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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: Nantasha Williams

Office sought & district number: 27th City Council District

Campaign e-mail: nantasha2021@gmail.com

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Campaign manager's name and email: Jonathan Yedin jyedin@powerplaystrategies.com

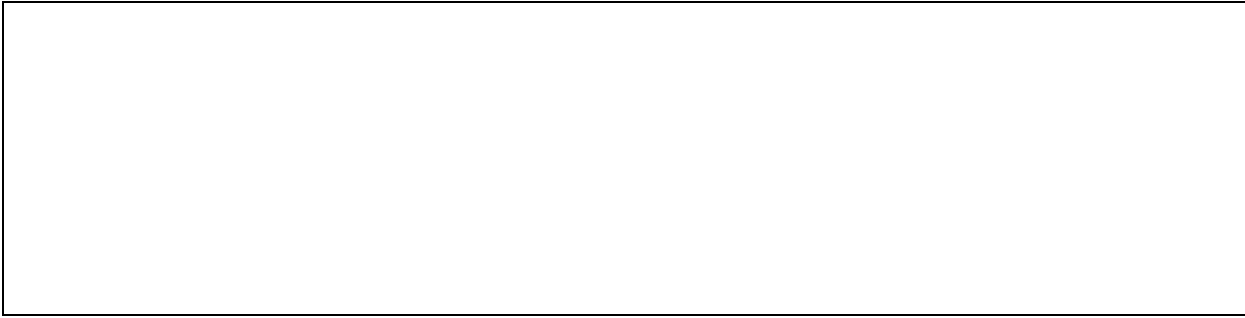
Press Secretary's name and email: Avery Jones media@nantasha2021.com

Scheduler's name and email: Chantess Robinson Chantess@nantasha2021.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.

Personally, I have been intentional about conserving water and electricity, as well as getting rid of food waste and properly recycling. Additionally, I have signed numerous petitions around fracking and other environmentally just causes. Professionally through the JFK Redevelopment Program, I helped to create an advisory council that includes an environmental stewardship committee that focused on initiatives seeking to minimize impact of construction at the airport and other toxins that may impact the surrounding area.



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 am a big supporter of transitioning our city’s car fleet away from combustion engines and on to hybrid and EV. I support protected bike lanes and the expansion of the Citibike program so it is throughout all parts of the five boroughs.

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 intend to spend a high percentage of capital dollars allocated to supporting, maintaining, and upgrading our parks in equitable form.

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)

New York's recycling rates are horrible compared to other major American cities. We need to double down on our education efforts to inform the public on how to properly recycle. We must also look to phase out single use plastics in as many unnecessary things as possible.

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 strongly favor investing in transitioning away from fossil fuels to 100% renewable energy. With interest rates at historic lows and a poor near term economic outlook, now is the time for the government to spend heavily on major capital projects as a means to spur economic stimulus as well as complete many vital projects to make our city more resilient and efficient.

6. Transportation (p. 5)

I support investing in mass transit. I support the better bus program and support expanding open streets and the addition of more protected bike lanes. We must also get Citibike in every neighborhood so there is systemwide interconnectivity

7. Resiliency (p. 6)

We need to invest in major infrastructure projects that protect our 500+ mile coastline from the effects of rising sea levels and intense weather events. I support sea walls, living shorelines, and revamping our building code to take into account higher floodplains so we build smarter.

8. Solid Waste (p. 7)

I support the 9 points laid out in your policy brochure.

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 the points laid out and would use my background in capital procurement to cut down on bureaucratic red tape and streamline the park's capital process with design-build. It will save a ton of money and get projects done much faster.

10. Lead Poisoning Prevention (p. 9)

I support the 3 points, and unfortunate that Black and Brown communities are exposed exponentially.

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

I support the AC program the city rolled out last summer and would like to see it expanded further. I also support the white rooftop program. We must also do more to set up microgrids in areas of our city that are vulnerable to brownouts and black outs during peak summer use.

12. Clean Air for All (p. 10)

I support all 5 points.

13. Clean Water for All (p.11)

I support all 4 points.

14. Sustainable Food Systems (p. 11)

I support all 3 points.