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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](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.
- General election endorsements will be made by the NYLCV State Board on July 29, 2021.

## CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate name: Samuel Gonzalez - Incumbent:

Office sought (& district number if applicable): Suffolk County Legislator, 9th District

Campaign e-mail: SamGonzalezForLegislator@gmail.com

Campaign phone: 631-830-2994

Website: SamGonzalezforLegislator.com

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

Twitter handle: @LegSamGonzalez

Campaign manager's name and email: Jenn Hann jenniferhann82@gmail.com

Press Secretary's name and email: : Jenn Hann jenniferhann82@gmail.com

Scheduler's name and email: : Jenn Hann jenniferhann82@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 legislator I cosponsored the following:**

**Adopting Local Law No. 32-2020, A Local Law to ensure the protection of County Parkland.**

**Adopting Local Law No. 32-2020, A Local Law to ensure the protection of County Parkland and waterways.**

**Creating a Park Stewardship Pilot Program.**

**Establishing a Suffolk County Regional Recycling Assessment Task Force.**

**Voted for the stopping of release of Balloons into the air**

**Voted in favor of stopping the use of plastic straws**



## And the preservation of land in Suffolk County

### 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, and The Suffolk County Energy and Climate Action Office work closely and identify opportunities for improved energy policies for the County and coordinate with the Department of Public Works to execute and implement those policies. Suffolk County has an Energy Initiatives Working Group composed of six stakeholders from various departments

that utilize all tools and programs available to further the goal of developing renewable energy and making County buildings and fleet more energy efficient.

The goal is to reduce energy use and energy costs to the County, while achieving lower carbon emissions from County operations. It is these smart government investments that lead to a cleaner environment and increase overall quality of life for County residents, support of the growing green energy sector of the local economy, all while reducing energy costs to the taxpayers.

### 3. Transportation (p. 6)

- B. As Legislator, I have backed this initiative with letters of support since I took office.
- C. New Charging infrastructure, including 6 all-new Level-3 Charging Stations will be installed within the 9th legislative District at Suffolk's Harold Ct Yard.
- D. Five (5) new all-electric buses will be used exclusively within the 9th Legislative District to transport students every day, beginning September 2021.
- E. Unparalleled commitment by Suffolk Transportation to create a clean-air transportation network for the three communities – 11 total buses, with more to come.

### 4. Resiliency (p. 6 - 7)

The Suffolk County Coastal Resiliency Initiative Project marks the largest investment in water quality infrastructure in the County and will eliminate nearly 5,000 cesspools and septic systems, which adversely affect coastal wetlands that protect communities from damaging storms. I am totally committed to this continued support.

### 5. Solid Waste (p. 7)

As someone who worked in the waste industry, these things must be met and I will push to enter these into implementation.

1. Review, analyze and evaluate current regional solid waste disposal practices in

Suffolk County;

2. Evaluate the financial and environmental benefits of new technologies for their use in Suffolk County;
3. Recommend alternatives to current practices that are both environmentally and economically beneficial;
4. Seek ways to reduce air pollution;
5. Seek ways to reduce traffic congestion;
6. Investigate disposal methods with lower and/or more predictable costs, and evaluate alternatives to decreased trucking such as rail and barge;
7. Examine ways to promote recycling and market development for recycled goods;

### 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)

Ensuring clean water not only for drinking but also for recreation and agriculture starts with investments in our sewage systems and comprehensive plans from all levels of government to rehabilitate our bays and estuaries while limiting the nitrogen in our storm water runoff. I will fight to enact legislation that supports our water quality and aquifer protection.

#### 7. Sustainable Development (p. 9)

Given the serious threat that is climate change, I stand firmly behind expediting efforts to convert municipal vehicles from burning fossil fuels to electric or other clean technologies. I will work with State and local representatives to implement legislation requiring all commercial vehicles that enter Nassau and Suffolk Counties comply with a heightened emission standard.

8. Parks and Open Spaces (p.11)

I will fight for comprehensive protections for regional natural resources such as our air, water, and land. Investing in open space preservation, renewable energy resources, and programs that improve our water quality and revive our bays and estuaries is a top priority for me.

9. Farms and Local Food (p. 11)

I am in full support of managing development and providing access to healthy, fresh foods. We have one of the top farming industries in the country and we need to promote plans and strategies that support our farmers, and enhance healthy food options.