



30 Broad Street – 30th Floor / New York NY 10004
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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: *John T. McDonald III*

District #:

PERSONAL INITIATIVES

1. What have been your most significant achievements to date on environmental issues? *My largest accomplishment is to implement a city wide recycling/sanitation program of which we have had the outcome of a significant (>30%) increase in recycling. The program also mandated a closed sanitation container which has lead to a cleaner community. We have also directed developers to utilize smart growth in regards to developments, especially in regards to cluster housing. Have also worked with neighboring communities to address CSO's and their impacts on the Hudson River. We have also adopted and followed a strict residency program for rental units which have helped identify potential dangers and in my eyes will prevent future demolitions and or fires. The City has also adopted a host of real property tax incentives to spur on revitalization of existing and historic properties, thereby strengthen our urban center. On top of that the city has built a center square like park in the center of the community called Silliman Park vs. a parking lot as originally proposed.*
2. Please outline your environmental priorities, should you be elected. *My concern on the local level is to continue to upgrade our aging facilities using more current green technologies. I plan on continuing to work on the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) for the CSO's and also the MS4 plans for NYS. I also plan on creating 2+/- acres of open space on the Hudson River waterfront for public use.*

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? **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.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 – *revaluate the Cities facilities to provide efficient energy options*
7. Green Building Development – *whereas the City does not build too often, if we do we want to make sure that we are conscious of green energy guidelines.*
8. Smart Growth – *The City Zoning Code has placed more approval and authority in the Planning Board, which I have also increased support for. The Planning Board now has Site Planning approval, which the city did not have before. This will give us a stronger stance when working with developers.*

