

**Fairfax League of Conservation Voters**  
**2011 Fairfax County Chairman and Board of Supervisors Election**  
**Candidate Questionnaire**

**RESPONSE DEADLINE: BY NOON – Monday, August 15, 2011**

*About this questionnaire:* The Fairfax League of Conservation Voters (FLCV) is considering endorsing candidates for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Elections. This questionnaire is one factor in endorsement and campaign contribution considerations. Our endorsement is nonpartisan. The FLCV has no party affiliations and we encourage all candidates to support a pro-environment policy. We may schedule a follow-up interview with candidates after receipt of the questionnaire to further explore issues and/or to clarify your positions.

*Introduction:* As a member of the Board of Supervisors you will consider many policy and legislative issues that affect Fairfax County. These questions give you the opportunity to express your opinions and values regarding conservation and environmental protection.

There are no "trick" questions – all "yes" responses support our positions. If you need further clarification of any of the questions, please do not hesitate to contact us for additional information. Please offer a written response in the comment section at the end of each category.

**Please return the completed questionnaire via email to**  
**[taniahossain@aol.com](mailto:taniahossain@aol.com) by noon on August 15, 2011**

FLCV completed questionnaires is strictly used for the purposes of endorsement. We do not share completed questionnaires with the news media or the public.

Janet Oleszek  
Candidate's Name – Please Print

  
Candidate's Signature

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## A. Growth, Development, and Transportation

With over 1.2 million residents, Fairfax County represents about one-eighth of the population in Virginia. Fairfax County continues to be a premier place to live and boosts an economic engine that continually adds new jobs to the region. This job growth has outpaced our ability to provide access to affordable housing. The dramatic imbalance in jobs and housing threatens the community vitality in many parts of the county. Increasing the number of commuters and the distances they travel worsens the congestion on already overburdened roads, degrades the county's air quality, and contributes to the rapid loss of agricultural, natural, and historic resources.

These problems can be addressed by linking transit, affordable housing, and transit oriented development. At the same time, all types of development should be done with an eye to protecting the county's air, soil, surface and ground water. Low impact development (LID) practices seek to minimize damaging consequences of development. LID includes reducing the footprint of structures, using alternatives for impervious surfacing such as green roofs, providing storm water management that mimics natural hydrology, and other cost-effective means to protecting the environment.

- 1) Do you commit to well-designed Transit Oriented Development, with increased density to support transit, increasing the balance of jobs and housing, and providing adequate internal circulating systems -- street networks, bike/pedestrian facilities, circulating transit, and other measures?  Y  N
- 2) Would you provide continued support for potential resources and targeted policies to provide affordable housing?  Y  N
- 3) The Metro Rail System is a critical part of our transportation infrastructure with the near term focus on expanding rail through Tysons Corner.
  - a) Should county funds be used for Dulles Rail Phase II?  Y  N
  - b) Should county funds be increased to provide a stable operating budget for WMATA?  Y  N
- 4) From the L'Enfant plan to the National Mall, from Metrorail to Dulles Airport, bold vision and action by area leaders have shaped the region we live in today. Region forward is a new plan to meet tomorrow's interrelated challenges. The Region Forward Compact has set a goal to have transit access at all Activity Centers by 2050.
  - a) There are corridors throughout the county for appropriate implementation of Bus Rapid Transit. Would you support the studies to analyze these opportunities?  Y  N
  - b) Fairfax County has begun a long-overdue process of developing a bicycle master plan for the county. The result will be a list of projects that will make the County a more bike friendly place. Do you support smart policies to install bike friendly communities, such as bicycle racks at Activity Centers, Metro stations, shopping malls and other areas to promote the use of bicycles as an alternative mode of transportation?  Y  N

Please share briefly, your comments on growth, development and transportation.

### B. Energy and Climate Change

Under the 2007 Cool Counties Declaration, Fairfax County pledged to "Create an inventory of our county government (operational) greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and implement policies, programs and operations to achieve significant, measurable and sustainable reduction of those GHG emission to 80 percent below current levels by 2050, by developing a GHG emission inventory and regional plan that establishes short, mid and long term GHG reduction targets, with recommended goals to stop increasing emissions by 2010 and to achieve a 10 percent reduction every five years thereafter through 2050."

- 5) Do you support the fulfillment of the Pledge as adopted by Fairfax County in July 2007?  Y  N
- 6) Would you support a proactive adoption of the Cool Counties Declaration that would require all departments and agencies to consider the impacts of policies and decisions on both the governmental and community-wide GHG emissions when developing policies, forming recommendations and making decisions?  Y  N
- 7) Will you promote and support the purchase of advanced energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies for county buildings such as geothermal and solar equipment?  Y  N
- 8) Will you support the Pledge's requirement to work with local vendors to reduce the County-wide GHG emissions through such initiatives as the Private Sector Energy Task Force?  Y  N

Please share briefly, your comments on energy and climate change.

### C. Quality of Life

- 9) The Region Forward Compact 2050, which was adopted by Fairfax County, sets a goal for targeting growth in regional Activity Centers. Would you support measures to meet the stated goals of the Region Forward Compact 2050?  Y  N
- 10) Do you support revisions to the comprehensive Plan that will encourage greater density in identified and defined Activity Centers, such as in the Revitalization Areas?  Y  N
- 11) There are inactive uranium mining leases from the 70s and 80s in the upper headwaters of Cedar Run, a tributary of the Occoquan River Reservoir. This reservoir is one of the major sources of drinking water for Fairfax County. Will you support the continued ban on uranium mining in Virginia in order to protect our drinking water supply?  Y  N
- 12) The Tree Action Plan lays out a vision, goals, and steps to effectively protect existing trees; increase our forests; and put trees at the center of comprehensive planning. It sets clear milestones to track progress toward the goals and to institute simple but effective

communication capabilities to inform and educate the public, the private business sector, and government officials about the value of trees and efforts to preserve and restore them.

Would you be willing to support, fund, and promote The Tree Action Plan?  Y  N

13) One of our main priorities is the permanent retirement of the oldest and most polluting coal-fired power plants, which together account for a large fraction of U.S. pollution and green house gases contributing to climate change. In Northern Virginia our efforts are focused on the Gen-on (formerly Mirant) coal fired power plant in Old Town Alexandria. Do you support efforts to close down old coal-fired power plants and their replacement with renewable energy projects such as solar and wind?  Y  N

14) The enormous White Tailed Deer population in Fairfax County has become a serious problem. The population is estimated to range between 25000 and 40000 animals in the County, which is about 60 – 100 deer per square mile. Wildlife biologists tell us that we should have not more than 15/square mile. In 2010, we culled about 400 deer using a combination of archery, managed firearm hunts, and police sharpshooters. Deer populations can double in a couple of years, meaning we aren't making any progress in achieving the goal of 15 per square mile. The impacts of this excess of deer are profound: Virginia ranked 5th in the nation for deer-vehicle collisions in 2009 and 2010. One in every 136 Virginia drivers is projected to be involved in a deer-vehicle collision within the next 12 months, and 48,000 Virginia drivers are projected to file insurance claims for comprehensive vehicle damage sustained as result of a deer-vehicle collision. Deer are the primary host to adult blacklegged ticks that cause Lyme disease. A single adult deer consumes 5 to 7 lbs of plant matter in one day; meaning over 1 ton of vegetation is consumed by a single adult deer in one year. This ravenous population causes irreversible damage to native plant life, forest understory and woodland habitat, and causes untold damage to residential and business landscapes. Do you support the continued practice of "harvesting" deer on County owned land?  Y  N

a) Will you support appropriating sufficient tax revenue to enhance and enlarge the effort to reduce the deer population to more manageable size?  Y  N

b) Will you support strengthening this program within the Police Department, or relocating it to another Department?  Y  N

**Please share briefly, your comments on quality of life.**

### **Personal Commitment**

1. If elected to the Board of Supervisors, what environmental and/or conservation issues will be a priority for you?

My interest in Potomac Riverkeepers began a few years ago when a colleague from the Sorensen Institute for Public Policy held a reception for her friends who shared an interest in preserving and restoring the Potomac River. I shared that interest, and have guided many community members to the work of Riverkeepers, and some have joined in by volunteering to monitor various toxins. As a Supervisor, my environmental priority will be to support the

efforts of Riverkeepers, and work to increase the number of chemicals that Fairfax can regulate and study. The presence of endocrine disruptors is alarming, but preventive action that we could be taking, but aren't, to protect the Potomac and our region, is even more alarming. I have grave concerns about the impact our local water has on our school age population, and fear that the increased level of such toxins may be directly responsible for the many neurological and behavioral disorders our public schools face.

2. What leadership initiatives will you undertake to advance those priorities?

To achieve my stated environmental goals, I will need to build consensus among my fellow Supervisors. I believe that the best way to reach this consensus is through an informed public who will understand how these issues affect their lives and what solutions can be employed to improve the quality of life in Fairfax.

3. What examples of environmental or conservation leadership can you cite from your past?

Promoting environmentally friendly operations in our public schools while I was on the School Board. I am proud of my support for building the "greenest" middle school building design. The school is Glasgow Middle School. Additionally, during my term on the Board, I was able to ensure that Lacey Elementary School is among the first geothermal schools to be built in Virginia. I was also proud to receive the League of Conservation Voters and Sierra Club endorsements in my 2007 State Senate campaign.