



30 Broad Street – 30th Floor
New York, NY 10004
212-361-6350

politics@nylcv.org / www.nylcv.org

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:

Office sought & district number:

Campaign e-mail:

Campaign phone:

Website:

Facebook page:

Twitter handle:

Campaign manager's name and email:

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 am a member of a union and have long been involved in expanding work and workers protections. I see unions as necessary leaders in climate work. I have recently been looking to a few local groups to learn more about grassroots climate work happening in my district, especially the organizing that is happening around wetland protection. I live near the wetlands and near the shore which faces New Jersey. Everyday I am surrounded by reminders of how we can be doing better at protecting and restoring Staten Island's unique ecology. I have also been learning from NY Renews and ALIGN.

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)

It is imperative that we reduce emissions to help combat climate change. We have too many cars on the road on Staten Island and need better alternatives. I will advocate for a regional transit system model that will include a light rail. The Safe Streets program needs to be extended to the North Shore which is more densely populated than the other parts of the Island. CitiBike needs to be expanded to Staten Island as we are the only Borough without it. I support the conversion of the city's fleet to 100% renewables.

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 committed to conserving New York City's greenspace and natural areas. Staten Island has the most protected land of the five boroughs and I would like us to keep that distinction and add more wetlands to our protected areas. I would also fight for an accelerated plan to restore and protect Staten Islands' shoreline and wetlands which provide natural defense against flooding, something which is in the forefront of every Staten Islander's mind. This would require the passage of legislation with guaranteed funding for these projects. Staten Island's wetlands and forests act as carbon sinks. I believe that expanding greenspace in our city should not be overlooked as a multi beneficial portion of our plan to reach carbon neutrality along with our all important transition to 100% renewable energy, as well as better public transportation, and better waste disposal. Our current Council Member has started a project to provide the waterfront from the Bayonne Bridge to the Verrazano Bridge by advocating for waterfront access parks. We currently have three. I would advocate for the expansion of this project.

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 committed to implementing a citywide organics recycling program and making composting a more accessible waste disposal option for all city residents. Staten Island currently has a seasonal recycling program in Snug Harbor. I would expand this 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 will support the transition to 100% renewable energy by working to strengthen and reform our solar energy program so that it is more accessible and better benefits frontline communities.

am absolutely for the democratization of energy and the decentralization of energy. I want utilities to be powered by renewable energy as much as possible and support programs which help people produce their own energy and offset centralized energy production. There are currently plans to build a wind farm off the coast of Staten Island which I support as it will move us towards our goal of being carbon free. I also envision that any new jobs must be union jobs with all of the benefits and protections that entails.

6. Transportation (p. 5)

I am committed to making biking and busing safer in New York City. I support the Better Bus Action Plan. Staten Island is a transportation desert and too many residents are reliant on private vehicles. We should also invest in a light rail to connect Staten Island to the rest of the region's public transportation.

7. Resiliency (p. 6)

We should introduce a tax on the biggest polluters, large companies and corporations. This tax would allow us to reinvest in the communities which are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis, low income black and brown communities and the many communities in our city which reside in flood plains. On Staten Island we should focus on restoring our shorelines and wetlands, making sure new developments and existing structures are resilient, and upgrading our infrastructure (transportation, waste, power, etc.) to be resilient and also to reduce emissions.

8. Solid Waste (p. 7)

We should not make proper waste disposal the responsibility of private individuals, but ensure that the government has proper guidelines and programs in place to reduce waste on a system wide scale and make processing more efficient.

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)

We should expand public access to our waterfronts and maintain and expand public parks and other public outdoor spaces.

10. Lead Poisoning Prevention (p. 9)

Lead poisoning disproportionately affects low-income people living in substandard and outdated housing. We need to pass legislation that will keep vulnerable people safe.

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

I would love to see a comprehensive urban agriculture plan. Such a program would address food insecurity, help combat some of the effects of climate change, like worsening urban heat islands, and improve quality of life by introducing greenspace into places which might not have it.

12. Clean Air for All (p. 10)

Much of the North Shore of Staten Island faces the New Jersey coastline which is populated by oil refiners and on any given day you can see clouds drifting from their smokestacks toward us. air quality is frequently on my mind and the minds of my neighbors. I support efforts to reduce emissions in the city and to make sure everyone has clean air, a basic necessity, which impacts long term quality of life.

13. Clean Water for All (p.11)

We all know that our infrastructure needs updating, we may have some of the best water quality in the country, but what is the quality like after it travels through pipes that are decades past their due date? We need to invest in updating this infrastructure to ensure that everyone has access to clean water.

14. Sustainable Food Systems (p. 11)

The city should conduct a new food desert analysis. The FRESH program should be improved upon, after 11 years we have enough information to see what aspects of the program work and which don't. The program should also mandate that the grocery stores need to be unionized, pay people prevailing wages, and should employ people in the neighborhood. People need easily accessible, affordable, health food in their neighborhoods.