

# What YOU Can Do!

- Take a [test to determine your Carbon Footprint](#)
- Join/support an organization which works for environmental sustainability such as:
  - [Catholic Climate Covenant](#)
  - [Laudato Si Movement](#)
  - [Citizens Climate Lobby](#)
  - [Greening USA](#)
- Be knowledgeable of legislation concerning environmental sustainability and where your legislators stand.

## Voting Resources for 2024 Elections

*Prepared by the Caring for Our Common Home Task Force of All Saints Church, Syracuse*

As the 2024 New York primary election approaches on June 25, followed by the November 5 general election, we encourage everyone to vote – and to know what platforms the candidates you choose support. We have listed below some resources to give you information about candidates, legislation in the works, and issues, especially related to the environment and climate change.

**New York League of Conservation Voters** [www.nylcv.org](http://www.nylcv.org) This site is a single-issue group that rates current legislators on their environmental stances, lists ways you can get involved in protecting our environment, and provides links for contacting your legislators (based on your voter registration address) about specific issues. It does not cover candidates who are not already in office. Here are direct links to helpful pages.

- **NYLCV Scorecard 2023** [nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/NYLCV\\_2023\\_StateScorecard\\_DIGITAL.pdf](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/NYLCV_2023_StateScorecard_DIGITAL.pdf)  
A PDF report describes the 2023-2024 legislative year's environmental bills and rates the Assembly and Senate as a whole and individual members on their support for the bills. Charts show how the lawmakers voted on each one. It's helpful for getting informed on our region's achievements and challenges.
- **NYLCV Endorsements for CNY region** [nylcv.org/endorsements/?region-category=central](http://nylcv.org/endorsements/?region-category=central)  
Tells about environmental issues specific to CNY, gives information on 2024 office-holding candidates in CNY endorsed by the league, and links to more information about the priorities and actions of each.
- **NYLCV Eco Hot List** [nylcv.org/candidate-evaluation/eco-hot-list/](http://nylcv.org/candidate-evaluation/eco-hot-list/)  
Lists environmental bills moving through the state legislature and information on the bills' status. Many entries link to a helpful Bill Memo stating why NYLCV does or does not support it – and these might serve as templates for writing your own letters or making phone calls.

### **Ballotpedia** [www.ballotpedia.org](http://www.ballotpedia.org)

This is a comprehensive site, though candidate information may be incomplete until closer to November. It has information on state and national elections, along with news and analysis on candidates, legislative action, and issues on which elections turn. To find out what will be on your primary and general election ballots:

1. Start on the home page and scroll down to “Sample Ballot Lookup.”
2. Enter your address, and on the next screen choose the election you want a ballot for.
3. Click on a candidate link and keep scrolling down to get an idea of how much and what kind of data you can get.
4. From that page, look to the right column to see a biographical summary with links to the candidate’s webpage and social media.

### **Onondaga County Board of Elections** [www.ongov.net/elections/](http://www.ongov.net/elections/)

This site has general information on early voting, registration, etc. It can give you a sample ballot, check your registration and find your polling place. It lists [county candidates and their parties](#) without information on positions or links. You should be able to search by name to find candidates’ websites, hopefully with information on their positions on the environment and other issues important to you.

### **Vote411** [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)

This is an excellent site affiliated with the [League of Women Voters](#), a grassroots organization founded to protect and expand voting rights and provide unbiased information on election issues, including the environment. Use Vote411 to see a personalized ballot with measures and candidate names for your districts, from federal to county races. Some city candidate races are included, too, but you need to know what district or ward you vote in. **NOTE: Information on candidates and issues is incomplete as of April 2024. Check this site closer to the general election.**

1. From the home page, scroll down to “Personalized Voting Information.” Click “Get Started.”
2. Type in your address. On the next screen, choose your language and “Go to my races.”
3. Click each office to open a page showing candidates and information about that office.
4. Click on the photos to open more information about each candidate’s qualifications, positions, priorities, and links to their websites and social media.
5. You can click on candidates to compare and pick your choice for a ballot “cheatsheet.”

### **Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)** [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org)

The NRDC “works to safeguard the earth—its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends,” according to its webpage. It does not give information about candidates’ positions, but it can help you be better informed with up-to-date information.

- **NRDC Toolkits and How-Tos** [nrdc.org/take-action/toolkits](http://nrdc.org/take-action/toolkits)  
This has a slew of articles on how to make positive change, whether it’s your own habits, a home fix, or a community cause. One especially good article for environmental advocates tells how to effectively prepare a written or spoken public comment and contact legislators.
- **NRDC Data, Reports and Resources** [nrdc.org/data-reports-resources#listing-page-content](http://nrdc.org/data-reports-resources#listing-page-content)  
Along the left column of the page, you can choose to find more resources by topic, including many subcategories under Climate Change, Nature & Wildlife, Equity & Justice, and Human Health; or, scrolling further down the left column, by location, including U.S. states.

**Citizens' Climate Education** [www.citizensclimateeducation.org](http://www.citizensclimateeducation.org)

The CCE is a nonpartisan arm of [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#), a global advocacy organization with a [CNY chapter](#). It prepares people from a variety of backgrounds and political beliefs with the tools to advocate for climate change solutions with stakeholders, policymakers and the general public.

- **Conservative Engagement**

<https://citizensclimateeducation.org/programs-and-tools/conservative-engagement/>

One of CCE's unique efforts, Conservative Engagement works with Democrat and Republican lawmakers to make climate change a bridge (as opposed to wedge) issue between parties.

**CNY Solidarity Coalition** [www.cnysolidarity.org](http://www.cnysolidarity.org)

This local grassroots coalition of organizations and people works for economic, social and environmental justice. It holds monthly meetings and sends out a weekly email with upcoming events, articles of interest, and advocacy opportunities.

- **How to Track and Contact Your Representative**

<https://www.cnysolidarity.org/how-to-track-and-contact-your-representative/>

For following your legislators' positions and votes, this links to three websites, including [GovTrack.us](#), which lets you find and track not only your legislators, but their bills and votes.