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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: Oswald Feliz

Office sought & district number: City Council District 15, re-election

Campaign e-mail: oswald@felizfornyc.com

Campaign phone: 347-284-7750

Website: www.felizfornyc.com

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Twitter handle: www.twitter.com/felizfornyc

Campaign manager's name and email: Theona Reets – theonasreets@gmail.com

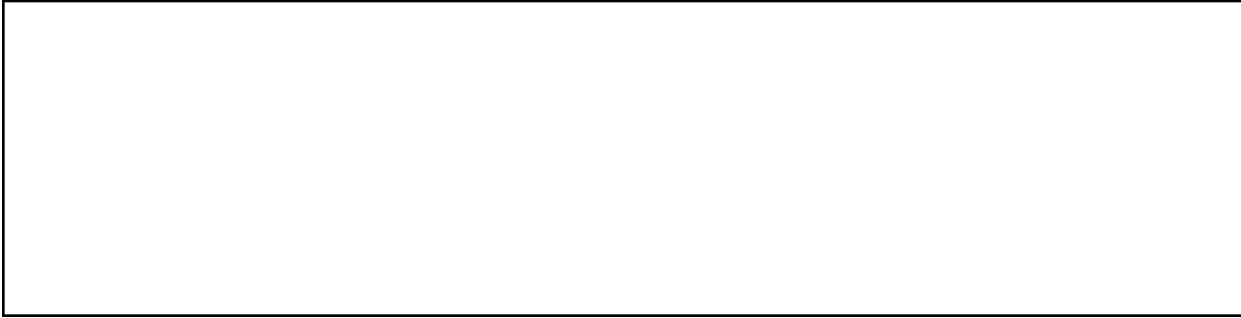
Press Secretary's name and email: Theona Reets – theonasreets@gmail.com

Scheduler's name and email: Theona Reets – theonasreets@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 candidate for City Council, and now as Councilman, I will prioritize redesigning the Cross Bronx Expressway – the most congested roadway in the nation, which has brought dangerous levels of air pollution and asthma to the borough of the Bronx. I have done a lot of research on the topic – research shows that 20% of residents who live in the area suffer from asthma, and are hospitalized at rates 20 times higher than residents of other neighborhood, due to asthma. We must fight to create a clean and sustainable environment, and we can do so by capping the Cross Bronx Expressway (just like Texas did).



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 very committed to this issue. I’ve done a lot of research on the effects of air pollution in the Bronx. It’s not fair that low-income, minority communities do not have access to clean and safe air. As Councilman, fighting against environmental injustice is a priority – and it starts by taking steps such as shifting to low emission forms of 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)



I am very committed to this issue. The Bronx continues to rank last in the state, in terms of health outcomes. Open green space contributes to the well-being of our residents – it’s essential that our families be provided with a place where they can exercise, and relax with their family. This will help alleviate the stress and mental anxiety that exists for many residents.

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 am very committed to this issue. We must take additional steps to reduce unnecessary waste, including non-recyclable items.

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 very committed to this issue. As Councilman, I will prioritize expanding clean-energy programs in buildings.

6. Transportation (p. 5)

I am very committed to this issue. We must invest in making public transportation more effective, to reduce the use of cars.

7. Resiliency (p. 6)

I am committed to this issue. We must ensure that communities – especially those that are most vulnerable – have the infrastructure needed to protect themselves from the dangers of climate change. This includes implementing infrastructure along waterfronts, NYCHA buildings, and airports.

8. Solid Waste (p. 7)

We must invest more in recycling programs to reduce waste. We must also incentivize the use of recyclable materials.

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 very committed to this issue. The Bronx continues to rank last in the state, in terms of health outcomes. Open green space contributes to the well-being of our residents – it's essential that our families be provided with a place where they can exercise, and relax with their family. This will help alleviate the stress and mental anxiety that exists for many residents, and the green will also help clean the air.

10. Lead Poisoning Prevention (p. 9)

We must do all we can to prevent lead poisoning. This includes requiring frequent lead-paint inspections, ensuring landlords promptly remedy lead-paint violations, and ensuring that tenants are provided with prompt notice of any lead-paint violations.

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

I am committed to this issue.

12. Clean Air for All (p. 10)



I am very committed to this issue. I've done a lot of research on the effects of air pollution in the Bronx. It's not fair that low-income, minority communities do not have access to clean and safe air. As Councilman, fighting against environmental injustice is a priority – and it starts by taking steps such as shifting to low emission forms of transportation.

13. Clean Water for All (p.11)

I am very committed to this issue.

14. Sustainable Food Systems (p. 11)

I am very committed to this issue. We must expand access to programs including snap and GrowNYC. We must ensure our schools also provide students with education programs related to healthy eating.