



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

politics@nylcv.org / 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
- ☒ 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: Jennifer Gutierrez

Office sought & district number: NYC Council, District 34

Campaign e-mail: jengutierreznyc@gmail.com

Campaign phone: 646-696-4256

Website: <https://www.jennifergutierrez2021.com/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Jen-Gutierrez-NYC-102641975213406>

Twitter handle: @jengutierreznyc

Campaign Coordinator name and email: Daniela Finlay/ danielamariafinlay@gmail.com

Scheduler's name and email: Daniela Finlay/ danielamariafinlay@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 believe that I try to promote my community's pro environment agenda climate justice goals in a lot of what I do though my work as at the City Council, and an advocate. Since introducing participating budgeting to District 34, as the organizer for the district, I have personally invested time to building out our Parks and Environment committees. This committee would compete with other committees to get their ideas on the final ballot, and my goal was always to be as equitable as possible. Through this process we were able to allocate over \$2 million to invest in playgrounds at NYCHA, upgrades to parks, and invest in hundreds of trees throughout the district. In a district with such a small amount of park space, these investments are incredibly meaningful. As Chief of Staff to Council Member Reynoso I was heavily involved with district operation to support his bill to reduce waste capacity in the City of New York. This made is so that three historically burdened communities including North BK, would not be able to take in any more of the City's trash.

Finally, I am part of local clean up group, Clean Up Bushwick. This group not only keeps our neighborhood clean, but informs neighbors on all that we can be doing to reduce waste in our homes, streets, and landfills and I am really proud of the work that we've done for Bushwick.

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)

Our district, has the unique characteristic of our playgrounds and parks laying right over the BQE, where hundreds of vehicles run up and down the expressway. For the Southside of Williamsburg, this has been detrimental to our health and our green space, but has been a tremendous trigger in our advocacy for environmental justice. It is because we understand emissions too well, that we have organize demonstrations and a local campaign to support decking the BQE to create more park space and reduce pollutants from filling the air and our lungs. I strongly support reclaiming street space for the people over continuing to accommodate cars such as under the BQE along Meeker Ave, strengthening our bike infrastructure, and mandating that all city vehicles be low emission.

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 previously mentioned, many of our parks in our part of Williamsburg (where the majority of families are Black and Brown) are either along the BQE, or are designed to be black top playgrounds with very little to no natural area. It is crucial that we invest in these small but crucial park spaces and prioritize expanding where we can.

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 absolutely support an aggressive plan to get us to our Zero x 2030 goals. Sadly, we saw a huge divestment from the DSNY this budget while the NYPD barely felt a cut, and so a lot of the initiatives that could support behavioral changes such as organics in piloted areas and education, were cut. I believe our City must prioritize these efforts once more, to engage with communities in their languages, and to get buy in from local leaders. Finally, the implementation of commercial waste zones will require strong enforcement. I am super familiar with the bill, its goals, and all of the communities that it aims to help (EJ communities, workers, immigrants, businesses) and so I would like to be a part of that implementation.

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 think it is crucial that City Council take an aggressive approach to aligning their leverage for renewable energy and green infrastructure with our larger climate change goals. The Council must stand behind a principled plan to decrease emissions in their communities and the City at large. This means ensuring that Rikers Island really becomes a place for energy storage and renewable energy generation and fast track city owned buildings such as schools and NYCHA for emissions reduction.

6. Transportation (p. 5)

I would support a City Wide bike plan as a form of the radical changes we need. District 34 has more bike lanes than other districts, but connectivity, low stress spots, and proceed bike lanes continue to be in deficit. I think building such a plan so that cyclists can connect from community to community would be vital and invests in greater bike infrastructure. I would also like to see an expansion of the open space model, but with more of a deliberate roll out to engage with communities like mine, about it.

7. Resiliency (p. 6)

It's a shame that we are not being aggressive about resiliency for communities along the waterfront like NYCHA specifically. We have to take lessons learned from Hurricane Sandy, and just Climate Change in general to prioritize communities of color in the way we respond to our resiliency efforts.

8. Solid Waste (p. 7)

I absolutely support restoring funds to maintain the City's organics program and support the implementation for a mandatory residential program. We know how crucial reducing food waste is out Zero x 30 goals, and how impactful instituting this program can be on our reduction of waste sent to landfills.

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)

I think it's important that when we talk about budget justice, it really is intended to support every other service necessary to support communities. Investing in existing park spaces and prioritizing parks in low income or communities of color will help insure that we are serious about preserving parks and natural spaces.

10. Lead Poisoning Prevention (p. 9)

It is truly sad that while knowing what we know about lead and how harmful it is, there is still a lack of coordination from City agencies to prevent exposure in new developments. I would work to mandate a multi agency line of communication and accountability standards to ensure that are serious about lead mitigation.

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

I would support keeping cooling centers open, expand them, and invest in more engagement about their existence so more New Yorkers could take advantage of them.

12. Clean Air for All (p. 10)

I think a very tangible action our City can take is to invest in an entirely electric fleet of City vehicles including Sanitation, School buses, Senior Center vehicles, and MTA buses.

13. Clean Water for All (p.11)

I would be proud to support policies that keep our water clean taking lessons learned from other city's, NYC really needs to be serious about clean water for all. This means investing in green infrastructure that make it possible and working with the DEP to implement a reporting process.

14. Sustainable Food Systems (p. 11)

What we saw throughout this pandemic was our reliance on social programs to get or families the foods they need, and the explicit demand for fresh foods over typical canned pantry items. However we know that basing such a vital service on funding from governments is not stable, as we are watching now on the federal level. We really need to invest in urban agriculture to that our communities have a stake in the foods they bring into their homes.