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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: Justin Brannan

Office sought & district number: 43

Campaign e-mail: justinbayridge@gmail.com

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Campaign manager's name and email: Jonathan Yedin, jyedin@gmail.com

Press Secretary's name and email: N/A

Scheduler's name and email: Jonathan Yedin, jyedin@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.

As a member of the City Council I have been extremely dedicated and committed to enacting a pro-environment agenda which seeks to protect all New Yorkers from the effects of climate change while improving our public health. I am on the Committees on Parks and Recreation, Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, and the Chair of the Committee on Resiliency and Waterfronts. I work on all of my committees to advance pro-environmental agendas focusing on improving our city's preparedness for and implementing the necessary adjustments to meet the challenge the climate crisis presents.

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)

I have been and will continue to be an advocate for shifting the City's fleet to become 100% zero-emission vehicles as well as reducing the size of the fleet. Likewise, I have been a longtime ally and supporter of congestion pricing in order to encourage the use of more efficient modes of transportation such as public transportation or cycling. I will continue to be a strong supporter on this issue and am dedicated to ensuring we do whatever we can to lower our emissions.

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 a member of the Committee on Parks and Recreation I have fought for more funding for our parks and open areas than any member before me has and have protected our parks from budgetary attacks. Our open spaces are vital to our city and I will continue to protect our parks and natural areas so that they can continue to be areas New Yorkers can enjoy, while also adding valuable environmental benefits.

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)

We have to do everything we can to reach the City's Zero Waste goal by 2030, and in order to do so we need buy-in from the public to change habits as well as collaboration and cooperation between the private and public sectors. As a member of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste a major portion of our time and efforts have been to become more efficient in how we

handle our sanitation as well as how we can best reduce our current levels. I am dedicated to continuing this push, and will be a vocal advocate for this issue on the Council.

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 am completely dedicated to upgrading our existing infrastructure as well as building new infrastructure so that we can be as prepared as possible for the effects of climate change on our city and our communities. This new infrastructure will help us become more efficient and will help us make the move to green energy, which we will have to do if we want to slow down and mitigate the effects of climate change. These programs will create high paying jobs in the process, helping our economy in a moment of crisis as well as helping save our environment.

6. Transportation (p. 5)

As mentioned above I fully support efforts to get New Yorkers to utilize low to no emission methods of transportation whether it be public transportation or cycling. It's why I've been a supporter of expanding bike lanes throughout the city, and have advocated for improvements and expansions to our subway system and our bus routes. I have and will continue to push for these improvements so that we can reduce emissions and travel in more efficient ways.

7. Resiliency (p. 6)

As the Chair of the Committee on Resiliency and Waterfronts I have been a vocal supporter of the city's need for a citywide resiliency plan which protects each community equally, including advocating federal capital dollars for the Jamaica Bay Sea Wall project, and have advocated for the use of our waterfronts as key resiliency infrastructure. I am committed to delivering a citywide resiliency plan which protects all New Yorkers and ensures our way of life for years to come.

8. Solid Waste (p. 7)

As mentioned above, as a member of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management I fully support policies and programs to reduce our current waste levels, increase recycling programs, as well as make our waste management system as green and efficient as possible. I will continue to push for these measures in the City Council.

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)

We must protect our beautiful parks and open spaces, which for many New Yorkers were critical in the darkest months of COVID-19 when we couldn't interact with others and all stayed close to home to do our part. As mentioned above as a member on the Committee of Parks and Recreation I have consistently fought to protect our parks and open spaces from budgetary cuts, and strongly support the use of waterfronts for our resiliency response.

10. Lead Poisoning Prevention (p. 9)

We have to do everything we can to stop these preventable and foreseeable tragedies from occurring. I fully support measures to empower and mandate DOHMH to conduct full and thorough investigations when minors have test results which show elevated blood lead levels, as well as other proactive methods in order to protect children, families, and workers from getting lead poisoning.

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

I fully support increasing funding for programs such as the Cool Neighborhoods program which helps many New Yorkers stay cool during some of the hottest months of the year. In the Council I have already had a bill signed into law which requires reports by the City on heat related deaths. Likewise maintaining and expanding our urban forest, which provides necessary relief from extreme and dangerous heat, is vital. We have to do everything we can to protect New Yorkers from extreme heat, especially as each year gets warmer and warmer due to the effects of climate change.

12. Clean Air for All (p. 10)

Ensuring that New York City has clean air is vital to protecting the health of each and every New Yorker. We have to do all that we can to reduce our emissions in order to protect our air quality, such as electrifying all city vehicles, including school busses, and enacting policies which promote the use of public transportation and reduce the reliance on personal vehicles.

13. Clean Water for All (p.11)

Just as important to the health of New Yorkers is ensuring our water supply is clean, safe, and secure for years to come. I support empowering agencies such as DEP to conduct studies of and to regularly monitor our water supply, as well as funding Green Infrastructure programs designed to ensure fresh and clean drinking water for New Yorkers.

14. Sustainable Food Systems (p. 11)

I fully support programs such as SNAP, FRESH, GrowNYC and others which ensure that working class New Yorkers have access to fresh local produce to help them live long and healthy lives. Likewise I completely agree that we should be expanding the number of NYC public schools which provide educational programs focused around both healthy and sustainable eating and why both are vital to your health and the planet's health.