency planning in all aspects of future governance.

2. Energy (p. 5)

Indian Point has closed down. The Board provided comments to the Public Service Commission and other appropriate entities regarding funding and oversight of Holtec, the decommissioning company. This is a very important issue to protect the safety and health of

County residents. The County is replacing all 108 buses with hybrid and we have purchased two all-electric buses (more will be purchased once we have thoroughly tested these buses). As previously mentioned, the County is committed to zero emissions by 2030 with our vehicle fleets. The County is installing LED lighting, solar panels on County-owned buildings, installing electric charging stations in parking lots and County-owned parking facilities and updating ventilation systems with MERV 13 (exceeds COVID-19 standards) filters. The County is installing light sensors in facilities. The County signed an agreement in 2019 to reduce energy consumption in buildings.

3. Transportation (p.5)

The White Plains train station (\$90 million) is being rehabbed. It is the Metro North Station for the future. I think it is slated for completion in late 2021/early 2022. It is one of the busiest stations in the system. As mentioned earlier, the County is converting its fleet to hybrid and/or all electric vehicles. The vehicle fleet should have zero emissions by 2030. Westchester is continuing to lead the way on energy efficient vehicles. Bikes lanes are being install in many communities, especially White Plains to get people out of their vehicles and bike to their locations.

4. Resiliency (p. 6)

We must protect our shorelines, watersheds and wetlands. The Board recently approved funding to provide barriers (the exact type and nature is still being determined) at Playland near the Edith Read area of the Park. This barrier will help protect Playland Beach and provide a safe haven for some fish species. The Board has approved funding for the Yonkers Waste Water Treatment Facility to protect the Hudson River and keep waste water out of the Hudson River. The Board makes sure that developments that come before the Board, the environmental assessment form is reviewed to avoid approving items that are in watersheds and wetlands.

5. Solid Waste (p. 7)

Scarsdale, which I represent, was the first community in the County to start food scrap recycling. Food scraps are now being picked up at residences in Scarsdale. The County's food scrap recycling facilities have been expanded and partnerships have been established

with local municipalities for their food scraps. The County has purchased a truck to transport food scraps to a recycling facility. The Material Recovery Facility Transfer Station at Valhalla is being rehabilitated with a food scrap composting and education centered added.

Protecting People and Natural Resources

All New Yorkers deserve indoor and outdoor environments that are free of contamination and pollution.

6. Clean Land, Air, and Water (p. 9)

The County has 18,000 acres of public lands which we invest in to protect for our residents. During the pandemic, the use of our trailways and parks were key for individuals to enjoy the outdoors. The County is always seeking ways to better care for our trails, golf courses, parks and pools in a more environmentally friendly manner. There is a Pest Management Board that meets month to provide advice to the County for best practices. The County is investing millions in our waste water treatment facilities in Yonkers, Port Chester, Mamaroneck and Peekskill/Ossining to make them most efficient and to reduce odors. As previously mentioned, the County is reducing its carbon footprint with alternative vehicles and employing best practices in sustainability technology. The County receives most of its water from NY City and the County get water from the Kenisco Reservoir which is constantly tested to ensure that it meets federal and state standards.

7. Sustainable Development (p. 10)

The Board is encouraging affordable housing development throughout the County and mixed-use development. Transit oriented developments are encouraged and so are developments that are within walking distance of shopping, restaurants and entertainment. White Plains and some other communities are installing bike lanes to encourage the use of bikes. White Plains is building the Mitchell apartment complex downtown and a luxury senior facility on Bloomingdale Road.

8. Parks and Open Spaces (p.10 – 11)

As previously mentioned, the County has 18,000 acres of public lands which we must protect for use by our residents. The County's award-winning Parks System was used extensively during the pandemic. The North County and South County trailways are the most used assets in the Parks System. While on the White Plains Common Council, I helped acquire 43 acres of new open space including Liberty Park on Lake Street. I was also instrumental in getting the park established that is between the Residences/BLT Steakhouse and Grace Church in White Plains. The developer has promised this open park space while I was on the White Plains Common Council. When I moved to the County Board, I continued to work with the City of White Plains to get this park established. It is now open. The County is also investing in playgrounds for children, youth and seniors so that all people can enjoy these facilities.

9. Farms and Local Food (p. 11)

Many communities have farmers' markets one and sometimes two days a week. The White Plains farmers' market starts in April and goes to November, located on Court Street. The farmers' markets provide fresh food (farm to table) for people. Also, the pandemic has laid bare food insecurity in Westchester County. The County added \$2.0 million to the 2021 operating budget for food insecurity. I have attended and participated in food distributions in White Plains and Greenburgh. When I held the Chairman's event in October 2018, I provided funds to each legislator from this function for food banks in the 17 legislative districts. This was a forward-thinking initiative. The Board added funds in the 2021 operating budget for some food banks that are 501c (3). As information, only 501c (3) organizations (exclusive of religious institutions) qualify for consideration of funding by the County. The County works with Feeding Westchester with their food distribution program. The County, through the Department of Social Services (DSS) ensures that individuals that qualify receive SNAP funding. We must eliminate hunger in our County.



May 12, 2021