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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](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.
- General election endorsements will be made by the NYLCV State Board on July 29, 2021.

## CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate name: C. William Gaylor, III

Office sought (& district number if applicable): Legislator – 6<sup>th</sup> District Nassau County

Campaign e-mail:

Campaign phone:

Website:

Facebook page:

Twitter handle:

Campaign manager's name and email:

Press Secretary's name and email:

Scheduler's name and email: LAURA SCHREINER, Lauraannscreiner@gmail.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.

As Legislator, I have advanced legislation, supported major capital projects and approved funding to protect Nassau County's air, water, wildlife and natural resources.

**As discussed below, these initiatives serve to protect Nassau County's open spaces, promote sustainability of our environmental resources, and foster innovative solutions and planning for environmentally protective projects.**

- Established the Commercial Property Sustainable Energy Loan Program to provide financing to local businesses to fund renewable energy systems and energy conserving enhancements at such businesses.

My background in the military has taught me that the environment is precious and deserving of our attention. We always try to leave the environment, whether it be our water sources, the air we breathe, the land we occupy, a bit better off than when we received it.



My priorities are to continue to work to make our environment better.

## 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)

**Environmental Planning:** passed legislation to amend Nassau County's capital planning process to include the strategic planning of environmental infrastructure projects such as solar power development and the introduction of an electric vehicle fleet and charging stations throughout Nassau County.

I voted in support of a Local Law known as the Sustainable Energy Loan Program, which provides property assessed clean energy financing to property owners for the installation of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. This program will allow Nassau County businesses to access low cost financing for the installation of solar energy systems, energy efficient boilers or insulation, and other energy efficiency initiatives that help drive down business expenses and is secured by benefit assessment lien on the property.

#### 3. Transportation (p. 6)

Supported the creation and support the operation of the NICE bus system to preserve needed bus service in Nassau County. The NICE bus system was established in direct response to the MTA's plan to cut

Nassau County routes by 50% and raise the annual cost of operation by \$30M. NICE now operates a fleet of buses that run on Compressed Natural Gas, minimizing its carbon footprint while providing vital transportation services throughout Nassau County.

Restored \$4.5M in funds to provide for the continued operation of the Nassau County's bus system in 2021.

Lobbied New York State for additional funds for Nassau County's transportation infrastructure.

Approved capital funding and contracts for the creation of pedestrian and bicycle pathways throughout Nassau County.

Adopted/Support Nassau County's Complete Streets Policy initiative to consider all users of roadways including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders in planning and designing of new and current roadways.

Approved grant funding for transit oriented development for projects throughout Nassau County

#### 4. Resiliency (p. 6 - 7)

Approved contracts, funding and legislation for the Bay Park Conveyance Project. This partnership between Nassau County and New York State will allow for the construction of infrastructure and piping to send treated effluent from the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant to an existing ocean outfall pipe located at the Cedar Creek Sewage Treatment Plant. This project will dramatically improve the water quality of the Western Bays by eliminating the discharge of treated wastewater effluent into Reynolds Channel.

By restoring the health of the Western Bays, this project will restore tidal wetlands, enhancing the environmental conditions for aquatic and wildlife and providing greater protection against flooding from adverse weather events.

#### 5. Solid Waste (p. 7)

Banned Styrofoam Containers and created a special revenue fund for the cleanup of Nassau County properties.

Sponsored parks, beach, pond cleanups.

Work with the Town of Hempstead, Oyster Bay, and North Hempstead and sanitation districts to promote the responsible disposal of Hazardous Household Waste and electronic waste to maximize the safe, environmentally sound disposal of the many hazardous materials found in the average home.

Worked with the Villages and Nassau's DPW regarding the maintenance of creeks and tributaries,

### 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)

Currently working with the North Shore Land Alliance and the Nature Conservancy to coordinate assistance in developing a county program in expediting nitrogen-reducing Innovative-Alternative (IA) septic systems.

Authorized the creation and funding of the Long Island Commission on Aquifer Protection, a bi-County commission in partnership with Suffolk County with the goal of proactively identifying threats to Long Island's drinking water and to advance a coordinated, regional approach to the protection of Long Island's sole source aquifer. The LICAP hosts a GIS water quality mapping system known as WaterTraQ to allow local governments, water suppliers and the public to track threats to our water supply.

Lobbied NYS and the federal government for funding and approved easements for the construction of remedial systems and cleanup of groundwater contamination including an easement to the US Navy for the cleanup of contaminated groundwater in Bethpage. This action will allow the Navy to install groundwater remediation systems that will help contain and cleanup the toxic plume emanating from the former Navy Facility at Grumman. Additional easements were granted to the Port Washington Water District for groundwater contamination impacting local public water supplies.

Passed Legislation to require annual public reporting on Nassau County's groundwater and public water supplies. This report will bring together data and analysis on Nassau County's groundwater resources from every level of government, including assessments of the sustainability of Nassau's groundwater, identified contaminants, and treatment systems utilized to combat such contamination.

Lobbied New York State and the Federal Government for additional funding to address groundwater contamination emanating from the Grumman facility in Bethpage. Approved an agreement with North Hempstead to allow for the remediation of freon contamination.

Approved the capital funding and contracts to support the County's storage tank replacement program. This program allows for the removal of aboveground and underground storage tanks due to age or failure of periodic tightness tests, as well as remedial investigations and actions if leaks are discovered.

Passed legislation to require rain sensors on automatic irrigation systems that operate in Nassau County to promote sustainability of Nassau County's water resources.

## 7. Sustainable Development (p. 9)

As a Legislator, I have pushed both the County and New York State for additional funds for Nassau County's transportation infrastructure.

I support the continued development of our downtown areas, including affordable housing opportunities for our younger residents and our seniors. This will also allow a choice for our seniors and younger residents to take full advantage of LIRR and better allow them to live, work and play without the need of an automobile.

I will continue my efforts to hold the line on property taxes, advance infrastructure and housing initiatives, and continue Nassau County's efforts to retain and grow our overall business community to enhance our total economic activity and keep people employed.

I have voted to Establish the Commercial Property Sustainable Energy Loan Program to provide financing to local businesses to fund renewable energy systems and energy conserving enhancements at such businesses.

Voted to adopt New York State's Climate Smart Communities Pledge: This legislation commits the County towards a path of sustainability, including the lowering of greenhouse emissions, climate smart land use and the preservation of open spaces, decreasing energy usage and the conversion to renewable energy sources, the reuse and recycling of materials, the enhancement of community resilience to the impacts of climate change, and the evaluation of Nassau County's transportation infrastructure.

Voted to provide funding for the planting of trees on County rights of way, parks and County facilities.

## 8. Parks and Open Spaces (p.11)

**Local Law 14-2018: A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY TO REQUIRE PUBLIC ACCESS TO ALL ACTIVE PARKLAND AND OPEN SPACE IN NASSAU COUNTY**

- Nassau County, through its Environmental Bond Act, purchased hundreds of acres of open space.
- Nassau county Manages over 3000 acres of preserves
- Passed Legislation to require all active parkland and open space owned or operated by Nassau County to be open and accessible to all County residents, with appropriate parking facilities and points of ingress and egress. Pursuant to this Legislation, signage will be placed to identify all open space and active parkland and the County and the County website will be updated to provide the public with information about each location.
- The Department of Public Works is to prepare an annual report providing details as to all open space and active parkland owned and operated by Nassau County including

accessibility information and a description of the wildlife and plant life that may be found at such properties.

- I voted to approve Capital Plan spending of \$5M to support this important initiative.

## 9. Farms and Local Food (p. 11)

Our County is a very congested locale, with a population that is slightly increasing year after year. Open space is limited. Fortunately, one of the last remaining working farms is within my District and I have been an ardent support of the Crossroad Farms (formerly Grossman's Farm) in Malverne.

I successful obtained grant money for the installation of fencing and the planting of 21 trees along the perimeter. I have also obtained grant money for various other improvements at the farm because it is so important to our children and community to have a place to learn about the environment. Crossroads Farm is a NOFA certified organic non-profit farm that serves as a model not only for farm renewal but also for community and educational enhancement, activism and environmental awareness. Our experiential education program introduces children and adults to the world of nature and invites all to join in the activities that make the farm grow.

Partnered with/support the County's partnership and funding for Cornell Cooperative Extension to provide programing and educational resources to the public regarding farming, nutrition and sustainable practices for home gardens. Cornell Cooperative Extension operates a farm stand at the East Meadow Farm offering locally grown produce.