



30 Broad Street – 30<sup>th</sup> Floor / New York, NY 10004  
politics@nylcv.org      www.nylcv.org

## 2010 Environmental Questionnaire for New York Statewide Candidates

### OVERVIEW

NYLCV seeks to marry economic growth with environmental well being. We achieve this goal by advancing sustainability policies and initiatives across New York that also support the development critical to the state's economic success.

### PROCESS

This questionnaire is designed to elicit your commitment to and ideas on addressing the important sustainability issues facing New York State. Responses should be considered public. Although we may choose not to publicize responses to every question, verbatim responses may be reproduced and distributed publicly. If so, your responses may be shortened, if necessary, but will not be edited in substantive ways. If you choose to refer us to a position paper or Web site, please indicate exactly what text you would like us to cite. For candidates choosing not to respond to the questionnaire, we will note as much in our public materials.

After receipt of your completed questionnaire, you will be invited to participate in a formal interview with our state Board. The interview will provide you with an opportunity to present your credentials, elaborate on your questionnaire responses, and respond to questions.

- Questionnaires are due August 13<sup>th</sup>
  
- The completed questionnaire is mandatory for endorsement consideration. Completed questionnaire must be submitted via e-mail to: [politics@nylcv.org](mailto:politics@nylcv.org)
  
- Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg ([jklainberg@nylcv.org](mailto:jklainberg@nylcv.org))

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide us with the following information:

Candidate Name: *Andrew M. Cuomo*

Office Sought: *Governor*

Campaign Manager: *Joe Percoco*

Press Secretary:

Name of Campaign Committee: *Cuomo 2010*

Campaign Address: *P.O. Box 683, New York, NY 10008*

Campaign Phone: *212-209-3314*

Campaign Fax:

Campaign E-mail:

Campaign Web site: *andrewcuomo.com*

## PERSONAL INITIATIVES AND VISION

1. Please share with us accomplishments or experiences that indicate your commitment to advancing an agenda for New York State that promotes environmental protection, sustainable development and a clean-energy future. These may be professional or personal.

*As Secretary of HUD, and as Attorney General, environmental protection has been a central concern and a key focus. I'm proud of what we accomplished at HUD and at the Attorney General's Office.*

### ***History of Environmental Protection and Planning at HUD***

*As HUD Secretary, I expanded the agency's portfolio to include environmental protection and planning for the first time in its history. It was clear then and remains even more so today, that improving the quality of life in our nation's communities depends upon protecting residents from environmental threats and revitalizing the natural environment around them. Whether through brownfield or waterfront redevelopment, protecting children from lead paint or providing communities with critical information about environmental threats in their backyards, I integrated environmental concerns into our work as much as possible. In addition, I integrated smart*



*community planning into HUD's agenda to ensure that our assistance spurred full community input and comprehensive long-term planning.*

*We made brownfield redevelopment a top priority for the first time in the agency's history. We designed HUD's Brownfields Economic Development Initiative ("BEDI") to reduce environmental contamination while stimulating economic growth. We invested \$166 million in transforming polluted and abandoned sites into businesses, homes, and recreational sites. Along with the HUD assistance, businesses and other agencies committed over \$811 million in additional funds to redevelop these once desolate sites. In New York State, BEDI funds were used in Syracuse, Rochester, Yonkers and other communities across the state to redevelop brownfields. The BEDI program was good for the economy and good for the environment, and served as a model for leveraging private funds through public programs.*

*We were also able to link brownfield redevelopment to waterfront revitalization. New York's waterfront communities have severely deteriorated as industries once located on waterfront property have closed or left the state. Throughout my tenure at HUD, the agency directed hundreds of millions of dollars to waterfront revitalization projects in New York. Some examples include \$6.5 million to Nassau County to help buy and clean up a site known as Captain's Cove, which is included in the Glen Cove Creek Waterfront Revitalization Plan that is returning 214 acres of environmentally contaminated property back to productive use. Another \$19.4 million dollars in economic development assistance went to seven cities in the Hudson River Valley as part of the Hudson River Partnership 2000. These projects demonstrated how important waterfront revitalization planning is to the future of our cities and towns.*

*As HUD Secretary, I spearheaded President Clinton's Campaign for a Lead-Safe America to reduce exposure to lead and other environmental hazards, with a particular focus on protecting children. We provided grants to state and local governments, non-profit community groups, and research organizations around the country for lead hazard control programs in low-income housing, scientific research on lead-based paint, and local and national lead hazard awareness campaigns. I successfully fought to increase funding for the program from \$25 million in 1998 to \$68.3 million in 2000. HUD provided funding to Albany, Syracuse, Utica, and New York City to support lead abatement. The Lead Hazard Control Program was complemented by my Healthy Homes Initiative to reduce environmental health and safety risks to children through new housing maintenance techniques, lead-based paint inspections and compliance checks, and a public education campaign to prevent injuries at home.*

*In partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency, we also developed E-Maps to enable citizens to locate and make informed decisions regarding environmental hazards in their communities. The software provides site-specific financial, managerial, demographic and program information on communities throughout the U.S., and allows residents, advocacy organizations, local governments and others to have access to information on Superfund sites, brownfields, the status of permits, regulatory compliance, clean-up activities, environmental contamination and more. The program was designed to empower community residents with information for participation in the decisions to be made about their environment.*

*By working directly with mayors in cities across the country, I saw firsthand the destructive impacts of siting decisions that create higher levels of pollution and potential health threats in low-income and minority communities. At HUD I focused on this issue because it is critical that environmental protection include not only conservation efforts, but also protection of our communities from significant threats such as diesel mobile source pollution in order to ensure adequate urban green space.*

*Also, as HUD Secretary, I began to address the environmental challenges of low income communities, arguing that sustainable development meant good jobs and a sound environment. Urban growth must be encouraged, but in a way that allows us to protect the environment, allowing for sustainable growth and long-term economic expansion.*

### ***Vigorous Defense of the Environment as Attorney General***

*When I became Attorney General, I made protecting and improving our environment a top priority. From air quality to water quality we've brought and won important cases.*

*My office has been a national leader in the fight against global warming on a number of fronts. We've fought to defend New York's right to reduce emissions of global warming pollution from cars, to require major energy companies to fully disclose the risks that climate change poses to their investors, and to oppose coal-fired power plants that rely on outdated pollution control technologies. Most recently, I led a coalition of 13 states to defend the first-ever federal limits on global warming emissions from the nation's largest stationary sources, such as power plants, cement kilns and oil refineries.*

*Moreover, we've reached groundbreaking settlements to protect the health and environment of New Yorker from acid rain, smog, soot and other air pollution. For example, leading a coalition of 12 states and the U.S. Department of Justice, my office reached a settlement with Lafarge North America, Inc. and its subsidiaries, one of the nation's largest cement companies, requiring it to slash its air pollution emissions. Under the settlement, Lafarge will eliminate a total of over 9,000 tons of nitrogen oxide and 26,000 tons of sulfur dioxide each year from its 13 plants, including those in upwind states whose pollution impacts New York and required Lafarge to pay a civil penalty and provide funding for environmental benefit projects totaling \$5.07 million, with \$3.38 million of that amount going to the federal government and the coalition of states receiving \$1.69 million.*

*In another case, leading a coalition of states and environmental groups and the federal government, we reached a settlement with American Electric Power ("AEP"), the nation's largest power company, requiring the company to upgrade its "eastern fleet" of power plants, dramatically cutting its emissions in the single greatest reduction of air pollution from a Clean Air Act enforcement action. Under the settlement, AEP will invest approximately \$4.6 billion to cut over 800,000 tons of emissions yearly from a fleet of 16 power plants. The settlement also required AEP to pay \$75 million for penalties and environmental projects, including \$9.5 million for the State of New York. These funds – which represent the largest payment for environmental projects ever received from a New York State settlement under the Clean Air Act – are currently being used to fight air pollution throughout the State.*

*Protecting New York's water resources has also been a priority. My office has been a national leader in the fight to protect our Great Lakes from aquatic invasive species – "alien" organisms that threaten the ecological, recreational and economic value of these precious resources – by winning key victories to prevent the dumping of contaminated ballast water by large commercial ships. I have also vigorously defended the New York City watershed, helping to ensure the continued safety and reliability of the drinking water supply for roughly 9 million New Yorkers. We've also focused on protecting and improving specific waterbodies and water resources throughout the state. For example, I've brought nearly \$9 million to join community efforts to reduce water pollution in the Bronx River. This funding supported local projects using "green infrastructure" - natural systems, like wetlands, or engineered systems that mimic them, like green roofs – to capture and treat polluted storm water before it reaches the river.*

*In addition, my office has dedicated \$500,000 towards the creation of a solar energy laboratory in*



*Saratoga County that will prepare New York's "green jobs" workforce to be leaders in the field of state-of-the-art solar electric systems. The funds - secured from a record \$9.5 million AEP - are being used to install a solar energy system for education and training purposes at the "TEC-SMART" resource center in the Town of Malta, Saratoga County.*

2. How do you propose to restore New York State's historic role as a national environmental leader?

*As Governor, my first priority will be restoring public trust in New York State government. New York used to be a national leader in many areas. Now, New York often follows where it used to lead. We are home to the modern environmental movement and it is time for us to regain the mantle by leading the way towards a cleaner, greener future. However, I can't do it alone. That is why I'm looking for the best and brightest across the nation to come to New York to bring a new energy to public service. Moreover, we have to bring environmental protection back to the forefront and make it a central part of our state's job creation and economic development efforts. As an example, that is why in my energy plan, "Power NY", the focus is on making New York the nation's leader in solar, wind and other renewable power. Please see attached publication.*

## **ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING**

3. Given the state's fiscal condition, how do programs for the protection of natural resources (EPF), revitalization of transportation (MTA) and investment in clean energy (RGGI) rate with the rest of your agenda? For each of these areas, please define the level at which you believe funding would be adequate and identify for us a funding stream that you support and believe can withstand raids and offloads.

*We need to invest in the protection of our environment to make sure that we leave our State clean and healthy for generations to come. These are difficult economic times, but we need to ensure that the Environmental Protection Fund - a critical source of investment for protecting our environment and enhancing our communities - will be used only for the purpose for which it was created. Moreover, RGGI funding is a key source for investments in clean energy, and clean jobs, in New York, so we must protect these funds.*

## **CLIMATE AND ENERGY**

4. What steps will your office take to address climate change and expand New York's clean energy economy?

*Recently, I released my detailed "Power NY" energy policy that I believe can achieve a synergy of economic development and environmental through development of clean energy. It's a win-win. We create jobs while simultaneously reducing harmful emissions. For instance, I believe it's critical that we make energy efficiency programs affordable; build the smart grid to empower citizens to reduce their energy costs and increase efficiency; support and foster the growth of cleantech businesses, promote onshore and offshore wind projects; create a new "NY-Sun" renewable energy tax credit to stimulate investment in solar energy; jumpstart the use of solar thermal technology for water heating and enact a new fuel neutral power plant generation siting law that provides fast-track review and approval for efficient power plants that provide the most power and are located on existing plant facilities and for renewable energy projects. If we follow my bold policy energy policy prescription, we provide ensure New Yorkers' access to affordable and reliable energy, improve our environment, create jobs and economic growth as be transition to a more efficient, lower carbon and cleaner, greener energy economy. Please see the Power NY policy that is attached.*



## NATURAL RESOURCES AND RESTORATION

5. What role will your office play to restore already damaged areas in the Great Lakes, Adirondacks, Catskills and Long Island Sound?

*As Governor I will aggressively continue to fight to protect and restore the State's vast natural treasures. Key to the strategy is to work with our federal partners to make sure there is adequate funding especially for the restoration and protection of the Long Island Sound and the Great Lakes.*

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

6. How would your office encourage smart growth in NYS, including Brownfield clean ups, transit-oriented development, improved freight and goods movement, and open space preservation?

*The Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Priority Act that was signed into law— directing State agencies to make their infrastructure spending decisions in accordance with smart growth principles—was a good first step. We must think comprehensively and globally about the impact of transportation and other development, and incorporate sustainability management in all aspects of government and development. We must prioritize the redevelopment of existing infrastructure, promote mixed-use development in our urban revitalization efforts and combat sprawl. We must work to preserve open spaces, natural resources and farmland.*

*We must also improve our public transportation and support transportation projects, such high speed rail will help revitalize communities while reducing emissions.*

7. How would your office encourage the development of sustainable solid waste management plans – plans which are both environmentally and economically sound?

*We must continue to bring stakeholders to the table to develop environmental and economically sound solid waste plans. E-waste legislation recently signed into law illustrates the benefits of bringing both sides together to accomplish commonsense waste management plans.*

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

8. How will your office control costs and encourage greater efficiencies at the MTA?

*We will work closely with the MTA and other authorities in controlling costs and achieving greater efficiencies. The Governor's appointees to the MTA board should have significant financial or transportation experience so that they can provide relevant and independent oversight of the MTA's operations. With respect to efficiency, the MTA has never effectively integrated the more than 20 entities (such as NYC Transit and LIRR) that over time were consolidated into the MTA. The MTA must also take full advantage of new technologies like advanced signaling systems that can increase system capacity within the existing physical infrastructure.*

9. What do you believe are the highest transit investments priorities for Upstate New York and what resources are you prepared to dedicate to achieve them?

*There are many transportation needs in Upstate. One of the top priorities should be to make mass transportation, such as high speed rail a key component of our infrastructure plans. High speed rail is an example of the type of infrastructure investment that could be transformative for New York, with the potential to revitalize the Upstate economy with construction jobs now and permanent jobs in the future created by the new high speed rail links to New York City, Toronto, and Montreal.*



*The federal government is now making a major financial investment in building a high speed rail system for the United States. The President recently announced the recipients of \$8 billion in stimulus grants as the first step in the development of a US high-speed rail network. However, New York received only \$151 million of the grants out of the \$561 million applied for, ostensibly because these projects were not “shovel ready”. I will ensure that New York has done the work necessary to put itself in a position to win more of these critical federal grants.*

*Moreover, I believe we need to develop a state infrastructure bank. Too much of our infrastructure spending today is misdirected because it is managed within competing silos of State government. In order to better coordinate our infrastructure efforts and stretch limited funds, we will create a State Infrastructure Bank to coordinate spending and take advantage of federal programs that enable states to complement traditional transportation grant programs and provide states with flexibility to offer many types of financial assistance. The State Infrastructure Bank will enable the State to undertake projects that would otherwise go unfunded or experience substantial delays.*

