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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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide us with the following information:

Candidate Name: *Herbert W. Reilly, Jr.*

District #: *Albany County Legislature, District 33*

PERSONAL INITIATIVES

1. What have been your most significant achievements to date on environmental issues?

While Supervisor of the town of New Scotland, I worked for and supported a new land use Master Plan, Zoning Ordinance and ZBA guidelines. I hosted a land use conference designed to protect open space and prevent urban sprawl. I supported a Planned Unit Development (PUD), a mixed development with common open space, as opposed to four acre zoning in the area.

While County Legislator, I supported the Right to Farm law; a renewable energy solar panel system for the county Hockey facility and the donation of nearly 70 acres of land to the Albany County Land Conservancy. I was lead sponsor for the purchase and development of a bike/hike trail on 15k of the former D&H railroad right of way; supported reconstruction of the Hudson-Mohawk bikeway in the Cohoes area; supported the testing of road paving material made from recycled tires in the Voorheesville area and encouraged energy conserving measures in renovations and reconstruction of county buildings.

Currently, I serve on the County Conservation/ Improvement Committee and am the legislative representative on the DEC Region IV Fish and Wildlife Board, Albany County Soil and Water Board and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Board of Albany County.

2. Please outline your environmental priorities, should you be elected.

I will work to control global warming and urban sprawl.

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 believe it was a serious mistake for the Federal Government to reject the Kyoto agreement and not adopt higher CAFÉ standards. Global warming is a major threat to our world, and therefore, I would support the Cities for Climate Protection Plan.

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?
- 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?
- Urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading system?

Yes, to all of the above.

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), ideas from outside of the state or your own original ideas, please outline your plans to address the following areas:

5. Air Quality

The world and its air do not belong to any single nation or group of people. We have an obligation to be good stewards and pass on a better planet to our children and grandchildren. I will continue to support legislation that furthers these goals.

6. Energy Efficiency

I will support efficient, clean and renewable energy for transportation and heating our homes and businesses.

7. Green Building Development

I have supported and will continue to support the use of green technology in all county owned buildings.

8. Smart Growth

I will support smart growth, using the PUD concept and encourage public transportation.