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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: *Jim Dougherty*

District #: *Town Supervisor for Shelter Island*

## PERSONAL INITIATIVES

1. What have been your most significant achievements to date on environmental issues? *Was on the Board of Directors of South Fork, Shelter Island Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, 1983-1994, serving as Chairman from 1990-1994. Start-Up Director and founding Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Peconic BayKeeper, 1998-2004. Member of Board of Directors of New York League of Conservation Voters early 1990's. Chairman of the Shelter Island Community Land Preservation Board, from the statutory enactment of the 2% tax open space law in 1999 through the present, with, according to The Pine Barrens Society and other report cards, the most outstanding record in preserving open space among the five Towns with the law.*
2. Please outline your environmental priorities, should you be elected. *Aggressively continue the open space preservation program (which received a 78% favorable vote on Shelter Island when on the ballot in 2006 and 2002). Enforce zoning laws fully and fairly to protect our aquifer and preserve the quality of the waters in our bays and harbors, which are integral parts of the Peconic Estuary System. Investigate, and act if seems appropriate, re underground fuel tanks. Balance desire to check tick related diseases on the Island with the need to monitor, and control if seems appropriate, the use of pesticides, keeping in mind the long-term possible effect of such chemicals on our young (as well as on all of us).*

## 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: *If Shelter Island is an appropriate governmental entity for entry, would strongly urge Town Board action on the three proposals.*
  - 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?

## **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
6. Energy Efficiency
7. Green Building Development
8. Smart Growth

*See above and also plan, through education and possibly government leadership by example and possibly legislation, greater energy efficiency (eg lighting, insulation) and increased use of alternative energy sources, such as solar, generally through LEEDS principles and other sources of guidance, education and leadership.*