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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: Joseph Saladino

Office sought (& district number if applicable): Oyster Bay Town Supervisor

Campaign e-mail: Joe@JosephSaladino.com

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Press Secretary's name and email: Madison Mannion MannionMadison@gmail.com

Scheduler's name and email: Madison Mannion MannionMadison@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.

The protection of our environment is of the utmost of importance for me as Oyster Bay Town Supervisor. I have a proven track record in environmental protection and sustainability.

As a New York State Assemblyman and member of the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee for more than a decade, I held the very best pro-environmental voting record in my Conference. I authored and passed milestone legislation to begin the State's process of cleaning up the largest and plume of dangerous chemicals in a sole source aquifer anywhere in the nation. As a result, infrastructure is being installed today for complete hydraulic containment and remediation of the Grumman-Navy Plume - the most highly concentrated contamination of a sole source aquifer anywhere in the United States. As Oyster Bay Town Supervisor, I have overseen construction projects and held public meetings with Grumman and the Navy to monitor progress and review future work. We regularly communicate with residents, Congressional representatives, the Governor, State Department of Environmental Conservation experts and local water districts to ensure progress among government agencies in remediating the plume. Some major recent accomplishments include a remedial system comprised of well vaults, conveyance pipes and instrumentation conduits installed to ultimately link wells to the future treatment plant. Over 700 feet of piping has been installed on Seaman Avenue and a combined 4,000 feet of piping has been installed on Hickey Blvd and nearby property owned by Grumman. Soil remediation at 'Site 1' resulted in the removal of 45,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil at a former Drum Marshalling Area. This year, construction



completion and operation of a Hot Spot at 'RE-108' is expected. This critical piece of infrastructure involves the installation of six recovery wells and a new treatment facility to treat the southern portion of the plume.

As Town Supervisor, I also held Grumman accountable to test for radiological materials along with contaminants, including 1,4 dioxane at Bethpage Community Park. As a result, thermal equipment was installed and is now operational. A full treatment system was installed, as well as a cover to ensure no soil vapors are released into the air. Continuous air monitoring by the Department of Environmental Conservation is also being conducted to ensure community safety. All work is being done by the Northrup Grumman Corporation under oversight from the Town of Oyster Bay, Department of Environmental Conservation and State Department of Health. The full scope of the project is expected to be finalized in 2022. I will continue to work together with our residents, local water districts and important community groups to create the highest levels of collaboration, cooperation and communication in an effort to force the responsible parties to return purity to our water and soil.

Environmental cleanup is critical for our community. My administration applied and received approval to provide State tax credits for cleanup of Brownfields in Hicksville. We are working with the Department of Environmental Conservation, Simon Property Group and Amazon to clean up the former Cerro Wire property in Syosset and transform it into an Amazon Warehouse. We support remediation of the Commander Oil site in Oyster Bay and transformation of this property into a vibrant waterfront with open space. The Department of Environmental Conservation is currently accepting public comment on this property. Also, in Farmingdale, my administration successfully transformed a former Superfund site – cleaned to residential standards - into a community sports complex.

To protect our environment, my administration eliminated many gas-guzzling vehicles. As Supervisor, I have supported the use of natural gas vehicles. We installed new LED lighting at Town Halls North and South. More than 70% of Town streetlights, covering some 500 miles of Town roads, have now been converted to LED. Air conditioning units in Town buildings have been converted to energy star, and thermal glass windows were installed. Boilers have been converted from oil to natural gas, which provides a 94% increase in efficiency. With reconstruction of the Hicksville Commuter Parking Garage, my administration installed solar panels to offset the carbon footprint. To accomplish similar environmental success, my administration implemented a Same Day Permit Program which made the Town of Oyster Bay a leader - #1 on Long Island - in solar panel installations, receiving recognition by NYSERDA. Additionally, on my watch, the Town of Oyster Bay was named a Climate Smart Community through a program sponsored by six New York State agencies. We are committed to implementing environmentally sustainable actions to benefit this and future generations.

To improve local waterways, my administration and the North Oyster Bay Baymen's Association seed Oyster Bay Harbor and the Great South Bay with clam and oyster seedlings annually to improve water quality. We opened a new Shellfish Hatchery to improve water quality by populating waterways with an additional 500,000+ clams and oysters annually. We continue to advance education programs to increase recycling, reduce water consumption and make environmental protection the cornerstone of my



administration. This year, we joined the Wyland Water Conservation Challenge to encourage residents to think responsibly about their water use and commit to conservation.

As a State Assemblyman, your NYLCV assessment commended me as an ardent protector of the environment and know that I directly suffered the damage of global warming when my home was destroyed by Superstorm Sandy. In my four years as Oyster Bay Town Supervisor, I have successfully bolstered the implementation of new programs and increased environmental policies - as noted above - to help protect future generations. My administration leads by example. We host many programs for the public to participate in, including: Harbor Cleanups; Dune Grass Planting to strengthen our shoreline; and Hazardous Waste Disposal Collection Days. We recently hosted an elementary school poster contest to raise awareness of how plastic harms our waterways and marine life.

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)

On my watch, the Town of Oyster Bay installed new LED lighting at Town Halls North and South. More than 70% of Town streetlights, covering some 500 miles of Town roads, have now been converted to LED. Air conditioning units in Town buildings have been converted to energy star, and thermal glass windows were installed. Boilers have been converted from oil to natural gas, which provides a 94% increase in efficiency. We are working with Siemens International to explore additional ways to increase our efficiency through the use of the latest technology.

To remove barriers and streamline the permitting process, my administration implemented a Same Day Permit Program which made the Town of Oyster Bay a leader - #1 on Long



Island - in solar panel installations, receiving recognition by NYSERDA. We also installed solar panels on the newly renovated Hicksville Commuter Parking Garage to offset the carbon footprint. We have eliminated many gas-guzzling vehicles.

My administration earned the Climate Smart Community designation through a program sponsored by six New York State agencies. We are committed to implementing environmentally sustainable actions to benefit this and future generations.

3. Transportation (p. 6)

I support full funding for the MTA Capital Plan, including East Side Access and greater service on the north shore to increase utilization of this line. I supported the Third Track project and voted for such as a former New York State Assemblyman. I believe we must increase capacity and reliability across the system to reduce the number of cars on the road, including additional service at Belmont Park and the rollout of electric trains on the Oyster Bay branch. Public transportation is critical for our communities, yet lacking on the north shore in the Town of Oyster Bay. I support increased funding opportunities for NICE Bus to provide service to north shore communities, which have limited to no service at all. I have also supported increased penalties and enforcement for reckless and dangerous driving.

We have reduced the number of gas guzzling vehicles in our fleet. We have a CNG station on our property. We are currently exploring the feasibility of electric-powered garbage trucks. We are exploring opportunities with a vendor for installation of electric vehicle charting stations at the beach and LIRR stations.

My administration built a vision to transform downtown Hicksville into a transit-oriented community. Our vision earned a \$10 million award from the State of New York. This funding will be utilized for walkability and pedestrian safety enhancements, bicycle lanes and new housing opportunities in walking distance to the Long Island Rail Road station. In addition to this downtown Hicksville revitalization initiative, my administration is moving forward with other such downtown revitalizations near mass transit hubs and seeks to cleanup the Commander Oil site in Oyster Bay, improve walkability and enhance LIRR service to Manhattan from this north shore community.

4. Resiliency (p. 6 - 7)

My administration recently developed an environmental protection plan to guard our estuary and safeguard marine resources. The plan serves to perpetuate sustainable water resource management for future generations and provide a roadmap to overall marine health in the town. The plan will evolve annually as the Town works with local environmental groups.

In Oyster Bay Harbor and Cold Spring Harbor, we conducted a thorough review of the water resources. It is our objective to ensure water quality improvement through nitrogen reduction practices and consistent monitoring of water quality parameters. We have ongoing efforts by means of water sampling, storm drain filter installation, tidal wetland restoration, kelp line deployment, and we have increased shellfish hatchery operations resulting in shellfish population revitalization. As part of a continuing initiative, we created multiple conservation management areas and spawner sanctuaries utilized for seeding clams and oysters into protected habitats that are proven to be beneficial to survival and reproductive rates, and thus increasing shellfish



population and overall health of the harbor. In partnership with many local experts, state, and national non-profit advocacy groups, our aqua culturists have been working to identify sources of water quality degradation resulting in ample resolutions and new concepts inspired. Along with grant funding opportunities, collaborative efforts have yielded quantifiable and sustainable action. We recently submitted a request for funding to the Federal government for development of a coastal oyster reef on the north shore that would improve water quality and protect the shellfish population in the Oyster Bay-Cold Spring Harbor Watershed.

As of 2021, South Oyster Bay will host multiple spawner sanctuaries for adult clams acquired through the Long Island Shellfish Restoration Project, a multi-agency collaboration with Stony Brook University and the Department of Environmental Conservation. The sanctuaries were constructed based on the physical circulation of the currents and their benefits to providing larvae survival. As with similar efforts executed in Oyster Bay Harbor, these practices will result in improved water quality through nitrogen bio extraction and promote reproductive advantages for marine life. Within the boundaries of the Town of Oyster Bay's jurisdiction of Hempstead Harbor, we are facilitating water quality improvement by hosting shellfish nurseries within the Harry Tappen Marina. These nurseries, the only nursery operations within the harbor, necessitate water filtration resulting in water quality improvement.

We are currently constructing a bioswale at Alhambra Park in Massapequa. Plans are currently being evaluated for two additional bioswales in the Massapequa community in flood zone areas. In connection with other drainage improvement projects, my administration is installing filters to treat stormwater runoff prior to the waters returning to the ground. We have installed check valves throughout the south shore, and more are on the way.

We were an active participants in the Nassau County All Hazard Mitigation Plan. My administration has installed generators at critical facilities, including fire houses, in FEMA designated zones. We are in the process of installing solar lighting along major thoroughfares in storm surge zones and at sheltering sites. Bulkhead improvements are coming soon to Alhambra Park, TOBAY Beach, and John Burns Park.

My administration secured state funding to prevent ground contamination by installing a new septic system at Tappen Beach in Glenwood Landing. Together with other stakeholders, we established priorities and protocols to mitigate future storm damage. We have supported Nassau County's plans to reduce the nitrogen levels entering Reynolds Channel and support the diversion project that redirects waste from Bay Park Wastewater Treatment Plant to Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, and then to an ocean outfall pipe.

5. Solid Waste (p. 7)

Solid waste is a serious challenge for large municipalities. Oyster Bay Town has a multifaceted solid waste program that emphasizes Recycling, Reuse and Proper Waste disposal. I expanded the Towns' hazardous waste collection days to help keep dangerous pollutants out of the waste stream. Gasoline, pesticides, paints, solvents, oil, car batteries, tires, propane tanks and other hazardous substances are collected and responsibly kept from polluting the waste stream. Additionally, the Town offers residents an Electronic Waste program, which safely collects and discards TVs, computers, cell phones, laptops, printers, video game systems, tablets and more.



As Supervisor, I am working hard with the goal of making the Town of Oyster Bay our nation's top recycler. We recently issued an RFP for the construction of a state-of-the-art recycling facility in the Town of Oyster Bay. We are currently evaluating those responses.

Due to a crash in the international commodity markets, Oyster Bay Town is proud to have been the first municipality on Long Island to collect glass so that it can be recycled into useable materials, including sand, rather than be placed into landfills. To increase our recycling initiatives, Town staff and I personally educate students and senior citizens on the importance of recycling for environment and generations to come. We issue communications regularly to residents so they understand what to place in their recycling bin. We work with school administrators and students to increase their recycling rates.

We also provide educational materials to residents for backyard composting.

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 have been a leader in the fight to preserve and protect Long Island's drinking water and support the recommendations of the Long Island Commission on Aquifer Protection. My efforts and successes in the State Assembly have only grown during my tenure as Town Supervisor, and I was proud to join Governor Cuomo as he announced \$650 million toward remediating the Grumman-Navy Plume. I will continue to be the strongest voice demanding Grumman and the Navy test for hazardous materials and pay for all cleanup and remediation efforts surrounding the Grumman-Navy Plume, which directly affects the residents of our Town. I will continue to work together with our residents, local water districts and community groups to create the highest levels of collaboration, cooperation and communication in an effort to convince responsible parties that we need to once and for all stop the migration of this plume and remove all contaminants.

During my 14 years as a State Assemblyman, I hosted a Marine Expo which educated thousands of residents on environmental issues every year. This expo, now known as the Waterfront Festival, continues today with conservation efforts and appreciation for the marine environment.

As an avid fisherman and lifelong sailor and water enthusiast, I am a strong supporter of protecting our shoreline resources. In the Town of Oyster Bay, we are surrounded by water on both our north and south shores. These areas are cherished by our residents, and we will continue to do what is necessary to protect our harbors and bays. Our efforts include working closely with a myriad of environmental groups through our Department of Environmental Resources, and hosting various programs throughout the year, such as our harbor cleanups – to only name a few. We will also continue efforts, through existing protection programs and reviews and strengthening of plans, to help mitigate any negative impacts various discharges have on our waterways (as described above).

To improve local waterways, my administration and the North Oyster Bay Baymens Association seed Oyster Bay Harbor and the Great South Bay with clam and oyster



seedlings annually to improve water quality. We constructed a new Shellfish Hatchery in Oyster Bay – the first of its kind in Oyster Bay - to improve water quality in Harbor by populating waterways with an additional 500,000+ clams and oysters annually.

I wrote to the Governor, Legislature and stood in strong opposition to reopening the Jamaica Water Service wells until after the conclusion of the U.S. Geological Survey’s sustainability assessment and have encouraged continued U.S.G.S. participation in groundwater aquifer testing and mapping on Long Island specifically for monitoring saltwater intrusion. I supported Governor Cuomo and State legislation to stop offshore drilling along the coast of Long Island.

My administration secured state funding to prevent ground contamination by installing a new septic system at Tappen Beach in Glenwood Landing. Together with other stakeholders, are established priorities and protocols to mitigate future storm damage. We have supported Nassau County’s plans to reduce the nitrogen levels entering Reynolds Channel and support the diversion project that redirects waste from Bay Park Wastewater Treatment Plant to Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, and then to an ocean outfall pipe.

We are currently constructing a bioswale at Alhambra Park in Massapequa. Plans are currently being evaluated for two additional biowales in the Massapequa community in flood zone areas. In connection with other drainage improvement projects, my administration is installing filters to treat stormwater runoff prior to the waters returning to the ground. We have installed check valves throughout the south shore, and more are on the way.

7. Sustainable Development (p. 9)

My administration built a vision to transform downtown Hicksville into a transit-oriented community. Our vision earned a \$10 million award from the State of New York. This funding will be utilized for walkability and pedestrian safety enhancements, bicycle lanes and new housing opportunities in walking distance to the LIRR station. In the past year we opened the first mixed-use building (the adaptive re-use of an existing, vacant commercial building) with apartments and shared workspace near the LIRR. Several additional mixed use projects are in the pipeline for redevelopment of this transit-oriented area. In addition to this downtown Hicksville revitalization initiative, my administration is moving forward with other such downtown revitalizations near mass transit hubs and seeks to clean up the Commander Oil site in Oyster Bay, improve walkability and enhance LIRR service to Manhattan from this north shore community.

My administration applied and received approval to provide State tax credits for cleanup of Brownfields in Hicksville. We are working with the Department of Environmental Conservation, Simon Property Group and Amazon to clean up the former Cerro Wire property in Syosset and transform it into an Amazon Warehouse. We support remediation of the Commander Oil site in Oyster Bay and transformation of this property into a vibrant waterfront with open space. The Department of Environmental Conservation is currently accepting public comment on this property. Also, in Farmingdale, my administration successfully transformed a former Superfund site – cleaned to residential standards - into a community sports complex.

We encourage the integration of native plants in projects throughout the town, educate residents on these plants, and offer a native planting website to future educate the public. More information can be found at www.oysterbaytown.com/gardening

8. Parks and Open Spaces (p.11)

The Town has greatly advanced open space preservation over the years, with many sensitive lands being protected from development through bond-funded acquisitions. I've continued these efforts under my tenure, and have diligently looked for ways to further advance these initiatives. My administration actively seeks creative ways to partner with other levels of government, including our colleagues in New York State, to help further, permanently preserve and protect open space and natural resources - giving particular attention to properties that are sensitive to the recharge of our groundwater, as well as sensitive to many species, plants and animals.

In Farmingdale, my administration successfully transformed a former Superfund site – cleaned to residential standards - into a community sports complex. With offer some of the best parks and parklets on Long Island and have greatly invested in playgrounds, tennis courts, pickleball courts, pool enhancements, and our beaches. We made a significant investment in restoring the shoreline at TOBAY Beach which was eroded by Mother Nature. Through a development agreement with the owner of Country Pointe in Plainview, acres were designated parkland and over a million dollars is being invested this year in the site. We have protected and enhanced parkland. We installed bat houses to reduce the use of pesticides and maintain dozens of pocket parks and active parks.

At Alhambra Park in Massapequa, my administration is constructing a bioswale to treat water and filter out contaminants before stormwater runoff can reenter the Great South Bay. This initiative utilizes native plants with specific properties to take advantage of natural qualities as part of our overall environmental strategy of rebuilding this waterfront location on the south end of the South Shore Blueway Trail.

Through our Highway Department we have planted new trees on streets and used native plants for landscaping. We have encouraged the use of single-use bags and distribute them for free to residents during our annual dune grass planting initiative at TOBAY Beach.

9. Farms and Local Food (p. 11)

I support efforts to provide residents with increased access to healthy and fresh foods. We are most proud to own one of the last farms in the Town of Oyster Bay. We are working with groups, such as the North Shore Land Alliance and scouting groups, to protect and improve this important nature resource. Education helps sustain this important initiative. We have community gardens located in our Town, which assist in this effort by calling our communities together to plant food for their own local use. Additionally, we have many groups, including Boy and Girl Scout troops, who utilize Town facilities to plant food to be donated to local food banks. We promote healthy eating through many senior citizen programs and worker in collaboration with Nassau County and Cornell Cooperative to

promote farmers markets.

