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2021 Environmental Questionnaire for Westchester 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 Westchester 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, May 14, 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: Jose I. Alvarado

Office sought (& district number if applicable): County Legislator, 17th District

Campaign e-mail: info@alvarado.com

Campaign phone: 914-359-4944

Website: AlvaradoforYonkers.com

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Press Secretary's name and email: Sam Stuto [sstut001@gmail.com](mailto:ssut001@gmail.com)

Scheduler's name and email: Milagros Gutierres Milagrosenid@aol.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.

1. As a returning legislator and currently serving my 12th non-consecutive year in the legislature, I can say that my voting record speaks for itself as far as the environment is concern. I have been fortunate that during these 12 years of service in elected office, I have served in a Democratic Majority that has been progressive and very environmentally friendly. I am a true believer that we need to leave a better world for/to our children, I cannot think of any environmentally friendly legislation I have not support. All politics being local, my biggest

legislative/environmental fight has been the proper functioning of the Yonkers Joint Sewage Treatment Plant in Southwest Yonkers, within the 17th Legislative District. The Astorino administration delayed several upgrade projects at this plant during his 8 years of environmental destruction, and now that the Latimer administration is in place, and I am back, those projects are back online. This plant has been there for over 70 years and it often pollutes the Hudson River and the air on a regular basis. On my return last year, the fight was to get regular upgrades up to date, now we are even hopeful that this plant, that processes of 60% of the County' sewage, can actually be covered so that all sewage treatment processes can happen within. We, the Legislature, and the County Executive, have included the covering of this plant as a priority in the Biden's National Infrastructure Plan. In fact, Congressman Bowman will visit the plant in early June to support our request to the Federal Government. The covering of this plant, if it happens, will become one of the biggest clean air/clean water projects in my district, and I cannot wait. My answers to questions 2 – 9 also demonstrate my environmental record.

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 Westchester 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 support NYSERDA certification as a clean energy community. Government should, as a priority, always purchase renewable energy and deploy solar panels, and use wind wherever possible.

3. Transportation (p.5)

I support adoption of the NYS Stretch Energy Code and the goal of 100% clean energy by 2040. I am open to and will support efforts to convert organic waste to energy. I broadly support incentives for energy efficiency. Government should always be searching for new and emerging green technologies and incorporating them into projects and policies. Technology should be used to retro fit buildings, both public and private, for clean energy. Public Transportation is a major tool in the efforts to attain clean air. I support increased funding for Metro North and expanding the capacity of the White Plains station.

4. Resiliency (p. 6)

I wholeheartedly support resiliency projects especially at the shoreline. The Hudson River, although precious, has been abused and threatened by industrial waste and neglect. I am very much involved in funding and overseeing improvement projects to the sewage treatment plant for a clean river and better air quality. As my own initiative, I have funded the conversion of a nearby vacant and garbage strewn lot into a waterfront park. I fully expect its development to be green and otherwise environmentally appropriate. I am a supporter of projects to expand. River walk in Yonkers. We have to get serious about flooding and better protection of the shoreline. For this to be successful, government must be active in both the public and private sectors.

5. Solid Waste (p. 7)

I support incentivizing and direct government actions to expand recycling, compost sites as well as other methods to decrease solid waste management's impact on the environment. Although a city responsibility and not county, I support curbside collection and commercial s. Better education programs and incentives are needed to encourage community composting as well as at schools and other organizations and institutions. In general, I support policies that will reduce single use plastic items in favor of re-usable / recyclable materials. I also favor project stewardship programs for packaging I supported the county's ban plastic bags before being pre-empted by the state. I am supportive of enacting a fee on paper bags. As we go forward government must use developing technologies for re-cycling, general conservation, expansion of composting, and improved air quality in its purchasing and other policies.

Protecting People and Natural Resources

All New Yorkers deserve indoor and outdoor environments that are free of contamination and pollution.

6. Clean Land, Air, and Water (p. 9)

With a healthy dose of modesty, I can call myself a leader in the local fight for clean water and air and creating open spaces. For many years I have organized and worked with the

Ludlow Park Community to improve the county sewage treatment plant on the Hudson River in terms of its discharge and odor production. This includes control of nitrogen levels. I have fought for county funding which has greatly improved the plant in a multi-phased approach. It's an ongoing project with things happening now and more to come. I have recently added \$69 million to the county's overall request for federal funds for the final phase of the plan. I have been successful in establishing \$10 million dollars in the county budget to transform a vacant lot on the Hudson, adjacent to the plant, into a new county park. I have also supported the expansion of river walk along the Hudson. I support policies to better control storm water runoff in ways that are more ecologically sound in new and remedial projects. I agree that water conservation, expanded use of rainwater and general re-use are important. Government must do all it can within its own policies and responsibilities while educating and incentivizing the public.

7. Sustainable Development (p. 10)

We must be smart about community development and redevelopment. I support plans that provide access to mass transit. That's why I am supportive of metro north, the improvements at the White Plains station and re-examining our bus routes to be more accessible to increased ridership using electric vehicles. To the overall goal of making communities more sustainable, I support zoning changes and tax incentives wherever possible. I agree that smart development requires that communities be more walkable and provide more access for bike lanes. Traffic Enforcement is important for both vehicles and bicycles. Better training is the necessary partner for increased physical capacity. I support efforts to re-adapt buildings to be more energy efficient and to employ green technology wherever possible. Once again incentives and policies are important.

8. Parks and Open Spaces (p.10 – 11)

I wholeheartedly support efforts to clean, maintain and preserve our waterways. As stated earlier, I am working diligently to improve the sewage treatment plant, create a new

waterfront park and to expand river walk. I support all government initiatives and other efforts to expand green space in ways that provide access and are environmentally smart.

In addition to being a legislator, I work in recreation at the City of Yonkers. Parks and Recreation are a passion. I work with all community organizations to make sure all have access and that are parks are contributing to the overall well-being of our citizens.,

9. Farms and Local Food (p. 11)

I support the expansion of farmers markets and local farming as healthy alternatives which can improve overall health and environmental conditions. My district is home to some of the poorest residents of Westchester County. It is my moral imperative to support programs like SNAP and to support and continue funding local nonprofit programs like Feeding Westchester and others. During the pandemic I have become a volunteer in these efforts as I have regularly delivered food to seniors and others who have been shut in and unable to provide food for themselves. I support all local education programs on nutritious food and healthy eating be they in schools or at nonprofit organizations.