



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: *Philip C. Barrett*

District #: *Town of Clifton Park/Saratoga County*

PERSONAL INITIATIVES

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

Since 2001, my administration has worked very hard to provide a balance in the Town of Clifton Park between development that has occurred for more than 40 years and open space/parks and recreational resources. Please look no further than the packet of information provided by your organization that includes this questionnaire. I will not waste your time by listing these accomplishments again that we are very proud of. In 2006, we also received a NY statewide award from the American Planning Association for the same initiatives outlined in our award from the NY Association of Realtors. An 18-month building moratorium, while we worked on these cutting edge initiatives allowed us the time to build on our successes. Since receiving these awards we have consummated two Purchase of Development Rights programs with two working farms in Town as well. We also purchased additional properties for preservation purposes and announced a new, large passive/active recreational park. Our ability to connect our open space purchases to provide free movement for all kinds of wildlife has also been an important part of our plans. In 2006, we received a very prominent distinction from NYS with regard to the 300 plus acre Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve, as it became a designated bird sanctuary. This fall we will also officially designate a 250-acre portion of Town as the Dwaaskill Nature Preserve. In 2006 the Town purchased the property as part of our Open Space Plan.

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

I am very proud of what we have been able to accomplish since taking office in 2000. We will continue to build on our successes in the area of land preservation, land use planning, protection of wildlife habitat and trail enhancements to name a few. We recently appointed an Alternative Energy Committee to study new initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases and use alternative energy methods. We began to collect plastic

shopping bags at the Town's transfer station and the response has been overwhelming. We have partnered with the private sector to ensure the bags are recycled at no cost to the taxpayer. We will also begin to collect the bags used by dry cleaning establishments, as that plastic should also be recycled. We also began a new recycling initiative at our sports fields, which are heavily used throughout the year. Plastic bottles will be separated from regular trash and recycled. I am very excited about the Alternative Energy Committee and new initiatives will follow in the future.

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?

Absolutely. Our Alternative Energy Committee has been established to do just that-find ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For the question on number 4- I'm not sure we are a large enough community to be considered part of the US Mayor's group, but our future initiatives will be in line with their goals.

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?

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

7. Green Building Development

8. Smart Growth

The four areas of distinction in this section of the questionnaire are certainly areas where we have had major accomplishments. The new library in town was built as a GREEN Building and we are researching ways to make our older buildings more environmentally friendly. This will be an important area of study for our Alternative Energy Committee. We are very fortunate to have some very impressive individuals that have volunteered. Engineers who worked on the library, experts from the Governor's staff and people in Town who use alternative energy methods just to name a few.

I look forward to meeting with you and discussing the exciting, cutting edge initiatives we have consummated or are beginning to work toward. Thank you for your consideration. Again, please see the informational packet, which is part of this questionnaire, for more details about the accomplishments of my administration.