



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: Kara Hahn

Office sought (& district number if applicable): Suffolk County Legislator

Campaign e-mail: karahahnforlegislature@gmail.com

Campaign phone: 631-675-1076

Website: <https://www.karahahn.com/>

Facebook page:

Twitter handle:

Campaign manager's name and email: Alyssa Turano, Alyssa.turano@gmail.com

Press Secretary's name and email: Seth Squiccarino, sethsquicci@optonline.net

Scheduler's name and email: Alyssa Turano, Alyssa.turano@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.

During my tenure as Suffolk County Legislator of the 5th Legislative District, I have been a fierce advocate for the environment. As Chairwoman of the Environment, Parks and Agriculture Committee I have championed and



New York League of Conservation Voters
2021 Candidate Questionnaire

Page 2 of 9 **I have supported and, in some instances, co-sponsored a number of policies including County Capital Projects that encourage energy conservation within County facilities, developing a comprehensive renewable energy construction plan for the County, and the creation of a Sustainable Energy Loan Program. I also support off-shore wind farms as wind energy is a renewable resource. We need to move away from resources that deplete the environment. Solar energy is another renewable resource that I support however, I do not think it's wise to clear woodlands for solar if there are cleared areas with direct sunlight already available for solar panels to be installed.**

In addition, I support County Executive Bellone's recent Executive Order to transition the County Fleet to all electric by 2030.

supported legislation that affects residents across Suffolk County as well as protecting the world around us.

If reelected I will continue to protect open space and fight for legislation to protect our environment. As Suffolk County Legislator, I have sponsored legislation including establishing the Single Use Plastics Reduction Task Force, a group committed to finding solutions to reduce plastic litter; established a task force to develop a Pollinator Pathway across Suffolk County, connecting our open spaces, parks, highway medians and county owned green spaces as locations to plant flora and fauna frequented by pollinators; legislation banning single use plastic straws and requiring paper straws to be distributed by request only; banning the distribution of polystyrene foam products; eliminating the distribution of single use plastics in Suffolk County parks; requiring the installation of water bottle refill stations in water fountains throughout county buildings and facilities when the water fountains are in need of replacement; partnering with Relic Sustainability to create a pilot program installing cleanup stations at our county beaches; established the Regional Recycling Task Force, to look at our issue of recycling on a regional level instead of siloed in towns; established the Parks Stewardship program, allowing residents to “adopt” passive county parks to provide maintenance and additional eyes on the park; and requiring the health department to create signage for dry cleaners to display to the public indicting which types of cleaning products are being used at that location and the environmental and human health impacts associated with the various dry cleaning methods.

ISSUES



New York League of Conservation Voters
2021 Candidate Questionnaire

Page 3 of 9 I have supported and, in some instances, co-sponsored a number of policies including County Capital Projects that encourage energy conservation within County facilities, developing a comprehensive renewable energy construction plan for the County, and the creation of a Sustainable Energy Loan Program. I also support off-shore wind farms as wind energy is a renewable resource. We need to move away from resources that deplete the environment. Solar energy is another renewable resource that I support however, I do not think it's wise to clear woodlands for solar if there are cleared areas with direct sunlight already available for solar panels to be installed.

In addition, I support County Executive Bellone's recent Executive Order to transition the County Fleet to all electric by 2030.

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)

3. Transportation (p. 6)

I support County Executive Bellone’s I-Zone initiative that connects the North Shore to the South Shore. Building affordable housing and upgrading our infrastructure will create jobs and provide better public transit networks that will enable residents to consider using public transportation more. I support the housing projects that are being constructed in Port Jefferson and mixed use master plan for Port Jefferson Station.



New York League of Conservation Voters
2021 Candidate Questionnaire

Page 4 of 9

I have supported and, in some instances, co-sponsored a number of policies including County Capital Projects that encourage energy conservation within County facilities, developing a comprehensive renewable energy construction plan for the County, and the creation of a Sustainable Energy Loan Program. I also support off-shore wind farms as wind energy is a renewable resource. We need to move away from resources that deplete the environment. Solar energy is another renewable resource that I support however, I do not think it’s wise to clear woodlands for solar if there are cleared areas with direct sunlight already available for solar panels to be installed.

In addition, I support County Executive Bellone’s recent Executive Order to transition the County Fleet to all electric by 2030.

The Ronkonkoma Hub Project will provide sorely needed housing for those not interested in the “single family home” lifestyle. If done well, this project will serve as a model for future transit-oriented redevelopment initiatives, including in the Port Jefferson community that I represent. Many of these projects will propose to hook into our sewer districts.

I support the transit-oriented development and housing projects that are being constructed in Port Jefferson including and mixed-use master plan for Port Jefferson Station. I also support redevelopment around the Stony Brook Train Station and have secured capital project funding for a Feasibility Study for a clean water initiative for the business corridor through Stony Brook and Setauket.

Within my community, we are focused on the revitalization of the Upper Port Jefferson and Port Jefferson Station Commercial Hub area that is located just south of the Port Jefferson LIRR station. Portions of this project are in an infancy stage, but will require County assistance for infrastructure improvements, including sewerage.

I am also in support of electrification or battery powering of the Long Island Railroad line to Port Jefferson to create a faster commuter access to New York City and would be an incredible asset to our local economy.

Suffolk County recently released a Hike and Bike Master Plan as part of Connect Long Island. The Master Plan looked at connecting all modes of public transportation with hiking and biking throughfares. By connecting public transportation with access to safe pedestrian pathways and biking lanes residents will have access to a more diverse means of navigating around Suffolk County. I fully support this plan and look forward to working with the



New York League of Conservation Voters
2021 Candidate Questionnaire

Page 5 of 9 **I have supported and, in some instances, co-sponsored a number of policies including County Capital Projects that encourage energy conservation within County facilities, developing a comprehensive renewable energy construction plan for the County, and the creation of a Sustainable Energy Loan Program. I also support off-shore wind farms as wind energy is a renewable resource. We need to move away from resources that deplete the environment. Solar energy is another renewable resource that I support however, I do not think it's wise to clear woodlands for solar if there are cleared areas with direct sunlight already available for solar panels to be installed.**

In addition, I support County Executive Bellone's recent Executive Order to transition the County Fleet to all electric by 2030.

County Executive and other electeds to make our roadways safer for multimodal transit. An extremely important infrastructure project would be to build out a network of hike/bike trails under ALL LIPA “high tension” transmission lines creating a grid throughout Long Island, connecting downtowns and providing safe North-South and East-West car-free trails.

4. Resiliency (p. 6 - 7)

When you live on an island that extends into the Atlantic Ocean, taking steps to protect against sea level rise just makes common sense. I passed legislation to review green infrastructure options for County properties and assess our assets for vulnerability to sea water rise. The County’s “Reclaim our Water” initiative is working to increase the use of advanced wastewater treatment and other clean water technology systems to reduce nitrogen and other contaminants in our water. Long Island has lost more than 70% of marshland in the last 70 years. Nitrogen contributes to that loss as has overdevelopment. Next, we need to go all-in on a “Reclaim our Land” initiative to buy back properties that should never have been built on. We have begun this type of effort with the assistance of the NRDC and FEMA support in areas like the Mastic Shirley Preservation Area.

5. Solid Waste (p. 7)

While solid waste collection policy falls within the purview of local towns and villages in Suffolk County, in late 2019 I established the Regional Recycling Task Force, to look at the issue of recycling on a regional level instead of siloed in each town.

I have also worked to reduce waste produced within our County – particularly plastic waste – by creating a Single Use Plastic Reduction Task Force. After the establishment of this task force I authored legislation banning single use plastic



New York League of Conservation Voters
2021 Candidate Questionnaire

Page 6 of 9 **I have supported and, in some instances, co-sponsored a number of policies including County Capital Projects that encourage energy conservation within County facilities, developing a comprehensive renewable energy construction plan for the County, and the creation of a Sustainable Energy Loan Program. I also support off-shore wind farms as wind energy is a renewable resource. We need to move away from resources that deplete the environment. Solar energy is another renewable resource that I support however, I do not think it’s wise to clear woodlands for solar if there are cleared areas with direct sunlight already available for solar panels to be installed.**

In addition, I support County Executive Bellone’s recent Executive Order to transition the County Fleet to all electric by 2030.

straws and requiring paper straws to be distributed by request only; banning the distribution of polystyrene foam products; eliminating the distribution of single use plastics in Suffolk County parks; requiring the installation of water bottle refill stations in water fountains throughout county buildings and facilities when the water fountains are in need of replacement.

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 number one issue for me as a Legislator has been protecting our water quality. Currently, Suffolk County has a multifaceted approach to water quality protection including preserving open space and the Reclaim our Water initiative which seeks to promote the installation of Innovative and Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems by property owners currently relying on cesspools and septic systems in order to reduce nitrogen pollution. This is an important time for Suffolk County and I am extremely supportive of these and other initiatives that will be central to protecting water quality.

I also sponsored legislation requiring parcels sold at the County Auction to be fitted with an Innovative Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (IAOWTS) if not already connected to a sewer district.

7. Sustainable Development (p. 9)

I believe that smart development is necessary for the economic health of Long Island. I think that we need to reuse and repurpose spaces that are already developed.



New York League of Conservation Voters
2021 Candidate Questionnaire

Page 7 of 9

I have supported and, in some instances, co-sponsored a number of policies including County Capital Projects that encourage energy conservation within County facilities, developing a comprehensive renewable energy construction plan for the County, and the creation of a Sustainable Energy Loan Program. I also support off-shore wind farms as wind energy is a renewable resource. We need to move away from resources that deplete the environment. Solar energy is another renewable resource that I support however, I do not think it's wise to clear woodlands for solar if there are cleared areas with direct sunlight already available for solar panels to be installed.

In addition, I support County Executive Bellone's recent Executive Order to transition the County Fleet to all electric by 2030.

I have been working with the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, the Health Department, Suffolk County IDA, LIBI, Association for a Better LI, and the Town Supervisors Association to draft zoning code recommendations which local Town governments can adopt to enable the reuse and recycling of already developed retail and big box store businesses which are vacant. The recommendations were approved by the Suffolk County Planning Commission and this year we are looking forward to working with the Town Supervisors and Town Boards across Suffolk County to adopt these zoning code changes. The hope is that instead of building apartment complexes on our ever-dwindling open spaces we can reuse these already developed vacant buildings for apartments.

8. Parks and Open Spaces (p.11)

Suffolk County has an extensive open space preservation program that dates back to the early 1970s. We as a County have preserved thousands of acres through multiple open space programs has slowed suburban sprawl and protected our drinking water. Since 2012, I have served as the Chairwoman of the Legislature's Environment, Parks and Agriculture Committee, and during my entire time, the consideration of new parcels for inclusion in our open space program has been central to our committee's work.

Locally, within my district which is highly developed, the Legislature recently adopted legislation for the acquisition of 17+ acres in Terryville, known as the Terryville Greenbelt for preservation. I continually look for opportunities to expand my community's limited open spaces and have sponsored bills to preserve land.

As an avid park user I was thrilled to author legislation creating the Parks Stewardship Program. This program allows residents to become stewards of our passive parkland.



I have supported and, in some instances, co-sponsored a number of policies including County Capital Projects that encourage energy conservation within County facilities, developing a comprehensive renewable energy construction plan for the County, and the creation of a Sustainable Energy Loan Program. I also support off-shore wind farms as wind energy is a renewable resource. We need to move away from resources that deplete the environment. Solar energy is another renewable resource that I support however, I do not think it's wise to clear woodlands for solar if there are cleared areas with direct sunlight already available for solar panels to be installed.

In addition, I support County Executive Bellone's recent Executive Order to transition the County Fleet to all electric by 2030.

9. Farms and Local Food (p. 11)

Farming in Suffolk County has been our tradition and been an economic engine for the region. Suffolk County, through its farmland program, has purchased the development rights to thousands of acres of farmland allowing farmers to continue to do what they love, farm, while removing economic pressures to sell his/her. Preserving our local farms ensures residents can access locally grown products.



New York League of Conservation Voters
2021 Candidate Questionnaire

Page 9 of 9 **I have supported and, in some instances, co-sponsored a number of policies including County Capital Projects that encourage energy conservation within County facilities, developing a comprehensive renewable energy construction plan for the County, and the creation of a Sustainable Energy Loan Program. I also support off-shore wind farms as wind energy is a renewable resource. We need to move away from resources that deplete the environment. Solar energy is another renewable resource that I support however, I do not think it's wise to clear woodlands for solar if there are cleared areas with direct sunlight already available for solar panels to be installed.**

In addition, I support County Executive Bellone's recent Executive Order to transition the County Fleet to all electric by 2030.