**2011 Environmental Survey of**

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### *East Hampton Environmental Coalition*

### Steering Committee

Concerned Citizens of Montauk

Dark Sky Society

Group for the East End

New York League of Conservation Voters

Education Fund

Northwest Alliance

### Members

Accabonac Protection Committee

Garden Club of East Hampton

Quiet Skies Coalition

Amagansett Springs Aquifer Protection

Surfrider Foundation

Third House Nature Center

**East Hampton Town Board Candidates**

**Overview**

The natural resources which have supported the East End’s economy by drawing generations of farmers and vacationers to the East End are endangered by uncontrolled growth that follows discredited automobile and energy dependent development patterns. Despite these threats, the East End continues to be home to an array of rare and endangered plants and animals, a place of stunning natural beauty and productive working farms.

As non-profit, nonpartisan environmental organizations concerned about the future of the East End, we have decided to become active in the upcoming election by raising awareness of the importance of these issues and will be collectively engaging the public in various ways including:

* Soliciting responses to an environmental questionnaire
* Holding a candidate forum
* Conducting a direct mail and GOTV campaign

The purpose of this activity is not to implicitly or explicitly support or oppose any candidate or political party, but to educate voters on local conservation issues and encourage them to be civically-active environmental advocates.

**GuiDELINES**

This questionnaire is designed to elicit your commitment to and ideas on addressing the important sustainability issues facing East Hampton.

Responses should be considered public. Verbatim responses will be reproduced and distributed publicly.

If you choose to refer us to a position paper or website, 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.

**Process**

* Questionnaires may be downloaded at: <http://www.nylcvef.org/easthampton> and are due by October 14
* Completed questionnaires must be submitted via e-mail as a PDF file or Microsoft Word file to: info@nylcvef.org
* Questions or extension requests may be directed to: Julia Stalder ([jstalder@nylcvef.org](mailto:jstalder@nylcvef.org))

**Contact Information**

Please provide us with the following information:

Candidate Name:   
Position Sought:

Campaign Address:   
  
Campaign Phone:

Campaign Fax:

Campaign E-mail:

Campaign Web site:

**Experience, philospohy and relationships**

1. Please share with us accomplishments or experiences that would indicate your commitment to advancing an environmental agenda for East Hampton. These may be professional or personal.

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1. What do you believe is the role of town government regulation and enforcement in maintaining a clean, sustainable environment? What, if any, changes are the most important?

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1. What resources, experts or opinions will you consult when making decisions that affect East Hampton Town’s environmental resources?

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**Issue Questions**

Coastal, Drinking and Surface Water

4. In view of the extreme weather conditions as of late, what should East Hampton Town, as a coastal community, do in the short and long term to prepare for these changes?

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5. Do you believe current Town policies adequately protect drinking water quality and sustainability? If not, what, if any, policy changes would you support?

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6. Periodically, East Hampton Town’s bays and creeks are closed to shell fishing or swimming due to poor water quality. Some water bodies do not meet Federal EPA MS4 storm water protection standards.

What concrete actions will you support to improve the quality of our surface waters?

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Land Preservation

Public land preservation protects our drinking water supply and improves drinking water quality, quality of life, tax rates and property values in the Town of East Hampton.

7. Should the Town continue to use the Community Preservation Fund to purchase land? If so, what changes, if any, would you support in land preservation policy or practice? If not, what funding mechanism do you propose ought to replace it?

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Dark and Quiet Skies

8. In 2006 the Town passed the "Smart Lighting" law which enhanced previous legislation addressing light pollution. What are the most important benefits (if any) and shortcomings (if any) of the Smart Lighting law? What actions would you support to expand or modify the enforcement of this law?

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9. Noise pollution caused by aircraft, particularly helicopters, has been a source of complaints from residents for many years. Because of financial agreements with the FAA, the Town government currently has little control over East Hampton airspace. How will you address these complaints? What specific rules would you like to see enacted?

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Government Planning and Enforcement

Historically, East Hampton has been a national leader in community and environmental planning and open space preservation.

10. What is your vision for the future of the Planning Department in East Hampton Town? What aspects of the Planning Department’s organization and function are most important for the Town’s future and what aspects, if any, would you change or strengthen?

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11. Are the Town’s Comprehensive and Local Waterfront Revitalization Plans adequate in your opinion? If not, which specific policies or plan recommendations do you not support or would like to see changed? Which policies would you prioritize for implementation?

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Solid Waste and Water Waste Management Facilities

The Town’s systems for the management of both solid waste (trash and recyclables) and water waste (sewage) have been the focus of critical discussion in recent years.

12. What is your assessment of the state of these systems, what are the major problems requiring correction, and what are the most urgently needed changes in policy and practice?

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