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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: *Dave Denenberg*

District #: *Nassau County 19th Legislative District*

Campaign Manager: *Claudia Borecky*

Issues Director: *Steve November*

Press Secretary: *Steve Lester*

Scheduler: *Kyle Strober*

Name of Committee: *Friends of Dave Denenberg*

Campaign Address: *2818 Merrick Road, Bellmore, NY 11710*

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Campaign Website: *DaveDenenberg.com*

PERSONAL INITIATIVES

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

Since taking office in 2000, I wrote and am the prime sponsor of major environmental legislation every year. This includes pesticide notification, carbon dioxide emissions, open space inventory, parks and advisory committee (OSPAC), formation with an open space program, open space protection (super majority), the first \$50 million in 2004 and second \$100 million in 2006 open space bonds. Within the past year, I introduced legislation requiring low-sulfur fuel and pollution control for county vehicles, engine-idling time limits, stricter regulations for underground storage tanks with code amendments to require functionality tests and removal of single-walled tanks, prohibiting feeding of migratory waterfowl, requiring the county to purchase 25% of its energy from renewable sources, requiring the county to purchase energy and cost-saving re-refined oil for its vehicles, and green building legislation for county projects. I worked on legislation revitalizing and reinvigorating the Long Island Regional Planning Board, now Council, which passed this year in large part thanks to Michael White's efforts. I am the leader in the fight to clean up contaminated MGP plants and repowering.

I oversee Nassau's sewer and storm water management plan, which covers virtually every municipality and is seen as the state model. I believe I accomplished more as chair of the Planning, Development and Environment Committee in 7 years, than in history. Please note that the Open Space Fund began in 2003, with five percent of county land sales and environmental fines. Also, I worked closely with the county MIS study.

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

Continue to marshal through projects for the open space bond, see the MIS to implementation, continue Smart Growth initiatives and the HUB development, and the LI Regional Planning Council.

I will preserve our parks, ponds, preserves and waterways; preserve and protect our open spaces; promote energy saving and environmentally friendly initiatives. I also set forth initiatives below.

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?

Nassau County Legislature does not have sense of the legislative resolutions. However, the legislation I authored above, 25% of county energy will be green, green building legislation, renewable energy purchase, low sulfur diesel fuel and engine idling laws, all will reduce green house emissions in Nassau County.

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?

Yes.

- 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?

Yes.

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

Yes.

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.nylcvf.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

See above.

6. Energy Efficiency

See above. I am also introducing dark skies legislation and holding public meetings to educate people on energy saving ideas. I am also initiating "light bulb" legislation promoting use of compact fluorescent light bulbs in the county.

7. Green Building Development

I introduced, sponsored and passed green building legislation in Nassau County.

8. Smart Growth

My Smart Growth summits and initiatives led to restating the MIS study in 2002. This is the key to addressing this issue. If we can develop the Hub and address transportation in and out of the Hub, we are addressing the region where 40% of economic activity occurs. The revamped Long Island Regional Planning Council should promote regional solutions for Nassau and Suffolk. I am the legislature's leader in smart growth initiatives. I held numerous public meetings on the Hub and coliseum redevelopment. I will continue to push the Town of Hempstead to revisit its zoning ordinances to promote mixed-use zoning in our downtown areas. I also continue to introduce bills, such as the low-sulfur diesel, engine-idling, underground storage tanks, migratory waterfowl, renewable energy, re-refined oil and the green building legislation, which will promote energy efficient construction.