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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: Mark Murphy

Office sought & district number: Staten Island Borough President

Campaign e-mail: info@murphyforstatenisland.com

Campaign phone: 405-204-2128

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Campaign manager's name and email: Brendan Klein brendan@nsstrategy.com (consultant)

Press Secretary's name and email: Barbara Felder barb@murphyforstatenisland.com

Scheduler's name and email: Kevin Ralph kevin@murphyforstatenisland.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.
I am running for Borough President.

1. My mission is to make Staten Islander cleaner, safer, greener, and stronger. Recently, I have been working to get truck traffic reduced in New York City. Specifically, by converting an old oil terminal into a clean sand and stone terminal, where we brought sand and stone into NYC by boat instead of by truck eliminating truck traffic on roads in New York. The emissions, the fuel, and the overall pollution benefits were extremely impactful.



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)

We need to get rid of the transit deserts on Staten Island to reduce dependency on one mode of transportation. Air pollution leaves our communities vulnerable to adverse health outcomes and Staten Islanders should not have to suffer due to a lack of public transportation.

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)

There is nothing more integral to Staten Island than our parks and other green spaces. I will always fight to conserve our over 10,000 acres of park land and natural areas.

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)

More New Yorkers need to be aware of the City's programs that advocate more waste reduction, diversion, and sustainable waste management. I support public education campaigns led by community members to educate their neighbors.

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)

As Borough President, I will advocate for energy efficiency campaigns to get more renewable energy projects in low-income communities throughout Staten Island led by members of those communities.

6. Transportation (p. 5)

Staten Islanders have some of the worst commute times in the county—most areas of Staten Island are over a 15-minute walk away from a train station. The entire island has one line that only covers one side of Staten Island. We need more public transportation options for our communities.

7. Resiliency (p. 6)

It has been over a decade since Superstorm Sandy hit the East Shore of Staten Island and the community is nowhere near fully recovered. Staten Island needs leadership who will be serious about executing a resiliency plan, and too much time has already passed. New Yorkers need a plan to address long-term resiliency keeping in mind the needs of vulnerable communities, power outages, and storm surges.



8. Solid Waste (p. 7)

New York needs to invest in public education programs around recycling, composting, and waste diversion. It is important for people in the community to have a full understanding of the weight of their actions and the impacts they can be making on the environment every single day.

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 will protect our over 170 green spaces on Staten Island to make sure that the borough of parks is never sold off to the highest bidder. I will also expand access to our natural areas by making sure there are adequate resources allocated to our parks to make sure they can maintain and improve our green spaces through trails and parkland extensions.

10. Lead Poisoning Prevention (p. 9)

Our kids on the North Shore of Staten Island are among those with the most elevated blood lead levels found in all of New York City. It should not be a stretch to expect that there not be lead in the blood of any New Yorker from exposure in residential buildings or schools. I am committed to advocating an investigation from DOHMH into reports of elevated blood lead levels in our kids, especially in NYCHAs. We also need legislation that will lead to us once and for all ending lead exposure to our kids.

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



Too many neighborhoods on Staten Island have too high of an HVI score. The Cool Neighborhoods program needs to be expanded in the historically marginalized communities on the North Shore of Staten Island, your zip code should not determine your health outcome.

12. Clean Air for All (p. 10)

I support the transition to cleaner heat sources, mitigating traffic, and reducing emissions from trucks. Staten Island has a higher level of smog than any of the other boroughs in New York City. Low air quality is a health threat to all New Yorkers.

13. Clean Water for All (p.11)

Time and time again there have been decisions made for Staten Islanders without their input. I will fight to put an end to this as Borough President. I support pushing NYC DEP to be transparent with the community about the progress of the Long Term Control Plans for our waterways in a way where there are not only accepting input from the community, but actively seeking that input.

14. Sustainable Food Systems (p. 11)

The coronavirus has exacerbated the severity of the food crisis facing New Yorkers. A food center study at Hunter College showed that last year 1.2 million New Yorkers were hungry due to the pandemic. I fully support all initiatives that will lead to stronger farms in New York which will put more healthy food options on the table for many families.

