



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

politics@nylcv.org / www.nylcv.org

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: Delia M. DeRiggi-Whitton

Office sought (& district number if applicable): Nassau County Legislature, LD 11

Campaign e-mail: dderiggiwhitton@yahoo.com

Campaign phone: 516-316-9135

Website: deliaderiggiwhitton.com

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LegislatorDeliaDeRiggiWhitton/>

Twitter handle: N/A

Campaign manager's name and email: Toni Kessel, tadkessel@yahoo.com

Press Secretary's name and email: N/A

Scheduler's name and email: N/A

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.

My family instilled in me a passion for environmental preservation. During his tenure as Mayor of Glen Cove, my father, Hon. Donald DeRiggi, led the City Council in its successful efforts to ban single-use Styrofoam products from being used in the City, and did so decades before such bans were commonplace.

His example of leadership is part of what inspires me to protect and conserve our natural environment, and I have pursued political actions and decisions in adherence with my vision. I have a keen interest in advocating for investments in our sewer infrastructure, and am delighted by the progress in Sea Cliff's ongoing sewerage initiatives.

My district includes a large amount of coastline and I have made it my top priority to preserve and restore our water quality for the benefit of our communities and our future generations. As we continue to pursue and explore new, environmentally friendly legislative initiatives, I frequently

call upon my relationships with local environmental groups in my district so that I can solicit ideas for improvements that I can implement at the County level.

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)

I fully support efforts to increase the County’s reliance on “green” and renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and improvements to our infrastructure that will make it easier to utilize alternatives such as electric and alternative-fuel cars. Furthermore, I am an ardent opponent of fracking and at the local level spearheaded efforts to enact bipartisan legislation that prohibits the County from using snow-melt pellets made from fracking water.

3. Transportation (p. 6)

I strongly support transit-oriented and sustainable development. Better mass transit options will also make our communities more walkable, and the sum of these parts will reduce our carbon footprint by empowering people who do not want to drive to pursue a car-free lifestyle without any limitations. One way I followed through on this vision is by securing funding to restore shuttle bus service connecting the Port Washington and Roslyn train stations to better serve industrial parks and senior-living facilities along the route. Nassau County has also continued to provide robust financial support for mass transit (NICE bus) to supplement lost revenue streams caused by a sharp reduction in ridership during the pandemic.

4. Resiliency (p. 6 - 7)



Nassau County and the City of Glen Cove continue to explore and devise natural and sustainable long-term solutions for environmental challenges

Within the 11th district, I have been a tireless advocate in partnership with the City of Glen Cove to deduce the source of waste contamination that has resulted in the extended closure of Crescent Beach. I have aided the City's efforts to correct this issue by securing County resources for water quality studies and including a study examining long-term solutions for the problem in our Capital budget plan. We are on the verge of implementing an approach that will rely heavily upon natural sea grass populations to both filter pollutants and establish robust root systems that enhance shoreline resiliency.

5. Solid Waste (p. 7)

New York State's ban on single-use plastic bags and Nassau County's recent actions to prohibit the use of single-use Styrofoam food service products are important steps toward reducing the amount of solid waste our County produces. I am disappointed, however, that Nassau County has not availed itself of tools created by the State's plastic-bag ban that are designed to encourage residents to seek more sustainable alternatives to single-use paper bags.

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)

I am deeply committed to improving water quality and have supported efforts to bolster our sewer infrastructure within my district and throughout our region. The Legislature continues to strongly support the Bay Park Conveyance Project, a nearly half-billion dollar investment in establishing state-of-the-art waste management systems that will greatly enhance the ecological health of the Western Bays and Reynolds Channel.

In addition, I played a role in completing a sewer study in coastal portions of my district, advocated for replacing failing streamside septic systems and assisted in efforts to secure \$12 million to repair degrading sewers in Glen Cove. I will continue to be an advocate for improvements in this realm and remain committed to finding long-term solutions for remediating the contamination of Crescent Beach and preserving our single-source aquifer. I am also continuing to work closely with the County's soil and water conservation district and other environmental issues to preserve and clean up our waterfront lands.

7. Sustainable Development (p. 9)

I am a strong supporter of community-driven development that emphasizes the principles of smart growth, environmentally friendly LEED construction principles, and preservation of green open spaces. As I described earlier, robust mass transit and walkability are core elements of sustainable development, and modern septic systems and sewer infrastructure will unlock additional opportunities for environmentally sound economic development and downtown revitalization.

8. Parks and Open Spaces (p.11)

In an age of ever-increasing development, I believe it is essential to protect and conserve our natural environment through County-led preservation efforts and emphasizing smart development choices that blend economic development while maximizing the preservation of green spaces in our county. The COVID-19 pandemic only served to further underscore the importance of these spaces as the interest in safe, socially distanced outdoor activities and recreation increased dramatically. I support Nassau County's efforts to acquire and preserve open space not only for use and enjoyment by the public, but also protect environmentally sensitive parcels and protect our single-source aquifer from contamination and the risk of salt-water infiltration.

9. Farms and Local Food (p. 11)

I am an advocate for organic farming and locally grown food and am proud to work with local organizations to support local farmer's markets that make these products more widely available to the general public. In particular, I have worked with the Port Washington-based branch of Plant a Row for the Hungry, a charitable organization that seeks to address food insecurity in our community through organic square-foot and container-garden agriculture, to establish a permanent community garden at the County-owned Long Island Science Museum. This has greatly amplified their harvests, enabling them to help even more deserving families in our community in an environmentally sound manner.