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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: Siela A. Bynoe

Office sought (& district number if applicable): Nassau County Legislature (LD2)

Campaign e-mail: [siela.a.bynoe@gmail.com](mailto:siela.a.bynoe@gmail.com)

Campaign phone: 516-721-4562

Website: N/A

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/siela.a.bynoe>

Twitter handle: N/A

Campaign manager's name and email: TBD

Press Secretary's name and email: Danny Schrafel – [daniel.schrafel@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.schrafel@gmail.com)

Scheduler's name and email: N/A

## 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 strong supporter of environmental justice initiatives. Recently, I wrote to the Nassau County IDA last August to advocate for the creation of an initiative that would financially incentive environmental protection and water conservation by Nassau businesses. This need is especially acute in the County's minority communities, which suffer disproportionately from exposure to industrial pollution; a specific example is the presence of heavily polluting cement-recycling facilities in the Westbury-New Cassel community.

To support the smart-growth revitalization of downtown Westbury, I advocated for and secured millions of dollars in capital funds for infrastructure improvements that promote smart-growth principles and walkable downtowns.

In late 2019, the Legislature approved two initiatives that I spearheaded to promote water conservation and protect our single-source aquifer that provides Nassau County residents with potable water. The Ground Water and Public Water Supply Facts Report law I authored directs the County Health Department to publish an annual report on the state of the public drinking water supply, based on data collected by the water suppliers and derived from testing water



for compliance. The second created Nassau County's "Smart Sprinkler" reimbursement program for Nassau homeowners who install smart-sprinkler systems at their homes.

## 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 fully support efforts to transition our region from heavily polluting fossil-fuel energy sources and to renewable green sources such as solar and wind power. At the Nassau County level, we can achieve these goals by increasing the number of alternative-fuel and electric vehicles in our County fleet; committing resources to expanding the number of buildings powered either partially or fully by solar; and incentivizing builders to embrace energy-efficient construction standards through County laws and policies where applicable.

#### 3. Transportation (p. 6)

Amidst a sharp decline in ridership during the COVID-19 pandemic, Nassau County has maintained its robust financial support for public transportation during the NICE bus system to ensure it remains a viable option for commuters when social-distancing guidelines are eased and ridership recovers. Specifically in the Second Legislative District, I have supported – and Nassau County has committed capital resources toward – completion of the Long Island Greenway, an extensive network of dedicated bicycle paths from Eisenhower Park to Brentwood State Park that are suitable both for recreation and transportation.

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

As a Nassau County Legislator, I have supported the Bay Park Conveyance Project, a crucial investment that will modernize our sewer infrastructure while restoring the health of the Western Bays and Reynolds Channel by re-routing the discharge of treated effluent to the Atlantic Ocean, where it will be more effectively diffused. Furthermore, I have secured and tens of millions of dollars in infrastructure investments throughout the Second Legislative District, including \$7 million for improvements in Westbury that will support the ongoing transit-oriented revitalization of their downtown community.

Finally, as an extension of my support of environmental justice initiatives, I wrote to the Nassau County IDA last August to advocate for the creation of an initiative that would financially incentive environmental protection and water conservation by Nassau businesses. This need is especially acute in the County's minority communities, which suffer disproportionately from exposure to industrial pollution; a specific example is the presence of heavily polluting cement-recycling facilities in the Westbury-New Cassel community.

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

I supported legislation to prohibit the use of most single-use Styrofoam food-service and packing products in the County. In addition, I firmly believe that the County should take more aggressive actions to discourage the use of single-use paper bags and encourage residents to embrace reusable alternatives.

### 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)

In late 2019, the Legislature approved two initiatives that I spearheaded to promote water conservation and protect our single-source aquifer that provides Nassau County residents with potable water. To provide community leaders and stakeholders with essential data for implementing long-term regional water quality preservation and improvement strategies and empower them to identify and address the presence of emerging contaminants such as 1, 4 – dioxane, my Ground Water and Public Water Supply Facts Report law directs the County Health Department to publish an annual report on the state of the public drinking water supply, based on data collected by the water suppliers and derived from testing water for compliance. The second – which established Nassau County's "Smart Sprinkler" reimbursement program - earmarks \$100,000 each year for grants awarded to Nassau

homeowners who install smart-sprinkler systems at their homes, but are not eligible for assistance through their water provider.

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

I have secured tens of millions of dollars in infrastructure investments, including \$7 million for road improvements in Westbury that will support the ongoing transit-oriented, smart-growth revitalization of their downtown community. I will continue to partner with Westbury Village leaders and provide county-level support for their ongoing downtown revitalization initiative.

In my role as co-chair of Workforce Development subcommittee of the Nassau Hub Community Benefits Advisory Committee, I will work to ensure residents have the tools and knowledge to take advantage of employment opportunities that emerge as we grow our economic base by creating high-paying jobs, exciting mixed-use downtowns and dynamic experiential retail opportunities through a holistic community development approach that includes all stakeholders.

#### 8. Parks and Open Spaces (p.11)

Among the open-space initiatives I have supported in the Second Legislative District, Nassau County has committed capital resources toward – completion of the Long Island Greenway, an extensive network of dedicated bicycle paths from Eisenhower Park to Brentwood State Park that are suitable both for recreation and transportation.

#### 9. Farms and Local Food (p. 11)

Locally grown food and community farmer's markets are essential components of efforts to reach underserved communities through environmentally sustainable nutrition initiatives. I am a strong supporter of the Westbury-New Cassel Farmer's Market and similar efforts to make fresh, affordable produce easily accessible throughout our County, and encourage eligible residents to take advantage of farmer's market vouchers that are available through the County's Department of the Aging.