



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: *Paul Feiner*

District #: *Greenburgh Town Supervisor*

PERSONAL INITIATIVES

1. What have been your most significant achievements to date on environmental issues? *1) Increased open space acquisition from 200 acres to 600+ acres. 2) Hiring the regions first energy conservation coordinator for a municipality: Nikki Coddington. 3) Requiring new residential construction to meet energy efficient standards. 4) Placing solar panels inside town hall. We are now building a library using geothermal technology. 5) Approving the regions first law regulating Con Ed tree cutting/trimming (see July 1, 2007 NY Times letter-Westchester section which summarizes my views on what Con Ed is doing.) Our law requires Con Ed to replant cut trees with smaller trees. 6) Prior to holding office I lobbied successfully for the construction of bikeways along the Bronx River Parkway, on the Putnam Right of Way (now South County Trail). 7) Approval of an open space plan--Greenburgh was first locality in region to have open space referendum. We are now funding a comprehensive plan that will be more extensive.*
2. Please outline your environmental priorities, should you be elected. *1) All vehicles that will be purchased by the town should meet highest energy efficient standards: plug in hybrid, biodiesel (town's truck fleet). Purchase cleaner vehicles. 2) Approve law requiring LEED certification for all new commercial construction. 3) Schedule referendum on community preservation act-- acquire additional parkland. 4) Approve master plan. 5) Monitor Tappan Zee bridge options to make sure the TZ bridge alternative that is selected does not have a negative impact on quality of life. 6) Ban leaf blowers during summer. 7) Monitor Con Ed tree cutting. 8) Oversee construction of new library-- geothermal heating.*

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-- I support the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. I will take the pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from local government operations.*

4. Will you enter your municipality into the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, whereby you would commit to take following three actions: ***I support the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. I support the 3 actions outlined in your questionnaire.***
- 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), ideas from outside of the state or your own original ideas, please outline your plans to address the following areas:

5. Air Quality- ***I would like to see the town adopt a policy requiring the town government to purchase only cleaner vehicles: I advocate using biodiesel fuel with our fleet and support new technologies being used at the local level: hybrid as an example. The town should have a tougher tree law--regulating the cutting of trees.***
6. Energy Efficiency- ***The town should require commercial developments (new) to be energy efficient. The town should increase the purchasing of our energy from renewable sources. We should continue to promote energy efficiency/conservation. During the past two years we have sponsored energy conservation/green fairs.***
7. Green Building Development- ***We should require LEED certification of any new construction of commercial buildings. We should provide incentives to those who build green buildings.***
8. Smart Growth- ***We should promote public transportation, provide incentives to employees who share rides. The town will be adopting a new master plan and we will also be monitoring the impact of the Tappan Zee bridge options-- how they impact Greenburgh.***