



30 Broad Street – 30th Floor
New York, NY 10004

212-361-6350

politics@nylcv.org / www.nylcv.org

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: Joshua Lafazan

Office sought (& district number if applicable): Nassau County Legislator, District 18

Campaign e-mail: Josh@JoshLafazan.com

Campaign phone: (516) 375-4697

Website: www.JoshLafazan.com

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/JoshLafazan>

Twitter handle: @JoshLafazan

Campaign manager's name and email: Chase Serota - chase.serota@gmail.com

Press Secretary's name and email: Chase Serota - chase.serota@gmail.com

Scheduler's name and email: Chase Serota - chase.serota@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.

My passion for protecting the environment was catalyzed during my time at Cornell University, where I was proud to work towards the university's pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035. On the Syosset School Board I worked to match Cornell's initiative towards fighting for a cleaner world, implementing universal recycling in all of our 10 school buildings. In the Nassau County Legislature, I was proud to co-sponsor a 5 cent bag fee in the hopes of drastically reducing plastic bag usage, I strongly supported the Bay Park Project to significantly decrease nitrogen levels in our waterways, I pushed for the establishment of I/A OWTS grants to help homeowners replace aging septic systems, and I advocated to make Nassau a Climate Smart Community. Lastly, I have been vocal in my position as an elected official that our county should live up to the ideals and statures of the Paris Climate Accord.

1.

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 was proud to advocate alongside the County Executive for Nassau to become a Climate Smart Community. I strongly supported the Bay Park Project, which will dramatically reduce nitrogen levels and help clean our south shore waters. I absolutely believe we should remove barriers to help streamline the permitting process for energy efficiency upgrades, and drastically expand the amount of charging stations available for electric vehicles. Nassau County should upgrade the laws on the books when it comes to energy efficiency, so that every new building that is constructed meets not a bare minimum, but a high level of energy efficiency. Moreover, just as the county offers lessons and workshops for property tax assessment grievances, we should also offer trainings at public libraries in all of our communities so that all homeowners have equal access to education about the benefits of installing energy saving devices.

1.

3. Transportation (p. 6)

I have fought against LIRR fare hikes, and have met with the LIRR leadership to discuss both the expansion of car/bike parking at the Syosset station, as well as electrification of the Oyster Bay line to help increase ridership. I wholeheartedly support studies to evaluate the conversion of mass transit fleets to electric vehicles. And I of course would support a significant expansion of charging stations available to accommodate personal electric vehicles.

2.

4. Resiliency (p. 6 - 7)

When it comes to resiliency, we must recognize that once-in-100 year storms are now happening with unprecedented frequency. Thus, we need to be bold and have urgency in ensuring resiliency in our county. I absolutely support resiliency projects such as stormwater management systems, and look forward to exploring similar infrastructure projects with our department of public works. Moreover, I believe incentivizing property owners to help manage on-site stormwater with technologies like green roofs and rain gardens makes for good government!

1.

5. Solid Waste (p. 7)

I have been a career fighter for reducing waste. I helped implement universal recycling in Syosset, and set an example for other school districts to follow. I will continue to help craft public engagement strategies for individual consumers to reduce their own waste, and have worked with the towns and villages in my district to implement programs and community projects to reduce unnecessary waste from our mutual constituents.

2.

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)

The most important step I can take as a county elected official for the protection of our water aquifers is to connect more people to sewers. Many areas across Nassau County lack such access, and I will continue to explore sewer expansion with the County Executive's Administration, and the Nassau County Department of Health. Further, I pushed for the establishment of I/A OWTS grants to help homeowners replace aging septic systems, and believe this will be an important step to help reduce nitrogen levels. I absolutely believe we need to invest in wastewater treatment plant upgrades, which is why I strongly supported the Bay Park Project. Lastly, I agree with the LCV that we need to develop regional, county, and local plans to restore streams and other water resources.

3.

7. Sustainable Development (p. 9)

As a legislator I am supportive of sustainable and smart development of communities around traffic hubs. I want to add supporting housing for recent college graduates to this focus, concentrating on areas around LIRR train stations in order to keep millennials here on Long Island. By redesigning our downtowns as having "complete streets," young people will not need cars, and since they will live near the LIRR, they will be able to take mass transportation to work. This is a home run for the environment, for our economy, and for the next generation of Long Islanders.

4.

8. Parks and Open Spaces (p.11)

As Nassau County Legislator, I will continue to be a fierce advocate for the preservation of existing open spaces, and for the continued designation of public space. Community gardens and urban farms have proven efficacy when it comes to community health, and our government should work with local municipalities for the further development of both. Protecting public space from development should be a priority in Nassau County. I support preservation land trusts and community preservation funds – the North Shore Land Alliance is a perfect example of individuals working together to preserve open space. In my district, I was proud to help broker a deal to convey Stillwell Fields to the Syosset School District, guaranteeing the continuity of playground status for these 35 acres and ensuring the Stillwell Preserve stays open for hikers and bikers.

5.

9. Farms and Local Food (p. 11)

I will work with groups such as the North Shore Land Alliance to ensure the continuation of productive farmland through the acquisition and donation of development rights, such as Meyer's Farm in Woodbury. It is important that all communities, regardless of income level, have access to fresh and healthy foods. That is why I will be a strong advocate in expanding the FreshConnect program and eradicating "Food Deserts" in our underserved communities. As a county legislator, I will continue to work school districts to increase education awareness for both students and parents on the importance of a healthy diet. Education will be the catalyst for the protection of our environment by the next generation.

6.