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2021 Environmental Questionnaire for Long Island 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 Long Island 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, April 30, 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.
- General election endorsements will be made by the NYLCV State Board on July 29, 2021.

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate name: Rose Marie Walker

Office sought (& district number if applicable): Nassau County Legislator District 17

Campaign e-mail: rwlax@aol.com

Campaign phone: 516-582-2227

Website:

Facebook page:

Twitter handle:

Campaign manager's name and email: Greg Skupinsky

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.

I have worked hard to advance legislation, support major capital projects and approve funding to protect our water, air, wildlife and natural resources. I have and will continue to work with our water districts, the DEC and all other municipalities locally, statewide and federally to Clean-Up the Grumman Navy Plume. I have been working with our water districts within and outside of my Legislative District to address the 1,4 Dioxane contamination in our wells. I have approved the purchase of open space, improved our waterways through improvements to both Cedar Creek and Bay Park Wastewater Treatment Plants. I am very proud of the work I have done, but there is much more to do. I look forward to the progress and eventual completion of the Bay Park Conveyance Project and will continue to vote in a positive way to protect our environment.



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 Long Island 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:

Combating Climate Change

The time to act on climate is now. We must make radical changes in short order to avoid catastrophic climate change. New York’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act will require action at all levels of government to achieve its ambitious goal of reducing economy wide emissions 85% by 2050 and achieving 70% renewable energy by 2030. By allocating resources wisely, local governments can have a significant impact on energy use and the environment. Localities must also adapt to a changing climate and include resiliency planning in all aspects of future governance.

2. Energy (p. 5)

I have voted to pass legislation to amend the County’s capital planning process to include the planning of environmental infrastructure projects including solar power development, an electric vehicle fleet and charging stations throughout the county. LED lighting has been installed in our traffic lights and I have and will continue to work with Fire Departments in my district on CRP projects to install LED lighting in their buildings.

3. Transportation (p. 6)



I supported the creation of the NICE bus system to preserve the much needed bus service in Nassau County. NICE now operates a fleet of buses that run on Compressed Natural Gas, minimizing its carbon footprint while providing vital transportation services throughout the county. In 2021, I voted to restore \$4.5M in funds to provide for the continued operation of our bus system and lobbied New York State for additional funds for Nassau County's transportation infrastructure. I have approved capital funding and contracts for the creation of pedestrian and bicycle pathways in my district and throughout the county, Supported and adopted Nassau County's Complete Streets Policy initiatives to consider all users of our roadways; pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders in planning and designing new and current roadways and approved grant funding for transit oriented development for projects throughout the county, including Farmingdale and Hicksville which are both in my Legislative District.

4. Resiliency (p. 6 - 7)

Approved contracts, funding and legislation for the Bay Park Conveyance Project. This partnership between the county and New York State will allow for the construction of infrastructure and piping to send treated effluent from the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant to an existing ocean outfall pipe located at the Cedar Creek Sewage Treatment Plant. This will dramatically improve the water quality of the Western bays by eliminating the discharge of treated wastewater effluent into Reynolds Channel. By restoring the health of the Western Bays, this project will restore tidal wetlands, enhance the environmental conditions for aquatic and wildlife and provide greater protection against flooding from adverse weather events.

I will continue to work with local, state and federal government to once and for all clean up the contamination of the Grumman Navy Plume. This has been going on for years and we finally seems to be addressing it with full steam ahead.

5. Solid Waste (p. 7)

I will continue to work with the Town of Hempstead, Oyster Bay and North Hempstead as well as Sanitation Districts to promote responsible disposal of Hazardous Household Waste and Electronic Waste. I have sponsored park, preserves, beach, ponds and community cleanups with schools, scouts, community members and organizations, banned the use of Styrofoam containers and created a special revenue fund for the cleanup of Nassau County properties. Worked with our schools and community organizations reminding everyone that **EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY** . . . We all need to do our part.

[Empty box]

Protecting People and Natural Resources

All New Yorkers deserve indoor and outdoor environments that are free of contamination and pollution.

6. Clean Water (p. 8 - 9)

Dealing with extreme contamination in Bethpage and Hicksville, I have learned firsthand the importance of water quality. I have lobbied NYS and the federal government for funding and approved easements for the construction of wells and remedial systems and cleanup of groundwater contamination emanating from the toxic Grumman Navy Plume. Additional easements will need to be granted as well as others in different districts in the county. I have approved capital funding and contracts to support the County's storage tank replacement program as well as remedial investigations and actions if leaks are discovered. I voted to require rain sensors on automatic irrigation systems that operate in Nassau County and authorized the creation and funding of the Long Island Commission on Aquifer Protection. I work closely with the Water Districts in my Legislative District as well as outside to address the 1,4 Dioxane Contamination.

7. Sustainable Development (p. 9)

Government must be a leader in managing our environment. I voted to adopt New York State's Climate Smart Communities Pledge. This legislation commits the County towards a path of sustainability, lowering of greenhouse emissions, climate smart land use and the preservation of open spaces, decreasing energy usage and converting to renewable energy sources. It also focuses on the reuse and recycling of materials, the enhancement of community resilience to the impact of climate change and the evaluation of our County's transportation infrastructure. I have voted to provide funding for the planting of trees on County right of ways, parks and County facilities.

8. Parks and Open Spaces (p.11)

I supported Local Law 14-2018: A Local Law to Amend the County Government Law of Nassau County to Require Public Access to All Active Parkland and Open Space in Nassau

County. Through our Environmental Bond Act, we purchased hundreds of acres of open space. We manage over 3000 acres of preserves, a portion of which lies in my district. I voted for legislation to require all active parkland and open space owned or operated by Nassau County to be open and accessible to all County residents, with appropriate parking facilities and points of entry and egress. Signage must be placed to identify all open space and active parkland and the County website should provide the public with information about each location. DPW must prepare an annual report providing details about all open space and parkland owned and operated by Nassau County, including accessibility information and a description of the wildlife and vegetation that may be found in each property. I voted in favor of Capital Plan spending of \$5M to support this important initiative.

9. Farms and Local Food (p. 11)

I supported the County's partnership and funding for Cornell Cooperative Extension to provide programming and educational resources to the public regarding farming, nutrition and sustainable practices for home gardens. Cornell Cooperative operates a farm stand at the East Meadow Farm offering locally grown products. I look forward to working further with Cornell regarding the 4H Camp in Wading River.