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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](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.
- General election endorsements will be made by the NYLCV State Board on July 29, 2021.

## CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate name: John Giuffre

Office sought (& district number if applicable): Nassau County Legislature, 8<sup>th</sup> District

Campaign e-mail: Giuffre4Legislator@gmail.com

Campaign phone: (516) 820-0288

Website: Under construction

Facebook page: Giuffre for County Legislature

Twitter handle: TBD

Campaign manager's name and email: Mr. Edward W. Powers; EWAP@optimum.net

Press Secretary's name and email: Mr. Michael Deery; disleofbones@aol.com

Scheduler's name and email: Ms. Tammy L. Grasser; Tammy@GiuffreLaw.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 strongly believe in taking personal responsibility in the reduction of an individual or business' impact on the environment. Toward that end, I have taken significant steps to reduce my own carbon foot print by moving my law office to a location that is just blocks from my home, thus eliminating the need to commute by car. Furthermore, my law practice has been robustly pursuing remote work for many years – well before the current pandemic. Remote work allows for a much smaller carbon footprint and is an important part of work/life balance.

If elected, my focus will continue to be on common sense, affordable environmental solutions that help to incentivize the people and the businesses in my Long Island community to reduce their environmental impact and to take practical, affirmative steps toward creating a healthier environment and more energy efficient infrastructure.

## 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)

My first public position on renewable energy was an essay I wrote in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade concerning solar energy. Our assignment was to investigate energy sources that did not rely on oil. Even since then, I have believed in the utility of renewable energy sources such as solar power, wind, as well as geothermal. I am also a believer in maximum efficiency achievable through technology. The simple use of LED light bulbs, for example, has reduced power consumption, increased bulb life and reduced the need for dependence on mercury-based fluorescent lighting.

Not only will these renewable energy sources protect our environment, the building and tapping of these resources will result in jobs for the citizens of Long Island. There are many win-win solutions to meet Long Island’s energy needs while protecting the environment.

#### 3. Transportation (p. 6)

Transportation infrastructure is vital to Long Island. I believe we should have a 21<sup>st</sup> century rail road that is fully electric, without the need for reliance on diesel engines. I also support the use of electric vehicles particularly as the cost of that technology comes down.

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

I support projects that make our Long Island home more resilient, such as creating and providing natural buffers along the coast, protecting our wetlands and shorelines from erosion. I also support measures that help to harden the electric grid so as to keep us safe in the more frequent storms we are experiencing due to changing climate conditions.

5. Solid Waste (p. 7)

With respect to policies and technologies that can process waste to reduce the impact on the environment, I support incentivizing and expanding regional recycling facilities, anaerobic digesters, and compost sites.

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)

As a life-long Long Island resident, I know that water defines life in our community and is one of the main drivers of our local economy.

I am personally and professionally committed to helping Long Island's water-reliant businesses succeed. I also support policies that create and maintain robust natural buffers along the coast to mitigate erosion, increase storm water capture and prevent run off, and upgrade wastewater treatment facilities to reduce the amount of untreated sanitary sewage entering our waterways. I also support the continuation of the CCMP, Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, to protect and preserve our vital estuaries and I support the incorporation of the CCMP recommendations into town and village codes.

7. Sustainable Development (p. 9)

As a member of my Village's zoning board, I have pursued training opportunities that focused on downtown re-vitalization projects and have learned about "best practices" in creating liveable and sustainable communities. These communities, like my own here in Stewart Manor, are walkable and convenient, and still maintain the suburban "feel" that we on Long Island have come to love and enjoy.

Preserving wildlife and Long Island's fragile ecosystem means preserving open spaces, and taking steps to pursue development opportunities wisely. In the event of infrastructure money coming to Long Island in the near future, the environmentally sound use of that

money will be important to our communities. That will require a level of foresight and planning which I will wholeheartedly endorse. We are going to spend the money anyway – the real question will be whether we will create and rebuild our infrastructure in a way that complements and helps sustain our environment. Building renewable energy components into the infrastructure, planning for a carbon “less” future, and working towards these goals in the planning stages will go a long way to reduce costs and achieve sustainable communities.

8. Parks and Open Spaces (p.11)

I support maintaining open spaces for both public enjoyment and for the positive environmental impact such spaces provide, particularly along the fragile wetlands and shorelines. The creativity demonstrated by the Town of Hempstead in re-purposing town facilities and creating parkland from landfill, for example, show what can be achieved when the environment has “top of mind awareness” among those charged with being stewards of our public lands, parks, and open spaces.

9. Farms and Local Food (p. 11)

The most technologically advanced sector of the American economy has, historically, been farming. We, on Long Island, should honor that tradition by promoting policies that encourage local farms and education in farming.