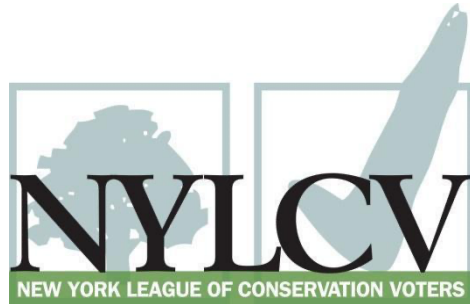


As my community was devastated by Superstorm Sandy in 2012, I have spearheaded the construction of flood protection along the waterfront of the Lower East Side of Manhattan. This barrier from sea-level rise and storm surge primarily protects 10,000 families who live in NYCHA housing along the coastline. In addition, the flood protection comes in the form of a world-class park which will improve air quality and provide badly needed greenspace for residents. I also worked to push forward the Climate Mobilization Act, the strongest legislation in the nation to require New York City's 50,000 largest buildings to reduce their carbon emissions, and on 14<sup>th</sup> Street, I championed the city's first busway to reduce car traffic and prioritize mass transit. I am also one of the city's loudest advocates for increased bike lanes to encourage cycling and other zero-emissions transportation.

In my advocacy as an elected official, I am also pushing to support for discussion around a Green agenda that we include MWBEs and cooperatives, and that we develop real, concrete plans for reducing energy use in public spaces like the retrofitting of our public schools.



## **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: Carlina Rivera

Office sought & district number: City Council - District 2

Campaign e-mail: [community@carlinarivera.com](mailto:community@carlinarivera.com)

Campaign phone: Tati Jorio 917-583-0897

Website: [carlinarivera.nyc](http://carlinarivera.nyc)

Facebook page: /Carlina2021

Twitter handle: @carlinalrivera

Campaign manager's name and email: Tati Jorio [tati@carlinarivera.com](mailto:tati@carlinarivera.com)

Press Secretary's name and email: Sara Rodriguez [sara@carlinarivera.com](mailto:sara@carlinarivera.com)

Scheduler's name and email: Irak Cehonksi [irakdcehonski@gmail.com](mailto:irakdcehonski@gmail.com)

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please share your accomplishments or experiences that indicate your commitment to advancing a pro-environment agenda. These experiences may be professional or personal.

In my advocacy as an elected official, I have been one of our most vocal local elected officials pushing for a Green agenda that is always sure to include MWBEs and cooperatives. That agenda must include real, concrete plans for reducing energy use in public spaces, like the retrofitting of our public schools, and to reimagine spaces like the vision within our Renewable Rikers campaign in the Council.

I also worked to push forward the Climate Mobilization Act, the strongest legislation in the nation to require New York City's 50,000 largest buildings to reduce their carbon emissions, and on 14<sup>th</sup> Street, I championed the city's first busway to reduce car traffic and prioritize mass transit. I am also one of the city's loudest advocates for increased bike lanes to encourage cycling and other zero-emissions transportation. My community was devastated by Superstorm Sandy in 2012, and I am committed to creating a 5-borough resiliency plan that centers



equity and taking care of the neighborhoods historically underserved by City resources. I am doing this through public policy that focuses on budget justice and building healthy communities.

## 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.

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

I strongly support shifting to high efficiency and low-to-no emission forms of transportation and have been consistent with that position over the course of my term in the City Council. I have been a supporter and advocate for congestion pricing in order to encourage more utilization of our public transportation, and have consistently pushed for more bike lanes to promote this common sense zero emission form of transportation. I’m committed to seeing the city’s fleet reduced in size and fully transitioned to zero-emission vehicles.

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.

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

I’ve been a strong advocate for our parks and natural green areas, and as a member of the Committee on Parks and Recreation I’ve pushed for more funding to keep our parks safe, clean and enjoyable for the communities they serve. The pandemic has shown how valuable these spaces are and I am committed to increasing access to our city’s parks and ensuring they’re funded at the levels we need them to be so that they can serve multiple purposes in supporting and protecting our families.

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.

3. Common Sense Waste Management (p. 3)

I completely agree, and if we’re going to reach our Zero Waste goal by 2030 then the city will have to encourage the public to change their habits while getting the private sector and our government to cooperate and work together. I believe that waste management is an incredibly important issue and I’m dedicated to doing everything I can to help ensure the city meets its Zero Waste goal by 2030. We have passed legislation in the Council to regulate commercial entities but must also continue to fund important initiatives like city-wide composting.

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.

4. Energy and Infrastructure (p. 5)

We have to update and build new infrastructure in order for us to be prepared for Climate Change – to not only stop its progress as much as we can, but to also address future unavoidable and potential disasters. I have been a longstanding advocate for building/upgrading our infrastructure to help us fully move towards green energy so that we can create new jobs while protecting our environment, and any responsible development must include plans for public and private housing. I am fully committed to supporting this future for NYC and will continue to be a staunch advocate on the City Council.

5. Transportation (p. 5)

As mentioned above, I fully support expanding bike lanes and increasing the ability for people to use zero emission methods of transportation such as bikes. I have been and will continue to be an advocate to improve bus routes, as well as upgrade our subway system so that New Yorkers have a transportation system they can rely on, regardless of disability or ability to pay.

6. Resiliency (p. 6)

I’ve been vocal about the city’s need for a 5-borough resiliency infrastructure plan in order to ensure that we’re as prepared as possible for the effects of climate change. I’m committed to ensuring that the citywide resiliency plan that we craft takes into account the needs of each and every community of this city, especially those vulnerable coastal communities of color and those affected by displacement, and will continue to push for our city to do more with a focus on equity.

7. Solid Waste (p. 7)



I fully support policies and initiatives to get New York to both reduce our current levels of waste and improve the efficiency in which we process waste in the future. I believe that we need to become more efficient so that we have as green of a system as possible. Likewise, we need to be more mindful about recycling and craft policies which encourage citizens to buy in and do their part.

### 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.

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

As mentioned above, as a member of the Committee on Parks and Recreation I have consistently pushed for more equity in parks and natural areas funding, and fully support the utilization of waterfronts as key to the city's resiliency plans. I have brought over a billion dollars into my community to create more resilient park infrastructure and to upgrade spaces long-neglected. As a community gardens district, I will continue to support the activities and education taking place there – from bee-keeping to gardening - as well as funding great organizations like the LES Ecology Center who implement great programming across the city.

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

I fully support and am committed to preventing lead poisoning of any New Yorker, and fully support common sense legislation which would require in-depth investigations from DOHMH when any minor tests positive for elevated blood lead levels, more collaboration between city agencies, and other proactive and preventative methods in order to put an end to these preventable tragedies. I have introduced and passed legislation to address lead poisoning for pregnant persons and have been an advocate for the injustices faced by our NYCHA families around this issue.

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

With each year breaking another record as the hottest in recorded history, we simply have to do all we can to protect our fellow New Yorkers from heat vulnerability. Which is why I fully support and want to expand our Cool Neighborhoods program, am dedicated to protecting, maintaining and expanding our urban forest in order to protect from extreme heat, and believe we should be actively evaluating any increased risk of exposure on children. I also have been focused on improving spaces to escape heat like our public pools, libraries and promoting access to energy-efficient appliances for all New Yorkers, especially our low-income families.

#### 11. Clean Air for All (p. 10)

We have to do all we can to ensure we can breathe fresh clear air when we step outside, and in order to do so we have to drastically reduce our emissions in order to protect air quality. I fully support electrifying our transportation sources (like our school buses!) and layout wherever possible, and updating our heating sources in order to reduce

emission rates. I also am an advocate to finally reduce our reliance on peaker power plants, seeing the effects of having a large Con Ed plant in the heart of my district and closest to low-income families living in public housing.

## 12. Clean Water for All (p.11)

New York is proud of our clean and fresh tap water, but it's not a luxury that we should take for granted. I fully support measures to ensure fresh water for all New Yorkers such as expanding NYC's Green Infrastructure programs, installing more bioswales and rain gardens wherever possible, and empowering the DEP to conduct regular studies of our water supply and make the findings public.

## 13. Sustainable Food Systems (p. 11)

I am committed to ensuring that NYC families have access to sustainable, fresh and quality food supplies and will advocate for the expansion of community and urban agriculture in New York City, expand programs such as SNAP, FRESH, GrowNYC and more in order to increase access to local and affordable produce, and expanding the number of NYC public schools which provide educational programs on healthy eating and sustainability.