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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](mailto:politics@nylcv.org)
- ☒ Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg ([jklainberg@nylcv.org](mailto: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: Mike Scala

Office sought & district number: District 32; City Council.

Campaign e-mail: [mikegscala@gmail.com](mailto:mikegscala@gmail.com)

Campaign phone: 347-903-2385

Website: <http://scala.vision/meet-mike/>

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

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

Campaign manager's name and email: Andrey Bystrov, [andrey@bryantbystrov.com](mailto:andrey@bryantbystrov.com)

Press Secretary's name and email: N/A

Scheduler's name and email: Andrey Bystrov, [a\\_bystrov@hotmail.com](mailto:a_bystrov@hotmail.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.

**City Council District 32 encompasses coastal communities of the Rockaways, Broad Channel and Howard Beach in addition to Ozone Park, Richmond Hill and Woodhaven. These areas are in critical need of infrastructure development and proper engineering, as the rising threat of flooding from climate change and the necessity for improved transit options have become increasingly apparent. NYLCV can be appreciably helpful in meeting these goals, providing unique perspectives and resources. As a graduate of the Polytechnic Institute of NYU, I appreciate the need for the interests of engineers to be more represented in our political system and government.**

## 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 will support improvements to transportation as I am committed to cutting emissions in District 32.

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)

I will work to keep our parks and beaches clean, including increased enforcement of litter and pollution laws where necessary.

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)

Common sense waste management is very important to improve the quality of life in the district.

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 committed to energy and infrastructure improvement. I will require large buildings to cut emissions and support carbon neutrality and clean electricity goals.

6. Transportation (p. 5)

I am highly committed to changes in transportation. My initiatives are:

- Work with partners across all levels of government to build the QueensRail, reducing commutes to and from midtown Manhattan by up to 45 minutes for the working men and women in our district.
- Expand citywide ferry service, introducing larger vessels, identifying more local stops and integrating with the mass transit system.
- Support innovative “big ideas” such as smart traffic lights to help us reach our destinations faster and reduce engine idling.
- Advocate complete removal of the Cross Bay Bridge toll, the only intraborough fee in the city, which unjustly divides us and stifles economic growth.

7. Resiliency (p. 6)

I support resilience planning to address growing threats of coastal storms and flooding, prevent future Hurricane Sandy levels of devastation and combat climate change.

8. Solid Waste (p. 7)

I will support improvements in the management of solid waste to ensure a high quality of life in the district.

### 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 am committed to keeping parks, natural areas, and active waterfronts clean and safe for residents.

#### 10. Lead Poisoning Prevention (p. 9)

I support lead poisoning prevention to increase the safety of housing in District 32, as housing is a human right.

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

I will support work to reduce and mitigate heat vulnerability.

#### 12. Clean Air for All (p. 10)

I will support work to improve clean air, including cutting emissions.

#### 13. Clean Water for All (p.11)

Clean water should be a right to all and I will work to provide it to the citizens of District 32.

#### 14. Sustainable Food Systems (p. 11)

Sustainable food systems are important to ensure the health of those in the District.