



*NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS*

*NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS EDUCATION FUND*

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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When 2020 began, no one imagined we would all be thrust into the middle of a global pandemic after only a couple of months. But the public health crisis only strengthened our resolve that combating the climate crisis is necessary to improving public health and the economy.

Climate action is at the crux of everything we fight for, whether it's renewable energy, clean transportation, environmental justice, building efficiency, or green jobs with family-sustaining wages. It's also the top issue that we demand candidates for office prioritize if they want our support and the top issue we ask our members to consider when making decisions at the ballot box. And climate change is the reason we make clean water, open space, and reducing waste our top priorities year after year.

That's why we are excited to publish our inaugural Annual Report so that we can provide a progress report on these issues to the very supporters who help us accomplish our advocacy, programmatic, and development goals.

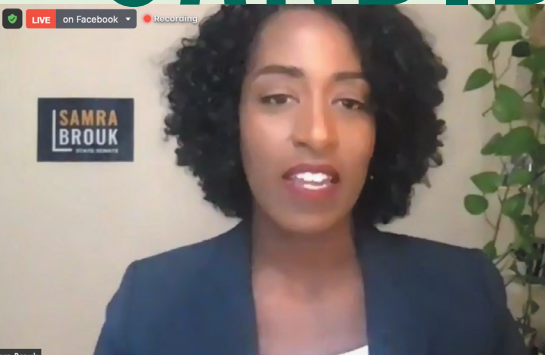
Even while adhering to strict social distancing guidelines, we were able to accomplish quite a lot in 2020. We pivoted to a virtual format for our forums and our candidate endorsement interviews, which helped us reach a much wider audience than usual. A virtual format has helped our key development programs, including Corporate Partners, thrive. NYLCV also took on leadership roles in several coalitions that are working to achieve our advocacy priorities including clean transportation and investing in our parks.



We describe all this progress and more inside our report. We could not have achieved any of this without your continued support. Thank you for generously standing with us and the conservation voter movement.

*Julie Tighe*  
President, NYLCV/EF

# CANDIDATE FORUMS



*Senate District 55*



*Congressional District 15*



*Assembly District 125*

*Our non-partisan candidate forums help voters learn about where the candidates stand on key environmental issues.*

NYLCVEF recruits local journalists to serve as the moderators ensuring that the discussion is substantive and relevant to the community. Audience participation is encouraged as attendees are invited to submit questions.

In 2020, we held an in-person candidate forum for Queens Borough President and virtual candidate forums for Congressional District 15 in the Bronx, Congressional District 17 in Westchester and Rockland counties, State Senate District 1 on Long Island, State Senate District 55 in Western New York, and Assembly District 125 encompassing Ithaca and Cortland, as well as interviews with candidates for Congressional Districts 1 and 2 on Long Island.



*Candidate forums for Congressional Districts 1 and 2*

# VIRTUAL ENDORSEMENT INTERVIEWS



*Congressional District 17*

Hot topics this year included siting and investments in renewable energy, how the recovery from COVID can include more sustainable policies, protecting clean water, the preservation of public lands, addressing air quality disparities in environmental justice neighborhoods, creating green jobs, and controlling the spread of invasive species.

Thousands of voters from all around the state who could not make the live event have been able to view these forums live via Facebook ([facebook.com/nylcv](https://facebook.com/nylcv)) and on our YouTube channel ([youtube.com/nylcv](https://youtube.com/nylcv)).

During most years, we hold our candidate endorsement interviews in-person. Due to the pandemic in 2020, in-person meetings were not possible. But that didn't stop us from conducting a record number of interviews virtually.

Moving these meetings to an online-only format meant that we could expand our outreach to more regions and screen more candidates than ever before. It's a new skill that will come in handy in the future as interest in our endorsement grows.

The interviews were just as productive as every election year. Ninety percent of the candidates that we endorsed won their race, which means that our relationships within the State Legislature continue to grow.

# *FORUM SERIES ON IMPLEMENTING* **THE CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT**

Building on a policy forum that we held in 2019 to introduce New Yorkers to the landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), in 2020 we kicked off a series of virtual forums that focused on each sector of our economy.

The CLCPA mandates economy-wide carbon-neutrality by 2050 and each sector has its own unique challenges and opportunities. Through this series, our goal is to dive deeper into how we are going to achieve the CLCPA's ambitious climate goals in a way that is effective, efficient, and equitable. The series also aims to build

public awareness, educate New Yorkers on climate policy, and develop recommendations for how to meet those objectives.

We held forums focusing on offshore wind transmission, buildings and efficiency, and transportation, and will continue holding more in 2021. The forums featured panelists from our non-profit partners, government, and industry representatives. We discussed opportunities including new technologies and strong public policies, as well as challenges like our current fiscal crisis. If you'd like to learn more, visit [nylcvef.org/CLCPAforumseries](https://nylcvef.org/CLCPAforumseries).



*Our forum on offshore wind transmission*

*Through this series, our goal is to dive deeper into how we are going to achieve the CLCPA's ambitious climate goals in a way that is effective, efficient, and equitable.*

# 2020: *BY THE NUMBERS*

Our political influence is steadily increasing as more candidates are participating in our endorsement process and more of our endorsed candidates are winning their races.

Our fundraising is growing, which supports our work to achieve advocacy and programmatic accomplishments throughout the year.

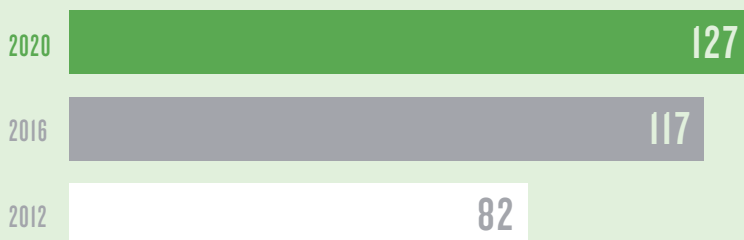
## Endorsement interest increases

*Questionnaires received*



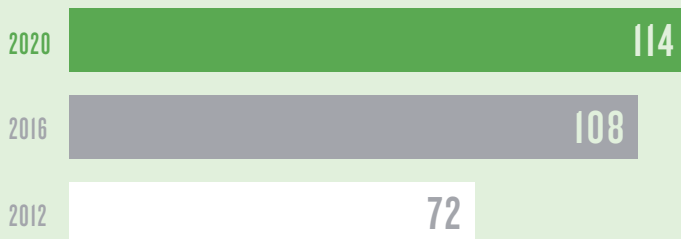
## Endorsement activity increases

*Races we endorsed in*



## Our relationships increase

*Number of winning candidates*



*Percent of endorsed candidates who won*

90%





*Bills we advocated  
for that passed*

**23**



*Candidate forums*

**8**



*Eco-Breakfasts*

**13**



*Policy forums*

**5**



*Donors*

**682**



*Corporate partners*

**33**



*People who took action*

**6,006**



*New donors*

**299**



*Grants received*

**18**



*Funding we helped get  
included in the State Budget*

**\$3.8 BILLION**



*Funds raised  
at Gala*

**\$900,000**



*Funds raised  
through grants*

**\$400,000**

*NYC*

# CLEAN SCHOOL BUS COALITION

*The coalition is fighting for better air quality and less pollution from school buses, and will work to transition New York City away from diesel and towards electric school buses.*



NYLCV Education Fund continues to work with local groups and coalitions across the state to build support for electric school buses as part of our Clean Buses for Healthy Niños campaign. We launched the NYC Clean School Bus Coalition which includes organizations working on labor, environment, social justice, public health and more to help bring electric school buses to environmental justice communities. The coalition is advocating for local legislation that would phase out diesel school buses in NYC by 2040.

During a school year full of changes, diesel pollution remains constant. The coalition is fighting for better air quality and less pollution from school buses. COVID-19 underscores the importance of improving air quality in environmental justice communities. The coalition will work to transition New York City away from diesel and towards electric school buses.



Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams

# A GREENER CITY HALL?

*The events give our board members, corporate partners, major donors, and non-profit partners a special opportunity to have intimate conversations with the mayoral candidates.*



The next mayor of New York City will have the monumental task of furthering the City's work on climate action. That includes enacting bold policies as well as ensuring we have plans to follow through with them.

To help keep the environment top of mind for the mayoral candidates, we started an event series - "A Greener City Hall?" The events give our board members, corporate partners, major donors, and non-profit partners a special opportunity to have intimate conversations with the candidates.

We ask about their plans for reducing waste and promoting recycling, expanding greenspace, keeping the city's world-class drinking water system clean, greening our transportation sector, and making our infrastructure more resilient.



*Assemblymember Carrie Woerner joined our forum on the benefits of a Clean Fuels Standard*



*The Clean Fuels NY coalition is led by the New York League of Conservation Voters and was formed to demonstrate the broad and diverse support for New York State to create a clean fuel standard to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.*

Transportation is the leading contributor to climate pollution in the state and nationwide. That's why reducing emissions from the transportation sector is one of our priorities and we are leading a coalition that's advocating for a policy that will help do just that.

Clean Fuels NY is focused on passing a clean fuel standard to slash emissions by holding polluters accountable and spurring widespread deployment of low and zero-emission vehicles and innovation in alternative fuel industries.





*Ann Davlin*



*Richard L. Farren*



*Barbara Fife*



*Kevin Knobloch*



*Sophia Mendelsohn*



*Rosalind Walrath*

# THANK YOU TO *OUR BOARD*

Our board members are vital to our work. They provide support, leadership, guidance, and direction for our advocacy and programs. We appreciate their dedication to our environment and combating climate change.

A number of board members stepped down in 2020, some after many years of dedicated service. We thank them all for serving the environmental community with distinction.

---

*ANN DAVLIN*

*RICHARD L. FARREN*

*BARBARA FIFE*

*KEVIN KNOBLOCH*

*SOPHIA MENDELSON*

*ROSALIND WALRATH*

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## BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

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Robin Hubbard  
Rhea Jezer  
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Mitchell H. Pally  
Clinton Plummer  
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Katherine Kennedy  
Lisa Linden  
Rebecca Marino  
Vatche Minassian  
Gail S. Port  
Juan Reyes  
Andrew Sabin  
Andrea Schmitz

#### NYLCV & NYLCVEF STAFF

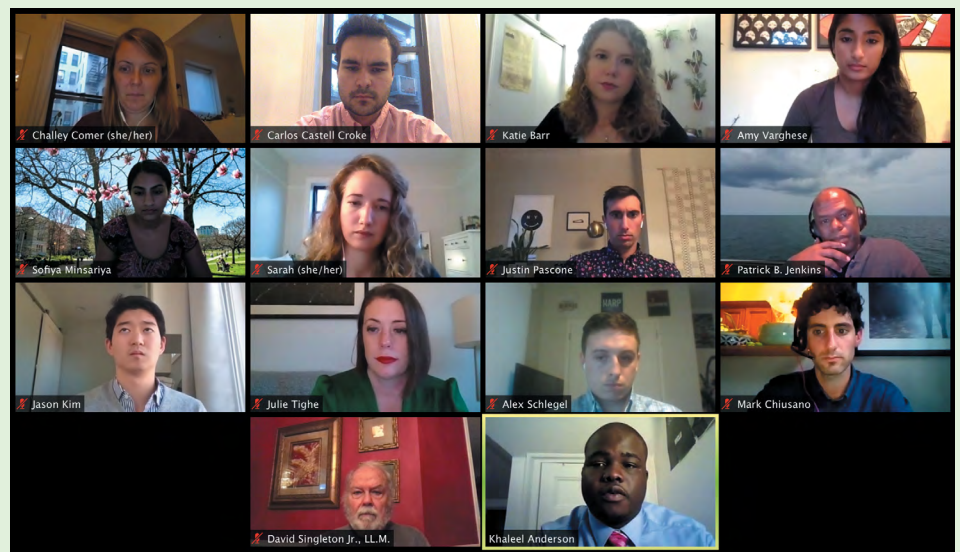
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Angela Hotaling, *Director of Programs*  
Patrick McClellan, *Director of Policy*  
Shachar Sharon, *Communications Director*  
Carlos Castell Croke, *Associate for New York City Programs*  
Clare Liu, *Development and Events Associate*  
Lisa Darrigo, *Program Coordinator*  
Caroline Hahn, *Special Assistant to the President*

# EMERGING LEADERS

Early- and mid-career professionals continue to grow into environmental advocates of the future as part of our *Emerging Leaders* program. Our events inform the next generation of environmental leaders about key sustainability issues through interactive discussions and gives them the tools to begin to make a difference now.

We held three events in 2020. At our happy hour, Assemblymember-elect Khaleel Anderson and Newsday editorial board member Mark Chiusano joined us to discuss the 2020 election season and politicking during a pandemic. They also led a rich discussion on how important the environment will be to voters in the future. At our breakfasts, Deputy Commissioner at the NYC Department of Sanitation Bridget Anderson discussed waste reduction initiatives and Senior Policy Advisor at the NYC Mayor's Office of Resiliency Julia Eiferman discussed the City's emission reduction programs and how they improve the city's resiliency.

If you know someone who would like to become a member, email us at [development@nylcv.org](mailto:development@nylcv.org).



*Assemblymember Khaleel Anderson and Newsday's Mark Chiusano  
join our Emerging Leaders Happy Hour*





# CORPORATE PARTNERS

*Then-NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Polly Trottenberg joined one of our Eco-Breakfasts. She is pictured here with NYLCV State Board Chair Steven Russo and NYLCV President Julie Tighe.*

*We expanded our Corporate Partners program into the Capital Region in 2020. This new program offers opportunities for Albany-area organizations to meet decision-makers from the Capital Region, including top agency staff.*

Even during social distancing restrictions, our Corporate Partners Eco-Breakfast program continued to engage business, environmental, and political leaders. We transitioned seamlessly to a virtual format and held 13 breakfasts overall. We were joined by leaders in energy, mobility, and open spaces including newly appointed Deputy White House Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi, who came in his former role as New York State Deputy Secretary for Energy and the Environment, and then-NYC DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg, now Deputy Secretary at the U.S. DOT.

If you would like to become a Corporate Partner, learn more about the program, or get involved, please email [development@nylcv.org](mailto:development@nylcv.org).

## DONORS

### \$10,000+

Andrew Sabin Family Foundation  
Anonymous  
Kuba Brown, IUOE Local 94  
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ChargePoint  
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Citi  
Clearway Energy Group  
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Covanta Energy, LLC  
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Diamond Generating, LLC  
Energy Action Fund  
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Philip Karmel, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner  
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Lisa Linden, LAK PR  
Kivvit  
Meridian Infrastructure  
National Grid  
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)  
Neste  
New York OceanGrid LLC  
Nixon Peabody LLP  
Ørsted  
Ostroff Associates  
Glenn Pacchiana, Thalle Industries, Inc.  
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Plug Power Inc.  
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Proskauer Rose LLP  
Quebec Government Office in New York

REBNY  
Red Apple Group  
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Steven Russo, Greenberg Traurig  
Sive Paget & Riesel PC  
Lise Strickler and Mark Gallogly  
Suez  
The Durst Organization  
The New York Community Trust  
The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company  
The Spingold Foundation  
The Walbridge Fund  
Tishman Construction, an AECOM Company  
Transmission Developers, Inc.  
Two Trees Management  
Rosalind Walrath  
Charles Warren, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP  
Waste Management of New York  
Western Conservation Foundation  
James Whelan, Real Estate Board of New York  
Williams  
Michael Woloz, CMW Strategies  
Jacob Worenklein

### \$5000-9999

Apex Clean Energy  
Arnold & Porter  
Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind  
Michael Avella, Dickinson & Avella  
Gene Bernstein, Northville Industries  
Tonio Burgos, Tonio Burgos & Associates  
Capalino + Company  
Luke Clemente, Century Aggregates, Inc.  
Crown Castle  
Tom Dewey, Dewey Pegno & Kramarsky LLP  
EDP Renewables

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Google  
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### \$1000-4999

ACE NY  
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Brookfield Renewable  
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Closed Loop Partners  
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#### \$500-999

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 Henry Euler  
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 Empire Government Strategies  
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 Jonathan Levine  
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 Jessica Mahar  
 Lindsay Marks  
 Elizabeth Martin  
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 Goulston & Storrs  
 David Miller  
 James Mindling  
 Tucker Green, Conscious Voter  
 Contact Inc.  
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 Deborah Yoken

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 Benjamin Baxt  
 Alan Belensz  
 Judith Berger  
 Joe Bonilla,  
 Relentless Awareness LLC  
 Megan Boone  
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 Fradkin & McAlpin Architects  
 Kathryn Freed  
 Dean Gallea  
 Michael Gerrard  
 Jason Gers  
 Matt Gewolb  
 Elizabeth Girardi-Schoen  
 Steven Goldman  
 Michael Gordon, Joule Assets  
 Worth Gretter  
 Anne Herrmann  
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 John Hutchison  
 Terry Joshi  
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*New York League of Conservation Voters*

NYLCV is the only nonpartisan, statewide environmental organization in New York that fights for clean water, clean air, renewable energy, and open space through political action.

*New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund*

NYLCVEF educates, engages, and empowers New Yorkers to be effective advocates for the environment.

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*Cover image: "Red tulips in New York City in spring" by quietbits /*

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