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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: *Norma L. Gonsalves*

District #: *Nassau County Legislature, District 13*

PERSONAL INITIATIVES

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

Promoted and supported two Environmental Bond Acts, 2004 and 2006; submitted four nominations: one to purchase farm in East Meadow; two to purchase developmental rights; one to improve farm with Cornell Cooperative Extension for community gardens; fostered Parks Protocol for Passive and Recreational Parks with do's and don'ts for permitted use; Task Force to create nature trail along the Meadowbrook Parkway Corridor; introduced and sponsored legislation restricting the use of ATVs, motorized scooters, etc. on county roads and property; co-sponsored legislation prohibiting littering, dumping, and encroachment on county property, etc.

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

To continue the work begun in the above projects; to foster the use of green energy already provided by county law; to promote smart growth initiatives; to support a future environmental bond

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, if within the authority and jurisdiction to do so. If a sense of the legislature is requested, we are prohibited from doing so.

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: *Co-sponsored legislation requiring the use of ultra low sulfur diesel fuel . (Phase in with full use by 2013)*
6. Energy Efficiency: *Supported alternative and renewable energy sources; held and will continue to hold community forums on green energy encouraging the public to purchase energy efficient appliances, lighting, etc.*
7. Green Building Development: *Adopted Green Building Standard Law requiring LEED standards on all capital construction projects.*
8. Smart Growth: *The lease agreement governing the 77 acres Coliseum site must require energy efficient building and smart growth policies.*