



30 Broad Street – 30th Floor / New York NY 10004
politics@nylcv.org www.nylcv.org

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: *Lucille M. Mcknight*

District #: *Albany County Legislator , 2nd Legislative District*

PERSONAL INITIATIVES

1. What have been your most significant achievements to date on environmental issues? *The City of Albany issued a permit to an Asphalt Plant to operate in my Historic So-End in close proximity to a low-income neighborhood. I organized a huge public hearing through NYS DEC and the public came out in huge numbers to support me.*
2. Please outline your environmental priorities, should you be elected. *I plan to promote my "Clean and Green Community" plan. I have recently established a close working relationship with the Waste Management, Inc. who has developed a clean-green transfer station in my Industrial area located in the Port of Albany. In April we planted Spruce trees on Earth Day, and we plan to expand this concept to a special clean-green Park near the Hudson River for the Urban residents to enjoy. I will continue to fight to clean-up several DEC tagged (1996) Brownfield's in the inner city that have set during the entire Pataki tenure without receiving adequate funding for clean-up in this declared (EDZ) economic development zone.*

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 sure will join the CCP. My county of Albany has always received an F rating for poor air quality and I will gladly work to address our Clean Air concerns to bring about a healthier quality of life.*
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, I will work hard to educate my City of Albany Council members and invite them to joint me in addressing this Climate protection Agreement which has garnered broad support not only from US Conference of Mayors but support of the National Association of Counties (NACO). In my new role as the President of the New York State Association of Counties, (NYSAC) I will be participating in extensive discussions around the establishment of a nationwide emission trading system at the next NACO conference in Richmond, Va. in July 07.

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: *This Air Quality issue should be on the top of my agenda to address during my 2007 campaign for re-election. Many people are asleep at the switch and have not grasped the full understanding of how air quality has such a huge impact of their lives. Us having a continual "F"rating is not good for the sick, frail or youth. Many in our grade schools suffer with asthma and other upper respiratory disorders. I will be speaking to this during my visits to schools, summer camps, and churches.*
6. Energy Efficiency: *I will encourage residents to use Energy Star products/appliances and switch to energy saving light bulbs in their homes. We (Albany County) have in the past contracted with Cornell Cooperative Extension to provide home energy audits, installation of storm windows, doors and insulation to Senior Citizens and low-income residents. I will advocate for this (HEAP) Home Energy Efficiency Program to continue.*
7. Green Building Development: *I support the concept of Green Building Development in our state. The First Lady of NY State, Silda Spitzer has implemented a Green Energy program for the Governor's Mansion on Eagle Street. NYS DEC has a Green building on Broadway. Most of the county office buildings are historic in nature and somewhat limited to changes but we plan to build a smaller Albany County Nursing Home with a Green building theme in the coming year.*
8. Smart Growth: *As a Commissioner of the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) I have pushed for the smart growth and open space initiatives.*