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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: **Jason A. Richberg**

Office sought (& district number if applicable): **Suffolk County Legislator 15th District**

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

Campaign phone: **(516) 697-2189**

Website: **www.Jasonrichberg.com**

Facebook page: [Jason Richberg for Suffolk County Legislator | Facebook](#)

Twitter handle: <https://twitter.com/jasonrichberg>

Campaign manager's name and email: **Claire Mangelli** clairemangelli@gmail.com

Press Secretary's name and email: **Mike Madia-** Richbergforsuffolk@gmail.com

Scheduler's name and email: **Mike Madia-Richbergforsuffolk@gmail.com**

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 have helped to ensure we preserve our water quality and open space, by advocating for funding for sewers from the federal government and continuously working to preserve open space and farmland for future. I have also advocated for programs that would increase protection for our coastline and have worked to ensure that we are replenishing our shellfish in our waters to help clean our water ways.

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 am a string supporter of finding innovative waves to generate electricity and to strengthen our energy independence. I believe that building offshore wind and finding ways to build hydroelectric options on our local water ways as well as increase the durability and dependability of our current electric grid is key to combating energy independence. I also believe that we in government can lead by making our facilities LEED certified as well as using green alternatives for our flat roofs. I would also look to expand the solar program to include other facilities.

3. Transportation (p. 6)

I am and would continue to advocate for a hybrid and electric fleet of vehicles, and would work that we get our transportation system to do the same. I would also advocate for electric charging stations in municipal areas, to give more access to those in lower income areas to have access to better more sustainable transportation. I have and would continue to advocate for smarter transportation and road development for bus lanes.

4. Resiliency (p. 6 - 7)

Being a representative of a coastal district, we have seen the need to ensure natural coastal hardening. This would include working to increase wetland protections , sand on barrier beaches and other systems to stop erosion. By working with our partners in other levels of government and agencies to ensure protections of underground utilities and services. This would include increasing protections of our coastal utilities and structures to make sure that in emergencies they are not only protected but also have the ability to run.

5. Solid Waste (p. 7)

I would advocate for better protections to limit single use plastics, and would work with other groups to work on expanding solid waste and recycling plans. I would also look at what role the county can play in any composting programs. I would advocate for recycled materials to be used in innovative county projects.

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 would work with my colleagues to strengthen stormwater protections, create regional plans for our resources and work to come up with innovative ways to deal with stormwater. I would work on increasing the standards of our water treatment plants to remove the nitrogen from our waterways and maintain a high environmental standard. I would work to increase the advanced wastewater treatment program for homes to allow for more residents to take part of the program.

7. Sustainable Development (p. 9)

I will work to continue the work of transit oriented development, and work to ensure that where there are safe and nontoxic structures we would encourage the reuse and repurposing of that structure as opposed to building new buildings. I would work to ensure that native species still stay in areas, especially our wetlands to help protect the ecosystem. I would work with our land bank to ensure that toxic areas are remediated and repurposed to help not only the taxpayers but our ecosystem.

8. Parks and Open Spaces (p.11)

I will work to protect open space and preservation programs hoping to repurpose some areas for community gardens. I will continue to protect the pine barrens area and the greenspaces we have and work to diversify the areas we have in our open space program.

9. Farms and Local Food (p. 11)

I will continue the work of helping new farmers join the industry whether it be on traditional farms or in aquaculture. I will help to promote our local farm economy and the farmers that bring us our local food. I will work with localities to create pocket parks where available as well.