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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: Rafael Salamanca, Jr.

Office sought & district number: Council District 17

Campaign e-mail: salamancajr@aol.com

Campaign phone: 7186856163

Website: salamanca2021.com

Facebook page:

Twitter handle: @salamancajr80

Campaign manager's name and email: Rafael Salamanca, Jr.

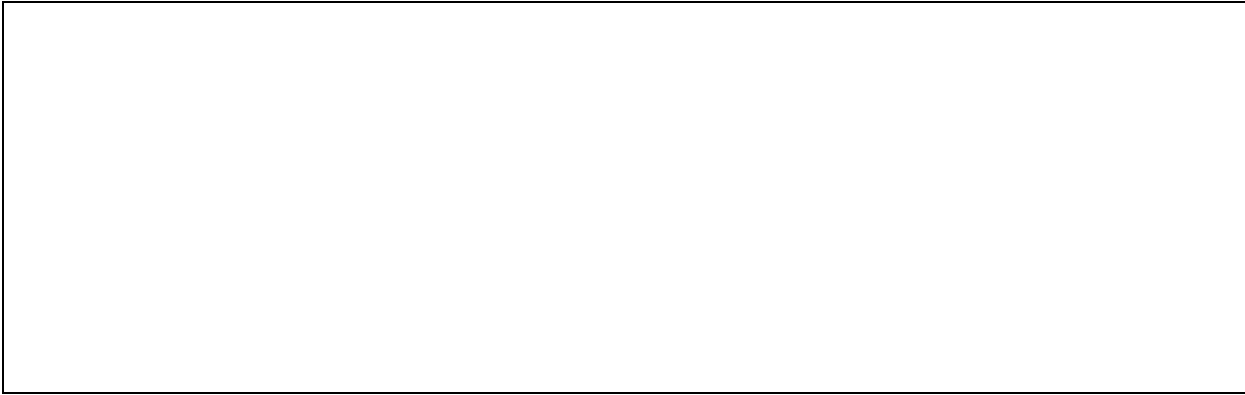
Press Secretary's name and email:

Scheduler's name and email:

## 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.

- **Supported the expansion of Citibike and Revel throughout the South Bronx.**
- **Support Renewable Rikers (Bronx Community must be part of conversations.)**
- **Advocated and delivered a new bus line in the South Bronx – BX46**
- **Advocated and supported the dismantling of the Sheridan Expressway into a Boulevard and creating ramps in and out of Hunts Point. Therefore, preventing trucks from driving through our residential communities.**



## 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 support. My community has the highest asthma rates in the nation because of the amount of trucks that enter the Hunts Point industrial community.

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'm a Big supporter of parks. During my time as council member I have worked with the Parks department and have created or renewed 6 playgrounds.

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 support. During the budget negotiations this past year I supported continued funding for the organic waste program.

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 support.

6. Transportation (p. 5)

I'm a supporter of public transportation and alternative ways to commute such as: bike and scooter sharing programs.

7. Resiliency (p. 6)

I represent Hunts Point which has the worlds largest food markets, but its also prone to flooding during storm surge. I sit on panels with local environmental groups and city work groups on ideas and plans to protect our food supply and making Hunts Point more resilient.

8. Solid Waste (p. 7)

I'm a supporter of commercial waste zones.

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'm a supporter of open spaces, especially green spaces and waterfronts.

10. Lead Poisoning Prevention (p. 9)

Lead poisoning is a huge issue in my community. I represent the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest NYCHA portfolio in NYC and lead poisoning is a healthcrisis.

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

I support cool neighborhood programs.

12. Clean Air for All (p. 10)

As an asthmatic and the father of an asthmatic, Clean air is a top priority. I am a strong supporter of Clean Air for All concept.

13. Clean Water for All (p.11)

I support.

14. Sustainable Food Systems (p. 11)

Access to fresh produce is scarce in my district. For the last 4 years I've allocated \$50,000 for health bucks in my district and I have a 90% redemption rate. Highest throughout the city.