



30 Broad Street – 30th Floor
New York, NY 10004
212-361-6350

politics@nylcv.org / www.nylcv.org

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: Linda Lee

Office sought & district number: City Council District 23

Campaign e-mail: info@lindaleefornyc.com

Campaign phone: 917-568-8837

Website: <https://lindaleefornyc.com/>

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

Twitter handle: <https://twitter.com/lindaleefornyc>

Campaign manager's name and email: Asher Zlotnik asherzlotnik934@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 the mother to two young boys, I hope they will grow up in a livable and climate-stable world. Especially as New Yorkers, we know how vulnerable our city is to sea-level rise and increasingly inclement weather, and the time we have left to deal with climate change is rapidly diminishing. Sustainable development in New York is no longer an admirable or desirable goal-- it's a matter of necessity. Building a greener New York also promises the opportunity for more jobs and an overall more livable city. I've spent the last 11 years running a social services non-profit dedicated to helping under-served communities in New York, and I've seen firsthand how the disparities in access to livable housing, sustainable transportation, and green and open spaces often contribute to differential outcomes in education, health, mental health, and overall quality of life. In order to build a more just and livable New York, we must center our strategy on environmental justice.

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)

This is a high priority of mine. District 23 doesn’t have access to the NYC subway, and we rely on buses and cars to get around, with consequent effects to air quality and health. I would support expanding the presence of clean-buses in Eastern Queens to improve residents’ access to public transit while reducing overall congestion and air pollution. I support expanding pedestrian and bike infrastructure where they make sense, but in districts such as mine, I don’t believe they are feasible alternatives to mass transit.

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)

Since the pandemic began, we’ve all been stuck at home more and learned to value open and green spaces much more. As the mother of two young boys, I know that public parks are essential infrastructure for families and contribute to the overall mental and physical health of all residents. I am committed to protecting and supporting Eastern Queens’ parks and open spaces, maintaining existing open spaces created during the pandemic, and finding opportunities to create new open spaces in communities with little preexisting. I also support investments to ensure that all parks and public spaces are clean, safe, and accessible for all New Yorkers.

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)

I support measures to improve waste management, especially when it comes to reducing unnecessary overall waste, recycling and composting to the maximum extent possible, and overall boosting the efficiency of overall waste management systems.

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 support policies that reduce overall emissions, and believe that regulations and mandates should be backed with investments so that small-scale opportunities can be realized, like homeowners and individual landlords can afford to invest in sustainable technologies, particularly since many existing properties are aging and least energy-efficient. I also support coupling investments in sustainability with job-training programs to seize on the opportunity to create new, well-paying jobs.

6. Transportation (p. 5)

I support investments in mass transit, particularly in transit deserts such as District 23 where most residents have to drive due to the lack of a credible transportation alternative. Improving the efficiency of, access to, and ridership on, our public bus system will significantly improve the quality of life in Eastern Queens. I support the overall expansion of micro-mobility, cycling, and pedestrian infrastructure but don’t believe they can yet replace the need for traditional mass transit as a way of solving our transportation challenges.

7. Resiliency (p. 6)

I do support making our communities more resilient for the fact of climate change. No community in New York is immune from the threat of sea-level rise.

8. Solid Waste (p. 7)

I support all listed measures, especially the need to broaden the scope of our recycling programs and composting.

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)

I support all listed measures, especially programs to connect parkland through walking trails and other natural features.

10. Lead Poisoning Prevention (p. 9)

I support all listed measures, particularly focusing on rehabilitating older residential and school buildings that house children who are particularly vulnerable to lead contamination.

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

I support all listed measures, and would support increased funding to retrofit grants that will allow homeowners and landlords to increase energy efficiency in older housing stock that is often the least efficient.

12. Clean Air for All (p. 10)

I support working with the MTA to reduce emissions from the bus fleet given the current financial situation and the need to restore mass transit services to all New Yorkers. I also support other measures to reduce emissions from buildings through using cleaner energy and heating sources, and improve traffic conditions through alternative policies.

13. Clean Water for All (p.11)

I support investments into greening our water system while ensuring affordability for all New Yorkers.

14. Sustainable Food Systems (p. 11)

I support all listed measures.

