



30 Broad Street – 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
212-361-6350

[politics@nylcv.org](mailto:politics@nylcv.org) / [www.nylcv.org](http://www.nylcv.org)

## 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: Diana Ayala

Office sought & district number: City Council District 8

Campaign e-mail: dayala879@gmail.com

Campaign phone: 347-341-3484

Website: N/A

Facebook page: N/A

Twitter handle: twitter.com/DianaAyalaNYC

Campaign manager's name and email: N/A

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.

As a member of the City Council I have consistently pushed for a pro-environment agenda. We have to do everything we can to protect our environment, which is a huge aspect of our health, as well as make sure our city is as prepared as possible for the adversarial effects of climate change which our city is already experiencing, and black and brown communities will experience at disproportionate rates. The biggest accomplishment I've experienced was the passing of the Climate Mobilization Act, which will reduce building emissions, and will help us greatly in our battle against climate change. I have been and will continue to be dedicated to passing a pro-environment agenda, and look forward to continuing that fight in the City Council.

## 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)

We simply have to change how we get from place to place, focusing on policies which will lessen our dependence on personal vehicles and increase use of public transportation and zero emission forms of travel like cycling. I am supportive of congestion pricing, and believe that we have to change our city's fleet, decreasing its size and doing everything we can to transition it to 100% 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.

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

Our parks and public spaces are the crown jewels for many neighborhoods, we have to protect them and ensure that they're adequately funded. These green spaces are some of our most valuable environmental assets and provide comfort and increase the quality of life for New Yorkers.

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 fully support policies and programs aimed at reducing the amount of waste we produce and believe that reaching the City's Zero Waste goal by 2030 has to be a priority of this next City Council. Getting public buy in and cooperation between the public and private sectors will be

key in reaching this goal, and I am committed to ensuring that we do everything we can to meet it.

### 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 fully agree that we have to do everything we can to upgrade our energy supply so that we can move the city to 100% green energy sources. This will take a lot of work from building new infrastructure to renovating and replacing already existing infrastructure, which will help create thousands of good paying jobs.

#### 6. Transportation (p. 5)

As I said above, I fully support policies and programs which move the city off of personal vehicles and encourage the public to utilize public transportation options and cycling. We have to expand public transportation options, creating new subway and bus lines while improving already existing infrastructure. This is a key way to reduce our emissions and the City Council must prioritize it going forward.

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

We need a resilience plan for the entire city, so that every community has the protections needed in order to mitigate the worst effects of climate change. We have to utilize more waterfront areas as resilience infrastructure and make sure that we protect frontline communities, which are black and brown communities, which are set to experience the worst effects of climate change. I am fully committed to seeing this through and look forward to continuing this important work on the City Council.

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

As mentioned above, I am fully supportive of upgrading our solid waste management system, and believe that we need to both get much more efficient and green with how we handle waste, and find ways to increase recycling and reduce our current levels of waste. I believe public information campaigns will be very effective in getting New Yorkers to buy into these goals and do their part, which will be crucial.

## 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)

Our outdoor parks, natural areas, and active waterfronts have to be protected from budgetary cuts and outside influences. These areas for many New Yorkers was the only way to escape the horrors of COVID-19 as we had to practice social distancing in order to do our part during the worst months of the pandemic. As mentioned above, I fully support our public parks and will do everything I can to ensure that we maintain and protect their funding so that every New Yorker can enjoy their beauty.

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

We have to do much more in order to tackle the issue of lead poisoning and I fully support charging DOHMH with the responsibility of conducting investigations when high lead levels are found in a minor. Likewise we have to make sure we are also doing preventative measures in order to stop these tragedies from happening in the first place.

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

With NYC experiencing hotter and hotter summers each year with no end in sight we have to make sure that we're prepared to handle the heat and protect New Yorkers from heat vulnerability. It's why I fully support the Cool Neighborhoods program, as well as expanding and maintaining our urban forest which helps provide much needed shade to neighborhoods across the city.

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

Ensuring that New York City has clean air is critical to New Yorker's health and wellbeing and we have to make sure we're doing everything we can to protect our air quality. Reducing emissions is critical to doing this, which is why I am fully supportive of transitioning the city's fleet to becoming fully electric, including school buses, and policies which make us less reliant on personal vehicles and promotes public transportation.

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

Clean water is just as critical to the long term health and wellbeing of New Yorkers, and I fully support giving the DEP more power to monitor and conduct studies of our water supply as well as funding programs such as Green Infrastructure programs which will help ensure that New Yorkers have access to clean water.

14. Sustainable Food Systems (p. 11)

We need to promote sustainable eating, and I'm fully supportive of programs such as SNAP, GrowNYC, and FRESH which help give New Yorkers access to fresh, local, and healthy produce options. I think these programs should be expanded, as well as expansion of healthy and sustainable eating programs in our public schools so that our children can get educated in these important fields.