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2021 Environmental Questionnaire for Long Island 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 Long Island 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, April 30, 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: Bridget Fleming

Office sought (& district number if applicable): Suffolk County Legislator for the 2nd Legislative District

Campaign e-mail: idonohue26@gmail.com

Campaign phone: 917-854-7233

Website:

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BridgetFleming.NY/j>

Twitter handle: @bridgetmfleming

Campaign manager's name and email: Irene Donohue idonohue26@gmail.com

Press Secretary's name and email: same

Scheduler's name and email: same

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 Southampton Town Councilwoman (2010-2015), Liaison to Southampton Town's Sustainability Committee; Landmark passage of a [Sustainability Amendment to our Comprehensive Plan](#) (co-sponsor); ban on single use plastic bags (co-sponsor); Bill requiring that all fill brought to the Town be certified as non-toxic (sponsor); Liaison to the Waste Management Department; Spearheaded search for a Department Head with focus on environmental impacts of Town waste management practices; revision to Solid Waste Management Plan and Code revisions that for the first time required that private garbage carters (who haul 85% of residential solid waste and 100% of commercial waste produced in the Town) be permitted by the Town, required to certify that trucks are secure, and to report data regarding the components and materials they haul (sponsor); Liaison to the Community Preservation Fund (the fund created by the East End 2% transfer tax on all real property transactions over \$250 thousand);

authored legislation that provides for fast tracking of all acquisitions in critical watershed areas; sponsored [Southampton Coastal Resources and Water Protection Plan](#).

As County Legislator 2015-present

Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee member; Health Committee Vice Chair; member of Working Group that authored revisions to Sanitary Code, Article 19, authorizing County to oversee advanced onsite wastewater treatment, revisions to Articles implementing their installation, and establishment of grant and loan program to assist homeowners with upgraded septic installations (co-sponsor); organized dialogue between the East Hampton Town Trustees and Vector Control to advance the goal of reduction or elimination of methoprene spraying for mosquito control, primarily through restoration of wetlands ecosystems, resulting in 50% reduction of pesticide applications and reduction of area sprayed from 170 to 90 acres; spearheaded creation of Public Transportation Working Group and successfully lobbied in Albany to advocate for increased NYS funding for public transportation; as an EV owner, exploring installation of charging stations at County facilities; sponsored Bill which authorizes the County to use tax defaulted properties for siting of advanced onsite wastewater treatment; instituted revision to open space acquisition policies to allow for coastal resiliency planning and implementation; returned more than \$5 million to the district for water quality and environmental infrastructure projects (including funding for advanced storm water recharge for major traffic circle reconstruction in Riverside, Southampton);

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 Long Island 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)

As Chair of the Renewable Energy Task Force, instituted pilot initiative with Huntington and Southampton for creation of a multi-layered map to drive large scale solar development while protected woodlands and open space (sponsor); Established and chaired the Community Choice Aggregation Task Force to explore development of CCA on Long Island, to increase renewable energy supply.

Active lead in efforts to improve retail competition in energy resources on Long Island, including as a party to the current DPS public proceeding.

On the Town Board, supported fleet management plan requiring fuel-efficient vehicles, and an energy audit of Town Hall; as liaison to the Dark Skies Committee, supported replacement of lower wattage bulbs and energy-efficient bulbs in municipal installations throughout Town.

3. Transportation (p. 6)

Chair, Suffolk County Legislature's Transportation Working Group, whose achievements include regular and transparent public discussions among operators, drivers, riders and the administration; working with a coalition including NYLCV to secure additional \$2m in STOA funding; establishing a micro transit pilot; securing additional staffing for bus shelter maintenance; and support of hybrid vehicles.

4. Resiliency (p. 6 - 7)

Created a Capital Program to assess vulnerability of coastal assets to climate change, to recommend proactive, nature-based solutions, and to develop guidelines and best practices. Bids are currently being considered by RFP committee. Instituted language in deeds of all relevant land acquisitions to all for proactive coastal resiliency and flooding management planning and infrastructure.

Town: Supported fleet management plan requiring fuel-efficient vehicles, and an energy audit of Town Hall; as liaison to the Dark Skies Committee, supported replacement of lower wattage bulbs and energy-efficient bulbs in municipal installations throughout Town; Created and Chair Suffolk Legislature's Community Choice Aggregation Task Force

5. Solid Waste (p. 7)

On the Town Board, liaison to the Waste Management Department; Spearheaded search for a Department Head with focus on environmental impacts of Town waste management practices; revision to Solid Waste Management Plan and Code revisions that for the first time required that private garbage carters (who haul 85% of residential solid waste and 100% of commercial waste produced in the Town) be permitted by the Town, required to certify that trucks are secure, and to report data regarding the components and materials they haul (sponsor)

Protecting People and Natural Resources

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

6. Clean Water (p. 8 - 9)



Co-sponsor and leading voice in creation of Septic Improvement Program, including regulatory revisions, support for R & D, and grant and loan assistance for homeowners. Exploring a fertigation project on Shelter Island where brown water from a septic treatment plant will be used to fertilize a public golf course.

7. Sustainable Development (p. 9)

On the Southampton Town Board, I was a strong supporter of first affordable rental development, east of the Shinnecock Canal, in proximity to CR39; worked successfully to pass the Riverside Revitalization Action Plan (triple bottom line overlay zoning), and continued to support hamlet-centered development in the area by securing substantial funding for traffic circle restoration envisioned by the Plan. As Legislator, secured \$2.5 million to support Speonk Commons workforce housing project adjacent to the Speonk, Southampton train station.

8. Parks and Open Spaces (p.11)

As Councilwoman and as a Legislator, have supported aggressive acquisition of open space, prioritizing watershed parcels, and spearheaded the passage of a \$30 million Town bond program to allow for expedited acquisitions under the Community Preservation Fund.

9. Farms and Local Food (p. 11)

Steady supporter of Peconic Land Trust, LI Farm Bureau. Champion of Transfer of Development Rights program where Southampton farmers enter into affirmative easement (obligation to farm); Co-sponsored legislation, while County defended litigation threatening the County's farmland preservation program, to protect the program, and advocated for state legislation to allow the farmland program to continue functioning.

