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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: **Council Member Francisco Moya**

Office sought & district number: **New York City Council, District 21**

Campaign e-mail: **moyafornyc@gmail.com**

Campaign phone: **973-883-5308**

Website: **moyaforcouncil.com**

Facebook page: n/a

Twitter handle: **@FranciscoMoyaNY**

Campaign manager's name and email: **Sophia Brown, sophbrown29@gmail.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.

I am a community leader and activist, born and raised in Corona, Queens. I have represented East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, LeFrak City and Corona in the City Council since 2018. I've been a leader in my community for decades, beginning at age 15 when I founded the Corona Gardens Neighborhood Association, to organize members of the community in order to improve the neighborhood's quality of life. In my time in public office, I have been committed to advancing a pro-environment agenda. I believe in fighting for policies that center the most vulnerable communities who so often bear the brunt of the economic and public health harms caused by environmental degradation and climate change.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the connections between environmental issues and all other issues New Yorkers faced, and exacerbated existing disparities in our communities. My district was one of the hardest hit by COVID in the entire country. I am committed to ensuring that all New Yorkers, regardless of race, age, immigration status, or zip code gets the same access to relief and resources in order to emerge from this crisis stronger than when we went into it — and that includes being prepared for future climate and environment related challenges.



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)

Communities like mine are too often the ones who bear the brunt of the negative effects of inefficient transportation, which often manifests in high rates of asthma and other public health challenges. I commit to continuing to represent my constituents in District 21 by fighting to protect our community from the harmful effects of air pollution, and pushing policy to help us move away from inefficient transportation systems.

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)

Access to parks and open space is an invaluable resource for New Yorkers, even more so during COVID when New Yorkers are unable to gather together inside. I believe it is critical that we value these spaces in our communities, and ensure that all New Yorkers have equal access to parks and open spaces.

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 committed to continuing my support on Council for the City's Zero Waste goal by 2030, and collaborating with government agencies, community leaders and private industry to pursue creative solutions to meet this goal.

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 am committed to working to combat climate change and ensure the changes made benefit and protect disadvantaged communities. I recently co-sponsored legislation which requires the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) to conduct a feasibility study on utilizing the land of Rikers Island for different types of renewable energy creation and storage. This legislation is a strong example of the ways in which Council can advocate for and execute creative solutions to improve NYC's energy infrastructure.

6. Transportation (p. 5)

Making public transportation more accessible and affordable for all New Yorkers is a critical part of decreasing NYC's reliance on less sustainable forms of transportation. On Council, I've advocated for legislation decreasing transit fares for New Yorkers, and to increase the quality of public transportation for underserved communities.

7. Resiliency (p. 6)

As Chair of the Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises, and as a member of the Land Use Committee, I consistently work on the issues of building resiliency and climate change adaptation in land use decisions. It is critical for us to prepare our communities for the effects of climate change that are already occurring, such as increasing storms and variable temperatures.

8. Solid Waste (p. 7)

I am committed to working to improve NYC's waste management system to decrease overall waste, increase efficiency and prevent additional harm to our most vulnerable communities

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)

Parks, natural areas and waterfronts are critical parts of our neighborhoods, and I am committed to working to protect them from contamination and pollution. On Council, I have supported new anti-littering education and advertisement campaigns, and led my own community park cleanups.

10. Lead Poisoning Prevention (p. 9)

In my first term on Council, I voted in favor of significant legislation on the issue of lead poisoning prevention which was the biggest change to NYC's lead enforcement laws in over a decade. These bills were focused on improving lead testing and inspection standards for housing, schools and public parks, increasing education programs to prevent lead poisoning in children and improving accountability measures for landlords.

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

I have voted in favor of legislation expanding NYC's green roof programs through updates to building code, which has shown to have significant effects on urban heat island effect.

12. Clean Air for All (p. 10)

On Council, I have voted in favor of legislation in the last few years focused on decreasing air pollution and addressing the serious health disparities caused by pollution.

13. Clean Water for All (p.11)

I have supported a variety of legislation focused on improving the city's water quality and protecting NYC's waterways, including bills to update the city's stormwater system and to require increased inspections of water tanks.

14. Sustainable Food Systems (p. 11)

Ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to affordable, healthy and sustainable food is a top priority in my work on Council. Issues of waste, food deserts and diet-related health issues are disproportionately prevalent within lower income communities and communities of color. I prioritize legislation that tackles these inequities while also working to build an overall more sustainable food system in NYC. I've recently worked on legislation to increase the availability of information and education on SNAP for immigrant communities.