



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: *Timothy D. Nichols*

District #: *20th Legislative District*

PERSONAL INITIATIVES

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

I have for years pressured the Town of Colonie into developing a Comprehensive Plan. I called for a won a Temporary Building Moratorium in Colonie. Though I called for a Town-wide moratorium, the Town Board did institute a limited building moratorium in my neighborhood for about 18months during the Comprehensive Plan process. I take great pride in this because the Comprehensive Plan included all aspects of Smart Growth, open-space preservation, pedestrian-friendly concepts and the like. I launched a campaign and created a website (no defunct) called "Moratorium Now!" I can discuss this in more detail if interested.

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

I want to make Albany County one of the most advanced counties in the State when it comes to fighting climate change. There are many, many things we can do as a county that I am excited about implementing.

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 would be happy to introduce a resolution to make Albany County a part of this campaign.*

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 I would!

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 pursue laws to restrict idling especially county-owned diesel vehicles. I would also pursue initiatives to promote clean fuel vehicles for the county's fleet.*
6. Energy Efficiency: *Require all light bulbs in county buildings to be compact fluorescent. Also – I would require a higher percentage of the county's energy to come from renewable sources. Finally, I would aggressively explore clean energy options for all buildings owned by the county.*
7. Green Building Development: *The County should explore ways to create incentives for green building design and renovation. We could accomplish this by offering incentives and grants. In addition, the county's own buildings should be reviewed to determine which buildings can be made more "green".*
8. Smart Growth: *A countywide comprehensive plan to link communities, encourage collaboration and develop strategies that improves health, the environment and the quality of life.*