



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: *Ellen Polimeni*

District #: *Office of Mayor, City of Canandaigua*

PERSONAL INITIATIVES

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

- *Created the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Task Force - In 1989 I created this organization for the purpose of uniting a number of groups that use Canandaigua Lake. This group has grown over the years and I remain a member today. The purpose of organizing these separate groups was to focus on the importance of safeguarding Canandaigua Lake water. This Task Force is made up of stakeholders in Lake activities such as: Canandaigua Lake Boathouse owners, Canandaigua Pure Waters, the East Side Association, Ducks Unlimited, the West Side Association and over 12 individual municipalities that utilize Canandaigua Lake waters.*
- *Formed of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council – An organization made up of the chief elected official from every community in the Canandaigua Lake Watershed area. It seeks to create uniformity in regard to issues such as: storm water management, docks and mooring rules and various other topics related to preserving the quality of Canandaigua Lake water.*
- *Creation of parkland such as: additional public access to Canandaigua Lake, creation of the North East Park, creation of Lagoon park, and walkways and trails.*

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

- *Continue to work and partner with other communities to maintain the health of Canandaigua Lake.*
- *Explore alternative fuel options for City vehicles.*
- *Study geo-exchange technology that might be introduced into city-owned facilities. These alternative energy systems would help keep buildings warm in the winter and cool in the summer.*
- *Continue to support local, regional, state and national organizations and efforts to address issues related to the “greening of communities”. Efforts dealing with global warming will be studied*

with a desire to implement local initiatives to address renewable energy by harnessing a variety of sources including wind resources and biomass.

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?

Yes.

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.*

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:

Air Quality

- *Continue to enforce city and state regulations regarding air quality.*
- *Continue to review air quality as part of any SEQR review for projects being proposed in the city.*

Energy Efficiency

- *Enforce New York State building code in regard to construction updates and new construction.*
- *Utilize grant programs to provide funding for homeowners that wish to increase energy efficiency in private residences.*

Green Building Development

- *Provide incentives for the use of geexchange systems in new construction.*
- *Update the building code to address the problem of climate change.*

Smart Growth

- *Join with surrounding communities to develop a comprehensive set of Smart Growth recommendations.*

- *Revitalize low income neighborhoods by offering incentives for rehabilitation and preservation of historic structures.*

