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## 2007 Questionnaire for Local Candidates

### OVERVIEW

The science on climate change is in: Global warming is happening, and the enormity of the problem requires action at every level of government. Comprehensive solutions for climate change exist, but the years of refusal at the federal level have left the U.S. government behind the curve. Because of this, the real innovation on climate change in this country is happening at the local level. It's the mayors, county executives, and town supervisors in New York who can lead the way on climate change.

By “thinking globally and acting locally,” the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) is calling upon all candidates for local office to put the issue of climate change at heart of their campaign. Our sister organization, the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund (NYLCVEF) has compiled a list of actions state and local governments can take to address this important issue with examples of what's been either done or proposed elsewhere in New York State.

Before responding to the questions on this questionnaire, we recommend you review this document.


### PROCESS


After receipt of the questionnaire, you will be invited to participate in a formal interview with our local chapter board. The interview will provide you with an opportunity to present your credentials and vision for combating climate change on the local level, elaborate on your questionnaire responses, and respond to questions.

The completed questionnaire and interview are mandatory for endorsement consideration.

NYLCV will endorse and work to elect candidates who can demonstrate a willingness and capacity to advance a comprehensive climate action agenda for their municipality.

### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

 Please submit questionnaire responses via email to: [politics@nylcv.org](mailto:politics@nylcv.org)

 Questions or extension requests may be directed to:  
Joshua Klainberg, Political Director ([jklainberg@nylcv.org](mailto:jklainberg@nylcv.org))

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide us with the following information:

Candidate Name: ***William F. Aylward, Jr.***

District #: ***Albany County Legislature - District 31***

## PERSONAL INITIATIVES

1. What have been your most significant achievements to date on environmental issues? ***In each office I've held I have been keen on promoting the environment. In 1971, as mayor of Altamont, I red tagged a project which was intended to dump tons of unclean fill in a ravine in Altamont to allow a driveway to be constructed over the ravine. It had been approved by the previous administration. When the first fill went into the ravine, it crushed the sluice pipe which was made of welded oil drums. When I was called for a signature to allow the project to continue, I red tagged it. That ended the project and it never happened. As Guilderland Supervisor, I pushed for the addition of acreage to the Pine Bush. Subsequently, hundreds of acres were added during my tenure. In addition, I cast the deciding vote to preserve the home of John Schoolcraft, congressman from the Nineteenth Century. It was destined to become a parking lot. As a member of the County Legislature, I led the fight to create the bike and hike trail at the French's Mills Bridge. The bridge was destined to be torn down and I suggested in committee that it be preserved for Guilderland Hike and Bike. The quarter of a million dollars to be used to tear down the old bridge was used to restore the bridge for a new use - bike and hike. It has been a great success.***
2. Please outline your environmental priorities, should you be elected. ***My priorities include any and all activities, legislation we can bring about regarding climate change. I just co-sponsored resolution 328, Albany County Legislature, meeting on July 9,2007, to urge the county to purchase flexible-fuel vehicles when replacing county-owned cars or light pickup trucks.***

## COMMITTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE PRINCIPLES

3. Will you join the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) campaign by introducing and passing a resolution pledging to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from local government operations and throughout your municipality? ***I will urge the Albany County Legislature to pledge reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.***

4. Will you enter your municipality into the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, whereby you would commit to take following three actions:
- Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land-use policies to urban forest restoration projects to public information campaigns? *I believe we should strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol especially the anti-sprawl land use policies to urban forest restoration projects.*
  - Urge state government, and the federal government, to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol -- 7% reduction from 1990 levels by 2012? *I will urge the state and federal governments to reduce the green house gas emissions - 7% from 1990 levels by 2012*
  - Urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading system? *I support the establishment of the national emission trading system.*

## **LEADERSHIP**

Based on what's been either done or proposed by other local governments in New York State (see the NYLCVEF fact sheet at [www.nylcvef.org/localgov](http://www.nylcvef.org/localgov)), ideas from outside of the state or your own original ideas, please outline your plans to address the following areas:

5. Air Quality *For air quality, I would support every effort we can make to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*
6. Energy Efficiency – *For energy efficiency, I would support alternative fuels, and alternative means such as wind energy.*
7. Green Building Development
8. Smart Growth

