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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:

Office sought & district number:

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:

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 the parent of a child effected by lead poisoning in the early 90's I educated myself on the disease and ways to prevent it from happening to other children. Though some of the effects on my child were irreversible, I felt it was important to educate other families. It was a very difficult struggle to seek medical help for my child, fight for repairs, move my family to a shelter in another borough and all of the other things related to taking care of a family. It made me think how are other parents getting through this and began meeting and organizing with others to bring change. I became chair of the New York City Coalition to End Lead Poisoning and continue to serve presently. Along with a coalition of parents, tenants, health care providers, clergy, legal services organizations, environmental justice groups, housing advocates, educators, elected officials and others, we fought a twelve year fight against the real estate lobby that resulted in the passage of the most comprehensive childhood lead poisoning prevention bill in the country (Local Law 1 of 2004). I have also advocated successfully for lowering the blood lead action levels locally and nationally, removing lead from drinking water, removing hazardous toys and beauty products from local stores and discontinuing the use of harmful

pesticides in public housing, reducing the number of bus depots in our community and more.

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)

Advocated for the use of hybrid clean air buses and ending the use of fossil fuel burning buses by the MTA and I am fully supportive of the points outlined in the policy agenda.

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)

As a government staffer I worked with community partners and various "friends of " groups to improve parks in the district through the allocation of capital funding, organizing and participating in park beautification, clean ups, tree lighting and "It's My Park Day" events, I have also advocated against infill projects in public housing and other proposals that threatened to build on open space in housing developments. Working with tenants, community stakeholders and clergy we won the fight against the rezoning of Lenox Terrace which would have resulted in 5 new 28 story towers on the the footprint of the development, significantly reducing air space, sun light, greenery, and open space for the existing residents. I support the conservation of parks and preservation of green space in our city.

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 am absolutely on board with promoting and publicizing behavioral practices that help meet recycling, composting and other waste management goals outlined in the NYLCV I am Comprehensive Waste Management Plan.

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)

I agree with the points in the Energy and Infrastructure section of the agenda and look forward to bringing green jobs and working to lower emissions from NYCHA and other city-owned buildings.

6. Transportation (p. 5)



I am in support.

7. Resiliency (p. 6)

I am in support of developing a city-wide resiliency plan as described in the NYLCV policy agenda.

8. Solid Waste (p. 7)

Yes I support the solid waste policy goals in the NYLCV plan and will work towards the adoption residential organic waste recycling and support legislation to reduce non recyclable packing and other unnecessary waste.

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)

Yes. I fully agree with increasing investments in parks and working with public-private partnerships to maintain parks, active water fronts and natural areas.

10. Lead Poisoning Prevention (p. 9)

I am in support of all measures to eradicate child hood lead poisoning.

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

I will advocate for more energy efficient air conditioners, cooling centers and green infrastructure, greening and other methods to reduce over heating and resulting health issues.

12. Clean Air for All (p. 10)

I am in full support of the electrification of New York City vehicles and training and jobs for the district as well as business and contracts for MWBE's.

13. Clean Water for All (p.11)

I agree with the points outlined in the Clean Water for All Section" and will work to see more funding allocated to the testing of water in my community.

14. Sustainable Food Systems (p. 11)

I fully support sustainable food systems including urban farming, local farmers, community gardens and making quality local organically grown food to all families. Encourage aquaponics and gardening curriculum in public schools. Support the expansion of both community and commercial urban agriculture in New York City.