



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: Mark Cuthbertson

Office sought (& district number if applicable): Suffolk County Legislature, 18th District

Campaign e-mail: info@markcuthbertson.com

Campaign phone: 631-219-9270

Website: markcuthbertson.com

Facebook page: facebook.com/markcuthbertsoncouncilman

Twitter handle: [@mcuthbertson](https://twitter.com/mcuthbertson)

Campaign manager's name and email: Keith Davies, keithdavies5@gmail.com

Press Secretary's name and email: Keith Davies, keithdavies5@gmail.com

Scheduler's name and email: Keith Davies, keithdavies5@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 Huntington Town Councilman, I'm proud of my environmental record. I've successfully preserved open space, secured funding for clean water infrastructure, and implemented programs to promote clean energy in the town.

The link below on my website describes my record on the environment and open space.

<https://www.markcuthbertson.com/environment>

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)

As a Huntington Town Councilman, we've put a focus on promoting renewable energy initiatives aimed at both reducing our reliance on fossil fuels while also saving taxpayer dollars. One of the initiatives that I'm most proud of is the plan for a microgrid to power the Dix Hills Ice Rink, Town Hall, Huntington Hospital and other nearby buildings more reliably. We've also expedited all permits for residents that want to put solar panels on their homes.

I was sponsored a resolution to hire a Chief Sustainability Officer and this decision has paid handsome dividends for the town in energy savings and grants received.

3. Transportation (p. 6)

I agree that we need to be investing more in mass transit like the LIRR and Suffolk Buses.

4. Resiliency (p. 6 - 7)

Living on an island, coastal resiliency is of the most utmost importance. I strongly agree with all of the policy outlined in the Long Island Chapter Policy Agenda and look forward to working with NYLCV to accomplish these goals.

5. Solid Waste (p. 7)

More needs to be done and I look forward to working to promote the reduction of solid waste as a legislator. I'm happy that here in Suffolk County, the legislature has banned single-use plastic straws, placed a 5-cent fee on bags and NYS banned the use of plastic bags. At the Town of Huntington, while some of the neighboring towns stopped curbside collection of glass, we were able to continue glass collection.

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)

Nitrogen pollution from cesspools and septic systems is a huge issue here in Suffolk County. I've worked to encourage Huntington homeowners to apply for grants to help with the purchase and installation of Innovative and Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems. We've also done studies on expanding the Southwest Sewer District into Huntington Station, an effort that would clean our water and boost revitalization projects

7. Sustainable Development (p. 9)

In the Town of Huntington, we've worked to keep the revitalization of our town consistent with smart growth, promote walkability and public transit, and encourage businesses to utilize green roofing like we are doing on public buildings. As a Legislator, I will continue to promote sustainable development.

8. Parks and Open Spaces (p.11)

As a Councilman, I have a long record of preserving open space. The Environmental Open Space and Park Improvement Bond Acts, enabled the Town to purchase over 240 acres of parkland including Manor Farm, Northport Knolls, Veterans Park, Mohlenhoff property, the John Coltrane Park and 20 acres at Hobart Beach. The referendum funding has also assisted in the renovations and equipment upgrades to parks throughout Huntington.

9. Farms and Local Food (p. 11)

I believe that there needs to be more investments in local farms and food by our government and agree with all of the ideas and agenda items in the LI Policy Agenda.