



**VOTERS FOR
ANIMAL RIGHTS**

786 Jefferson Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11221
vfar.org

2020 New York State Senate & Assembly Election Questionnaire

About Us

Launched in 2017, Voters For Animal Rights (VFAR) is a New York based 501c(4) grassroots multi-issue animal advocacy organization that is building political power for animals. In 2019, VFAR led the successful campaign to ban foie gras in NYC, and to stop wild bird poaching. We also led the campaign to ban the use of wild animals in circuses in NYC. We look forward to working with you to win more victories for animals and make the state of New York a leader in compassionate public policy.

Our mission is to elect candidates who support animal protection, lobby for stronger laws to stop animal cruelty, and hold elected officials accountable to humane voters. VFAR mobilizes public concern for animals through the political process. We know that animal protection is not only a moral issue but a bi-partisan political issue as well. Over 90% of Americans believe that animals need protection from abuse and exploitation. To that end, we organize humane voters to support candidates that care about animals. If you support animals, then we want to support you! There are over 60,000 humane voters throughout New York state, hundreds of which are volunteers for VFAR who are ready to knock on doors, make phone calls and get out the vote to elect people who will stand up for animals. We deliver the vote – for the animals and for you.

As an example, here is our [animal-friendly voter guide](#) from the 2019 NYC Special Election for Public Advocate.

Endorsement Process

Candidates seeking our endorsement for the New York State Assembly and Senate are **required** to fill out this questionnaire and submit to woof@vfar.org by **June 1, 2020**. *Please let us know if you need more time.*

Questions

If you have any questions about the topics in our questionnaire, please don't hesitate to reach out to allie@vfar.org and david@vfar.org. We are happy to help you better understand animal protection policy, and we're happy to advise your campaign.

With gratitude,

Allie Feldman Taylor, David Karopkin, Esq., Julie Cappiello, Joyce Friedman, Heather Greenhouse, Kathy Nizzari, Michelle Aptman, Stewart Mitchell

Board of Directors, Voters For Animal Rights



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Candidate Contact Information & Campaign Information

Candidate Name: Barbara Kidney
Pronouns she, etc., or they, etc.

Cell Phone [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Campaign Manager: Self Pronouns Cell Phone Email

District: NYS Assembly District 101

Party: Green

Office Sought: State Assembly District Representative

Name of Campaign Committee: Barbara for AD 101

Campaign Field Office Address: PO Box 34, Walker Valley NY 12589

Campaign Website: Barbaraforad101.com

Personal Initiatives

1. Do you feel that promoting the humane treatment of animals should be a priority for the New York State Legislature? Yes.

2. Do you have any achievements to date on humane issues, e.g. supporting humane legislation, adopting a shelter pet, volunteering with an animal rescue organization, supporting any national or local animal protection orgs, living a plant-based (vegan or vegetarian) lifestyle, etc.?

Yes.
For some main examples:

My spouse and I are vegetarian. We eat organic, local, as much as possible, grow some of our own organic veggies. Eggs are from free-range and healthily-fed happy local chickens. We have zero lawn, and use zero so-called "pesticides" (real term is "biocides.")



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We have a beautiful meadow fringed with mainly red oaks, white pines, and hemlocks. This means, among other things, we are not killing or causing cancer, neurological, or endocrine damage to mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and insects and spiders. All of which (except fish) live and hopefully thrive on the land that we “own.” (The people indigenous to this region realize that any human who thinks they “own” part of the Earth is insane).

I brought milkweed seeds that I gathered to this land, which was covered just in moss and poverty grass, when my spouse and I moved here at the turn of the millennium. Today I saw a monarch butterfly lay eggs on one of them. I’ve also grown Echinacea (purple coneflowers) from seed that also thrive here. We also have Oswego teas (*Monarda dydima*) & hence lots of hummingbirds, and New England asters that bloom into October, so that on warm October days the bumblebees can gather food for their queen. Likewise, hellebores and snowdrops and early crocus, along with native trilliums and rue anemones for the early spring, offer food for hungry, emerging insects. In summer our land is full of flowers and many kinds of butterflies, dragonflies, bees, fireflies, & other insects, all kinds of songbirds, and there’s barred owls in our woods and a nearby red-tail hawk. We feed the wild birds non-GMO bird food including organic peanuts.

When my spouse or I see animals of any kind in trouble, we help out. At our former place, we fed and offered warm water, on a daily basis during a cold and snowy winter, to ducks and domestic geese that some person had left stranded on the neighborhood lake. A female mallard had mated with a domestic white duck and they were freezing and starving, along with some domestic and abandoned geese. (The female mallard had refused to migrate apparently, so she could stay with her mate). All these birds were happy once we did this; they took baths in the warm water, and in spring the mixed race (LOL) duck couple came to visit— with their 12 beautiful multicolored ducklings. We augmented their own feeding that season. And we got to see the grey domestic geese emulate the wild Canada geese that fall, and practice flying in V formations— they never migrated, but they got so good at flying that one could hardly see them in the sky, they went so high!

My husband and I have rescued, over the years, many insects and spiders stuck in our sink and drowning. We have carpenter bees in our fascia, and they do no harm, but they do choose to pollinate our Painted Lady runner beans, cukes, & tomatillos. I accidentally hit one last summer and then I checked on it, and put it in a safe place, and gave it honey (from hives of a beekeeper friend who cares for his bees & does not exploit them), which it gladly consumed, and after a day and half recuperation time, the bee (whom my spouse had named Buzzfeed) flew away.

Two summers ago we rescued a hatchling robin that I noticed while driving on a local road, late at night, and who was hopping on the ground. I couldn’t find any nest or parent birds around, so we took the bird with us. It immediately fell asleep in my hands. I named the bird Hoppity-Hop, and we cared for HH overnight, getting advice from the internet, and found a licensed bird rehabber that we drove it to the next day. HH was so happy when it heard and saw robins singing in the trees at the rehab place! (HH also seemed to really like the 45 minute car ride, and looked out the windshield as we drove. I think HH felt like s/he was flying!)

We use earth friendly cleaners and products, no soaps with antibiotics or hormone disruptors like triclosan, which means we are not poisoning animal habitat and aquifers. We minimize use of plastics, in order to minimize our harm to waterways and ocean life. We opposed fracking and nuclear energy which means we are protecting animal habitat and animal livelihood.



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We are peace-promoters, and when I speak/write about peace and non-peace and damage from military endeavors, like drone strikes (which I oppose), I mindfully often speak of the devastation done by these human sociopathic behaviors to animals, both domestic and wild, and to plant life (which as you know, provides homes and livelihood to animals).

I have done a local fund-raiser for a cat rescue society years ago in Woodstock, NY. I give small donations regularly to the donor jars of animal sanctuaries and equine rescues that are at local stores where I shop.

I live across the street from a lake. About 5 years ago, the ownership changed hands, and the lake was dredged and the dam rebuilt. As part of that project, the owner brought in an animal trapper to take out the beavers. Horrible things happened— a nesting Canada goose lost her mate to the trap, on Earth Day, no less, and was screaming; a snapping turtle died from injuries; a beaver was trapped and drowned. Found these things out secondhand from neighbors. We screamed bloody murder— I contacted town supervisor, DEC, we wrote to local papers, I contacted a friend who works with ALF (Animal Liberation Front) and got some advice, and helped get the word out, protesting NYS laws that allow this kind of trapping. I patrolled the lake shore regularly, ready to let loose any trapped animals, ready to do civil disobedience, but fortunately no more traps were deployed.

I have written in protest to a restaurant that we occasionally frequent that has served foie gras. (We eat the vegan and vegetarian options when we go).

And as you probably can infer, we do NOT use any products that torture/harm animals via “animal testing.” I buy vegan products for handbags and shoes.

For about 10 years, my spouse and I served on our Town’s Environmental Management Council, which gives the Planning Board advice on conservation easements and where best to place them, to protect vernal pools for amphibians, for instance, and hickory trees for bats.

I studied ecology at Cornell as an undergrad, I was working on a doctorate in Plant Pathology at Penn State but left when it was clear that pesticide companies were calling the shots. My research project was involved with trying to get farmers to use pesticides unnecessarily — for no great increase in yield, but just to enrich pesticide companies. And the pesticides are toxic to animals as well as to people. So I left, and got advanced degrees in psychology instead.

I’m a regular ‘clicktivist’ for animal rights for PETA, change.org, and related orgs’ petitions.

Did you grow up with or currently live with any companion animals?

Yes to both. I have loved plants and animals since I can remember— my grandmother called me “the Nature girl.” And I grew up in Manhattan! When I turned 7 my parents thrilled me with the gift of a cat, who lived till I was 19. After college, I have always lived with cats (but no more than 4 at a time— I’m not an animal hoarder!). All of these were either stray cats who adopted me, or cats from shelters. I have loved them dearly, and give them the best care we can. I think they would give me an excellent reference! We feed them organic (Organix brand) moist food because we want them to not get cancer, and we don’t want to feed them animals that have been tortured via factory farming. I have not lived with dogs but I love them too, and am friends with all the



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dogs on my jogging and walking routes. I am also very fond of horses, and have read about respectful ways to ride (dance with, really) horses. I have learned simple deer language— yes!— so I can say “I’m just passing by, heading this way, mean you no harm” (this is conveyed via body language) and I am understood!

3. What animal issues will you prioritize and lead on as a member of the NYS legislature?

One thing I would do is to look at what bills on such issues are pending and support those if they appear to be good— in other words, go for the low-hanging fruit— why not? Also, i would make such bills known to constituents so my fellow citizens could lobby other legislators and create a buzz.

I would like to see trapping laws changed to preclude death and harm to animals (unless they are rabid, or have other terminal illness, especially contagious illness, and need to be euthanized in a pain-free way for everyone’s safety). If wild animals are causing harm to people and their animal companions (like black bears wandering in the city) then I think such animals should be humanely and carefully trapped and moved to a place that keeps everybody safe. All animals deserve respect.

I would like to see greater criminal penalties for animal abuse and negligence.

I would like synthetic chemicals like Round-Up and triclosan, and neonics banned, for everyone’s health, including the health of fish, insects, and other animals, and including human primates! Animals cannot read signs that say “Stay off the lawn for 3 days because it’s been treated.” So anything that poisons habitat should be banned. I would like to see and to work on banning the use of fracked products in our state, for the benefit of climate and all that lives on our planet, such as wild animals, who cannot read signs and avoid poisoned air, soil, and water. Fracking has devastated the wild lands of Pennsylvania, which I used to hike in the 1980s before this devastation. It’s so hypocritical for NYS to ban fracking, and then to import PA fracked material that poisons our aquifers, devastates our forests thereby rendering animals homeless and starving, wrecks our climate, gives everyone of pretty much every species cancer and neurological disorders. And for NYS to build more pipelines for fracked toxins that poison water forever with radioactivity and other permanent unremovable toxins is ridiculous, but it has happened, and it kills and harms wild animals, and domestic animals, and humans.

I would love to see a change of state law so that new construction proposals are forbidden to destroy habitat at the proposed construction site unless and until **all** final approvals are **completely** completed, including **all appeals** finally decided upon.

The way things are now, hundreds of acres of forest with wetlands are often completely destroyed because some billionaire wants to exploit resources and destroy communities (animal, plant, and human) for yet more money— always more money, these runaway money-addicts never ever have enough money. So the way state law is now, hundreds of thousands (I would guesstimate) of animals of all kinds of species are left homeless, traumatized (if they are not outright killed), and unable to live or get food, by destruction wrought for just one new proposed-and-not-even-finalized construction project, because of how our state law promotes the money addiction of greedy-guts money addicts. (Just putting it plainly!) And of course, all the trees, with all their beauty, and oxygen-generating ability and their provision of homes and food for all kinds of animals— destroyed, as in a war zone. It sickens me. I want to see more of an explicit alliance between animal rights



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orgs like yours, and climate and environmental groups, including groups that resist the exploitation of towns and villages for yet more financial gain for the morbidly financially obese.

Citizens groups that I am involved with (e.g, Residents Protecting Montgomery, New Paltz Climate Action Coalition, Wallkill River Watershed Alliance, Close Indian Point, Protect Orange County, for some examples) are keenly aware of how environmental destruction for construction of killer energy plants and warehouses on formerly arable farmland or thriving forests kill and traumatize animals, and these folks are sickened by it. Just recently I spoke to Residents Protecting Montgomery and I compared the destruction of 100s of acres of hardwood forest in the neighboring Town of Newburgh for the construction of a giant shopping mall, The Marketplace— *that never came... the project is abandoned!* — to the burning of Notre Dame or the destruction of ancient Buddhist temples...only, if anything, even worse!

I am against use of animals in medical experiments. If humans wish to volunteer to try out new drugs or medical procedures, then good for them— that can be a noble thing to do. But nobody has the right to force anybody into such experimentation against their will, especially when it's dangerous and/or painful and/or harmful to the experimented, or involves kidnapping unwilling experimentees and holding them captive.

I have come across research that indicates animal deaths have significantly decreased since the pandemic-related shutdowns— decreased traffic, decreased roadkill. 45% drop in deer deaths in Maine, for example, according to an Accuweather article. Traffic also does great damage to salamanders, frogs, turtles in spring, as they migrate to mate, and traffic is devastating to insects, and hence to bird species that eat insects. I would be in favor of funding research on these issues to discover possibilities of mitigating these lethal impacts on various animal species.

4. Will you commit to having a designated person in your office to handle animal issues? Yes, that sounds like a great idea.

5. How would you work to empower the animal advocacy community to reach new success and growth into the 2020-2022 term, and ensure that New York is on the forefront of animal protection? First of all, by listening to the animal advocacy community. Besides people like you and orgs like yours, I would be interested in what ALF has to say. My fellow Green Party of NY State Committee member Craig Seeman of NYC is devoted to animal rights issues and I would be seeking his input and advice. I would like to promote legislation that promotes and protects animal rights.

Positions on Legislation and Policy

1. Companion Animals: Pet Stores

With thousands of homeless animals waiting for loving forever homes in shelters and rescues all over New York State, why should pet stores and breeders be allowed to profit off the backs of animals? The puppy and kitten mill/pet store connection create lives of misery from beginning to end. Breeding facilities and pet stores



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have repeatedly been found to have poor sanitation, infectious disease, animals overcrowded in cages with no exercise, lack of proper veterinary care, lack of protection from harsh weather conditions, and lack of adequate food and water. These conditions result in great suffering, and many sick animals are sold to unaware consumers. [More info here.](#)

Would you cosponsor and vote for [S4234A/A6298A](#) (Gianaris / Rosenthal) which would ban the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores unless they come from a shelter or rescue?

YES / NO Yes.

Additional Comments:

2. Animals Used for Fashion: Fur

Fur farms breed and confine animals in tiny, filthy cages where they suffer intense stress and unimaginable cruelty. They are beaten, bludgeoned, electrocuted, and skinned alive. Trapping animals in the wild is no better — animals are trapped in cruel leg hold traps where they can suffer for days in excruciating pain — starving, until a trapper returns to shoot or bludgeon them to death. Coyotes are known to attempt to chew off their own legs trying to break free. Many other animals are unintentionally caught and killed in these traps, including household pets. California has enacted a ban on the sale of fur. Several countries such as Norway, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, and the U.K. have taken steps to close fur farms. With public awareness and innovative alternatives on the rise, many popular designers have stopped using all animal fur. There are ethical alternatives to fur which are not only stylish and warm but environmentally friendly. More info [here](#).

Would you cosponsor and vote for [A5040A](#) (Rosenthal), that would ban the sale of new apparel products using real animal fur?

YES / NO Yes.

Additional Comments: I am opposed to hurting animals, period. Including for fashion trends (she said drily).

3. Animals Used in Entertainment

A. Rodeo Cruelty

While New York State has limited the use of animals in circuses and other entertainment, rodeos have been left unregulated despite the display of similar, and in many cases more egregious, acts of cruelty. Rodeos typically include an event called "calf roping" where [baby calves are shocked with electric prods](#), forcing them



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to run as soon as the holding chute opens, only to be "clotheslined" with a rope and tied at the legs. Panicked calves are routinely injured or killed during these performances. Rodeos also continue to use flank straps or bucking straps, which are tightly fastened around the animal's abdomen and may be used with sharp-ened spurs to cause pain to the animal, encouraging them to buck more violently. Rodeos are responsible for causing death or serious injury to countless animals, all for the sole purpose of entertainment and showmanship.

Would you cosponsor and vote for [A8554/S7971](#) (Rosenthal/Addabbo) which would prohibit these practices at rodeos?

YES / NO Yes

Additional Comments:

B. Animal Circuses

Circuses that use animals have been cited as a source of cruelty and exploitation for animals. Even if the basic levels of care and protection that the federal Animal Welfare Act demands are met, circuses force wild animals to languish in cages while travelling from performance to performance, without ever having the opportunity to exercise natural behaviors. Worse, time after time we see reports of [circus animals being beaten and whipped](#), having their limbs tied together to facilitate training, being shocked to ensure compliance, not being provided with adequate food, water and shelter, and other instances of cruelty.

Would you cosponsor and vote for [A3673/S5408](#) (Englebright/Martinez) which would prohibit the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation from issuing permits or licenses that would authorize wild animals to appear in circuses?

YES / NO Yes



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C. Carriage Horses

Advocates have long called out the poor working and living conditions for horses used for NYC carriage rides. As recently as March 2020, a 12-year-old horse was euthanized after [collapsing in Central Park](#), a tragic incident that was captured on video camera by a horrified pedestrian. Despite improvements implemented over the years, these horses are still forced to travel through NYC traffic to get to and from Central Park, they work long days sometimes in extreme weather conditions, with no opportunity for daily turnout. Over the course of the past three decades, there have been countless incidents and accidents involving New York City carriage horses and many have died on the streets of NYC or been sent to slaughter once they are unable to continue working.

Would you cosponsor and vote for legislation to ban horse carriages in New York City?

YES / NO Yes

Additional Comments: Yes, given the actual harmful conditions and treatment of those horses.

4. Animals Used for Experimentation: School Hatching Projects

Principals and school teachers should end the use of bird-hatching projects and replace them with learning activities that teach life processes without the use of live animals. School classroom incubation and hatching projects of baby chicks and ducks is cruel and leads to the abandonment and death of countless young birds each year. Once the eggs develop and the cute baby birds grow up, schools realize that they have no plan for the adult birds. These hatching-project birds are deprived of a mother hen. The birds are often abandoned in city parks where they cannot survive on their own or dumped at local animal shelters and rescues who are already overburdened with unwanted animals. Hatching projects encourage the view that animals are disposable objects instead of living creatures requiring a lifetime of care and commitment. Humane alternatives have been developed by the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), HEART, and humane educators. More info can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

For Assembly candidates: Would you cosponsor and vote [A00058](#) (Rosenthal) that would prohibit schools from using eggs, live baby chickens and ducks for classroom projects? Yes,

For Senate candidates: Would you introduce or cosponsor legislation a senate version of A0058 that would prohibit schools from using eggs, live baby chickens and ducks for classroom projects?

YES / NO Yes

Additional Comments: Wouldn't mind exception being made if the school is affiliated with a humane poultry farm/sanctuary that is going to try to hatch out a new generation anyway, to propagate the birds, and is going to care for them properly. And better yet, teach willing and responsible students how to care for birds properly. That is a rare situation, but there are some rural schools near animal sanctuaries and humane poultry farms.



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It's a good thing to teach kids (and adults) how to properly care for and raise domestic animals. It promotes compassion and nurturing skills in humans.



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5. Factory Farms, Live Animal Slaughter Markets and Transportation

There are more than [600 factory farms](#) in New York State, confining animals and engaging in heinously cruel practices such as castration of pigs, cows, and other mammals without painkillers, “debeaking” or “beak cutting” of chickens and turkeys without painkillers, confinement of egg-laying hens in battery cages, confinement of baby cows in veal crates, and confinement of pigs in gestation crates. These factory farms are degrading the environment and poisoning our communities.

There are also [80+ slaughterhouses and live animal markets in NYC](#), in all five boroughs – more than any other U.S. city. These facilities in New York are no different than the live animal markets abroad where coronavirus started. In addition to brutally cruel treatment of the animals (tiny cages, no vet care, severely limited food and water), these storefront facilities pose a significant health and safety hazard to the community affecting the quality of life for neighborhood residents. Blood, feces, urine, dismembered body parts, and feathers are routinely found on our public sidewalks and streets due to the unsanitary conditions associated with storefront slaughterhouses. They are also a breeding ground for infectious diseases — avian flu has been found in many NYC live animal markets. Many of these slaughterhouses are located close to schools and playgrounds. Additionally, when large animals such as cows, bulls, and goats escape (as routinely happens), including during transport, it puts us all in danger, even causing a [multi-hour traffic jam on the Verrazano Bridge](#). Sometimes these animals are allowed to be rescued by a farm animal sanctuary but most often they are killed.

Especially in light of pandemics that originate from crowded, unsanitary live animal markets, would you support a permanent ban on the operation of all factory farms? Would you support legislation [A10399/S8291](#) (Rosenthal/Sepulveda) that would ban the operation of live animal markets in New York City?

YES / NO Yes

Additional Comments: A thousand times yes!

Would you cosponsor and vote for legislation to ban confining animals and other cruel practices such as (a) castration of pigs, cows, and other mammals without painkillers, (b) “debeaking” or “beak cutting” of chickens and turkeys without painkillers, (c) confinement of egg-laying hens in battery cages, confinement of baby cows in veal crates, and (d) confinement of pigs in gestation crates?

YES / NO Yes

Additional Comments: Yes, yes, yes!

[S6252/A8009](#) (Gianaris/Wepin) is legislation that would renew the state moratorium prohibiting new licenses for slaughter facilities in NYC. It has passed both houses. Will you reach out to Governor Cuomo and ask him to sign the bill?

YES / NO Yes



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Additional Comments: And if the Gov. doesn't sign real soon, I'll put this suggestion up on my website & FB page, and post the suggestion to my GPNY State Committee listserv

Would you cosponsor, support and vote for legislation to require that any animal who escapes a slaughterhouse or transport vehicle be released to an animal sanctuary or other rescue?

YES / NO Yes

Additional Comments: I met such an escapee living la dolce vita at Woodstock Farm Sanctuary. He is a fine black bull!

6. Food and Health

A. Dairy Subsidies and transition to plant-based suppliers in New York State

Milk and other dairy products are top agricultural products in New York State, but demand for and sales of dairy products in the U.S. have dropped precipitously in recent years, while sales of non-dairy milks have grown substantially. This change comes as more research and information illuminate the harmful effects of dairy on adult and children's health, the environment and animal welfare. Regardless, the quality of individual animal care offered by a given farm, dairy production necessarily involves farmers taking newborn calves from their mothers, who bellow and chase after them. Instead of a mother's milk going to her babies, her calves are taken to veal farms where they are kept isolated in small plastic huts in rows upon rows. Perhaps worst is that forcibly impregnating, tail docking, and beating downed cows are standard practices on NY dairy farms. Former dairy companies like long-time New York producers like Elmhurst Dairy are making the switch to non-dairy products. New York based companies offering healthy food, yet every year taxpayers subsidize New York's dairies with as much as \$60 million in credits.

Would you support ending or reducing the immense subsidies that New York provides dairy farmers, and reallocating them to plant-based initiatives?

YES / NO Not sure— see comments.

Additional Comments: I would prefer legislation that gives subsidies to cow (dairy) farms that do NOT separate unweaned calves from their moms, so that such farms could financially afford to do the humane practice, and could afford to humanely neuter the male calves who are not needed to be bulls, and to let them live out their lives on the home farm or on farm sanctuaries. I would like to see subsidies for farmers willing to do those sorts of things, and for those who do all that *and* milk by hand *and* maybe offer raw milk, if they are up for that. I've been on such a farm. The cows were happy, you could just tell. And the raw milk was great! But, tragically, the whole beautiful enterprise shut down after Hurricane Irene (thank you, climate change) destroyed barns and flooded the place. It had been hard and wonderful work, and always on a financial shoestring, and



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after that Climate Change induced mega-storm, bankruptcy was imminent. And so tragically, the cows had to be sold, and their happiness destroyed, and I am sure it was also heartbreaking to the farmer.

That happened because the state does not subsidize such extremely worthwhile enterprises. We have to give our tax dollars to Jeff Bezos when he bulldozes hundreds of acres of forests near rural areas like Montgomery NY (in my district) so he can have warehouses on those former forests, and on those former homes to many thousands of animals who *used to* live there. And we have to contribute to the US war machine. According to Peace Action NY (PANY), in 2018 we New Yorkers gave \$12 billion, with a B, to US military enterprises, which are harmful to children and all other living things.

As for re-allocating money from cow farms to plant-based initiatives, no. How about re-allocating tax money from handouts to billionaires and military (and of course, arms manufacturers are billionaires) to humane and ecologically respectful cow farms *and* plant farms? We should not be pitting ecologically respectful cow and plant farms against each other!

I trust that you are aware that almond milk almost exclusively comes from mega-orchards of mono-crop almonds— not good— and that pollination is accomplished by kidnapping honeybees, shipping them long distances in harsh conditions, sending them loose to pollinate, and kidnapping them and carting them off again, to the detriment of their health and against their natural lifestyle. I believe that bees and all other insects also have rights and that we humans have no right to abuse them.

Soy farms are generally GMO and doused in Monsanto products that kill and or create cancer for all life. So no, not happy to see my taxes supporting that.

Oat milk is likely to be our most humane, respectful-to-Earth type of dairy milk vegan substitute.

B. Food Labeling

Would you support legislation to require that any food products sold in New York must be labeled with information detailing the sourcing of the animals and the conditions the animals were raised in and requiring restaurants provide such signage?

YES / NO Yes

Additional Comments: Great idea!

7. Protecting New York's Wildlife

A. Wildlife Killing Contests

Animal killing competitions are publicly held contests where the person or team who has killed the most animals, or the heaviest or largest animals is crowned the winner. In animal killing competitions, individuals



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compete to kill the most animals, the heaviest animal, or the largest animal. [Competitions such as these are inhumane and provide incentive to killing animals for glory, prizes or titles.](#) In many cases, these competitions are conducted in a party-like atmosphere and are more like slaughters or massacres and are unsportsmanlike. These competitions are considered cruel by many hunters.

Would you cosponsor and vote for [A9775/S4253B](#) (Glick/Martinez) and [A722B/S7542/A722B](#) (Martinez/Serrano) to ban killing contests in New York State?

YES / NO Yes

Additional Comments: These “contests” make me sick.

B. Wildlife Management

New York is home to an immense diversity of wildlife, whether in urban, suburban or rural areas. Even New York City’s five boroughs are home to hundreds of species, including geese, deer, squirrels, ducks, raccoons, opossum, coyotes, hawks, eagles, whales, dolphins, seals, turkeys, beavers, bats, pigeons, rats, migratory birds, and so many more species. While many animals inhabit New York year-round, other species pass through on their annual migrations. USDA Wildlife Services is a federal agency notorious for exterminating millions of wild animals across the country in cruel manners, while ignoring and undermining humane approaches to coexisting with wildlife in New York. Examples of humane wildlife management practices include: Instead of killing Canada geese to reduce the threat of “bird strikes”, nests are now being treated as a birth control method. In Staten Island, a deer vasectomy program was instituted as a more humane and effective approach to stabilizing the population, and turkeys were relocated to a sanctuary in upstate New York to avoid being slaughtered.

Do you support New York City’s [WildlifeNYC program](#), aimed to promote awareness, tolerance, coexistence, and understanding of urban wildlife? If you don’t represent NYC, would you support a similar program for your district? How do you view our relationship to wildlife in New York State?

YES / NO Yes

Additional Comments: I am in complete favor of using safe birth control and any other respectful-to-animal-rights measures to curtail overpopulation in all animal species, including Homo sapiens. (Let’s put the “sapiens” in Homo sapiens, if you catch my drift).



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In 2014, the New York State Department of Environmental Protection (DEC) declared, with no public input in support, and no clear scientific basis, that mute swans are an invasive species in New York, and soon thereafter proposed eliminating all mute swans in New York.

Would you support legislation reversing the New York State DEC's determination that mute swans are an invasive and prohibited species in New York, and allow mute swans to continue to exist?

YES / NO Yes, of course.

Additional Comments: Are we banning all things beautiful? Why? What next, enforced extermination of tulips and daffodils?

Do you oppose lethal management initiatives for "nuisance" wildlife such as Canada geese, deer and turkey populations that result in the cruel and needless killing of these animals in New York's parks by government contractors particularly where there are demonstrated non-lethal and humane alternatives that can be applied?

YES / NO Yes, absolutely.

Additional Comments: What is really head-shaking is when we consider that it was human intervention that led to Canada geese becoming non-migratory...

Currently there are few brick and mortar wildlife rehabilitation centers in New York State, such as the Wild Bird Fund in Manhattan. Would you support funding initiatives to expand New York State's capacity for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation?

YES / NO Yes

Additional Comments: People should be paid and paid well for work that improves quality of life and community, as wildlife rescue and rehab certainly do. Programs to do this needed and good work ought to be supported including by our taxes. This is an example of proper use of taxes.

Tax-funded subsidies to killer factory farms and to Jeff Bezos building wildlife-destroying warehouses in forests where bog turtles and Indiana bats *used* to live (Montgomery NY, Routes 747 and 17K) until his insatiable greed killed them, is an example of obscenely perverted abuse of tax dollars.



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8. Legal Rights for Animals

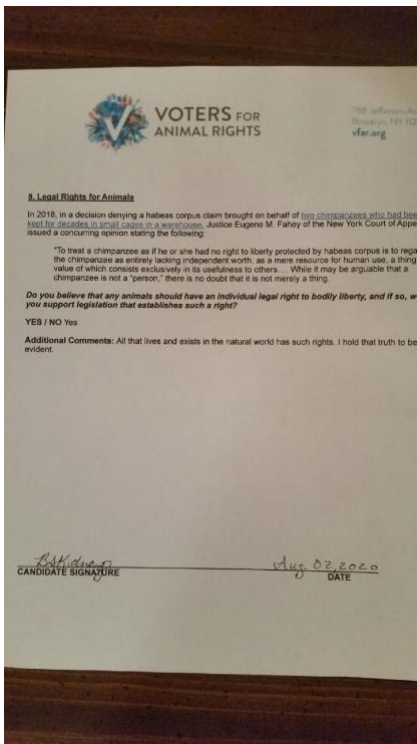
In 2018, in a decision denying a habeas corpus claim brought on behalf of [two chimpanzees who had been kept for decades in small cages in a warehouse](#), Justice Eugene M. Fahey of the New York Court of Appeals issued a concurring opinion stating the following:

“To treat a chimpanzee as if he or she had no right to liberty protected by habeas corpus is to regard the chimpanzee as entirely lacking independent worth, as a mere resource for human use, a thing the value of which consists exclusively in its usefulness to others.... While it may be arguable that a chimpanzee is not a “person,” there is no doubt that it is not merely a thing.

Do you believe that any animals should have an individual legal right to bodily liberty, and if so, would you support legislation that establishes such a right?

YES / NO Yes

Additional Comments: All that lives and exists in the natural world has such rights. I hold that truth to be self-evident.



CANDIDATE SIGNATURE

DATE