

**BOROUGH OF LEONIA  
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**Date: February 2, 2026**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-82**

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
<b>Zeigler</b>			✓			
<b>Grandelis</b>				✓		
<b>Hesterbrink</b>	✓		✓			
<b>Ravid</b>					✓	
<b>Scarangella</b>		✓	✓			
<b>Terrell</b>			✓			
<b>Mayor Ziegler</b>	---	---				

**BOROUGH OF LEONIA RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE “GREEN AMENDMENT”  
TO THE NEW JERSEY STATE CONSTITUTION BILLS SCR43 / ACR119**

**WHEREAS**, the right of New Jerseyans to clean water, air, and a healthy environment is not recognized in the State of New Jersey’s Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, clean water, air, a stable climate, and a healthy environment are fundamental to sustaining healthy lives and a healthy economy; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey State has a long history of environmental protection and leadership to protect New Jerseyans’ health and environment; and

**WHEREAS**, while environmental laws are designed to manage pollution, clean up and remediate contamination, and conserve natural resources, these laws do not support the notion that clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment are fundamental, inalienable rights; and

**WHEREAS**, there are still a multitude of issues threatening New Jersey’s water, air, and natural resources, such as climate change, emerging contaminants such as PFAS and PFOA in our drinking water supplies, poor to failing air quality, and disproportionate adverse impacts in environmental justice and frontline communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Leonia is also particularly concerned about:

- The protection of green spaces, including Overpeck Park Section IV.
- Flooding and flood damages/drought and drought damages are harming the health and safety of our communities.
- Polluted air is increasing the rate of asthma, heart disease, lung cancer, ADHD, and Alzheimer's in our state.
- Impacts of climate change are increasing, including sea level rise and detrimental changes to coastlines; loss of habitat and wetlands; loss of agricultural productivity; loss of property, injury, and death from more severe storms, fires, and flooding; and the spread of deadly disease vectors.

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- Perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) are causing children, families, and communities to suffer from developmental delays; impacted immune systems, liver, prostate, or kidneys; and even cancer in our state.
- Communities with a higher percentage of Black, Hispanic, Indigenous, low-income, Asian/Pacific Islander, and immigrant communities continue to be disproportionately targeted for high rates of pollution, industry, and development.
- Contaminated sites put nearby communities at risk of health hazards and reduce property values.

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of these facts, bipartisan bills have been introduced in the New Jersey Senate and in the New Jersey Assembly (2024-2025: SCR43/ACR119, 2022-2023:

ACR72/SCR15, 2020-2021: ACR80/SCR30, 2018-2019: ACR85/SCR134, 2016-2017: ACR295), known as “The Green Amendment,” that would amend the state constitution to insert into Article I, New Jersey’s bill of rights, the right to pure water, clean air, a safe climate, and a healthy environment to coexist with our other constitutional rights we hold so dear including but not limited to the rights to hold property, speak, assemble, and worship; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition that to enact a Green Amendment in the New Jersey State Constitution, the above-mentioned bill must be passed by the New Jersey State Legislature and then be voted on as part of a statewide referendum; and

**WHEREAS**, if the Resolution (ACR119/SCR43) is passed by the Senate and then the Assembly, and if it is agreed to by the voters in a public question ballot referendum, this Green Amendment will be added to the Bill of Rights of the New Jersey State Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Leonia supports the environmental protections, rights, and values that would be recognized and enforced by the Green Amendment and recognizes that clean water, air and a healthy environment protects the health and enhances the quality of the lives of all New Jersey residents, and that equitable access to the same should be the right of all people in our State; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough of Leonia supports the values of the Green Amendment and believes that voters should have the opportunity to choose whether to add environmental rights to the Bill of Rights of the New Jersey State Constitution.

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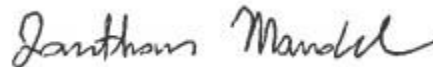
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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Borough of Leonia, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, encourages its County-based legislative delegation to support Green Amendment values so that voters of our great State and great County may choose whether to add the right to a clean and healthy environment to the Bill of Rights of the New Jersey State Constitution;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our State Legislative Delegation, Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Governor Sherrill, and Green Amendments For The Generations (925 Canal St, Suite 3701, Bristol, PA 19007).

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I hereby certify that the above resolution was duly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia at a meeting of said Borough Council on February 2, 2026.



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Jonathan Mandel, RMC  
Borough Clerk