



2022 Lieutenant Gubernatorial Candidate Questionnaire

Completed questionnaires will be public documents available on our website. If we hold an endorsement vote in your race, we will also share your questionnaire with our members before the vote.

Contact with questions: Jessica Thurston, NKD's VP of Political Affairs, politics@newkingsdemocrats.com

Name	David J Englert
Top-line summary of your public service roles and areas of New York State represented	Mayor, Village of Sodus; Executive Board of Directors, Wayne County Action Program; Vice-President, Wayne County Village Officials Association
What is one important way you think the Lieutenant Governor's Office should be reformed, and what is your plan for trying to implement such reform?	Every news piece on NY's Lt. Governor begins with "...a largely ceremonial position...." The people of New York are hurting. They don't have time for a "largely ceremonial position." The Lt. Governor is uniquely positioned to do a great deal of good: advising the Governor, working with legislators, agencies, and municipalities, as well as meeting with ordinary New Yorkers where they live. The LG must take an active role in positioning state government where it can actually serve the people.
As Lieutenant Governor, how would you engage with communities traditionally underrepresented in Albany? In what ways and with which organizations are you involved?	The 99%? New York has a history of catering to moneyed special interests and fat cats. The underrepresented are neglected and preyed upon because of a variety of factors, too numerous to get into here. I am deeply empathetic, and I am very comfortable learning from people with different perspectives, situations, beliefs, and lived experiences than me. Recent events in our nation and in my life have opened my eyes (and my heart) to suffering and injustice to which I had been previously unaware. As LG, I will engage underrepresented communities through the best way possible: I will talk to them and I will listen to them, just as I do now as mayor. I do not represent only those who look like me, think like me, or voted for me. I represent and advocate for everyone who lives, works, and shops in our community. I have built a reputation in Wayne County as being fair-minded and inclusive. I am allied with WARE (Wayne Action for Racial Equality), have whole-heartedly embraced Executive Order 203 (transforming policing in our village), and serve as an ex-officio member of our police advisory board (set to launch this week).
If elected, what will your top three legislative and/or budgetary priorities?	1. Health & Safety. Empower/lead a thorough study to evaluate the State's commitment to resourcing mental health services. Eliminate waste and get more help to the people who so desperately need it.

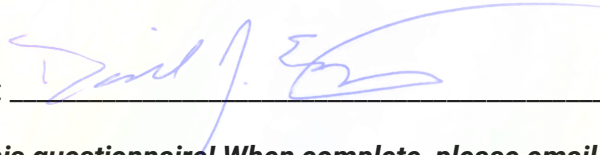
	<p>2. Cost of Living. Convene a gathering of world-class economists to suggest better ways to raise state revenues in the 21st Century and to lower the cost of living for ordinary New Yorkers. Our tax policies are antiquated and are antithetical to businesses and the working classes. Let's reimagine how we raise revenue in a way that is fair, equitable, and tolerable for all.</p> <p>3. Education. Work with the Department of Education and national experts to simplify how we educate students in New York. Incentivize success, rather than test scores. Put our children at the center of our efforts, not the system.</p>
NKD expects elected candidates to openly discuss how they will reform the areas of voting rights. Please summarize your priorities in those areas here.	<p>I could write a book (and someday I will) about the unethical practices of our electoral system in New York. People worry about election fraud at the polls. That's not where it takes place. Our elections get rigged from the very beginning. We need to reinvent our electoral system to take it out of the hands of unelected officials who serve the needs of political parties, rather than the fine people of the State of New York. Boards of Election should be non-partisan, rather than bipartisan.</p> <p>Boards of Election need more oversight. Rules need to be tightened up so that BoEs act ethically, as well as legally. Once the Boards of Elections are cleaned up, we can improve access to the polls and reduce barriers to entry for candidates and third parties. The more ideas freely exchanged, the better.</p>
NKD is a proud supporter of the Sexual Harassment Working Group. If elected, will you commit to working side-by-side with the SHWG to fight for changes to the culture of sexual harassment and abuse in Albany?	Absolutely. I have been on the receiving end of sexual harassment. I have also been punished for reporting a colleague who routinely engaged in harassing women who reported to him. All forms of harassment, but especially sexual harassment, have no place in our society. I will always stand for what is right and good, protect the vulnerable, and work with anyone who does the same.
What is your path to victory? This could include endorsements, relationships, and major sources of campaign funds.	<p>Path to victory includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplicity of message (New York can be better) • Honesty (It will take time and effort) • Vision for a better tomorrow (Stop the bleeding now with a brighter future always in mind) • Grass-roots support for the above (tell your friends) <p>Path to victory does not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Politics as usual • Bad-mouthing opponents • Catering to moneyed special interests and fat cats
What could New York State do to improve conditions for NYCHA residents and to create	<p>I am not qualified to offer an opinion on the NYCHA at this time.</p> <p>Statewide, the possibility of home ownership has slipped</p>

<p>more truly affordable housing statewide?</p>	<p>through the hands of most young people. The people who can afford to buy a house, do so as a business venture. In order for that venture to make economic sense, they need to charge current market rates for rent. This results in rent that is no longer affordable for many ordinary New Yorkers. The cost of housing is one of the major factors in the unaffordable cost of living in this state. The other is regressive tax policies. They are intertwined and need to be addressed together. There is no simple, quick fix. It will require meticulous planning, new modes of thought, and multi-year implementation. Are the candidates you are voting for up to the task?</p>
<p>Police, Republicans, and some Democrats blame bail reform for every uptick in crime, despite research showing this is not true. How will you change the conversation on this issue, and how will you reduce the number of people sent to jails and prison?</p>	<p>In many respects, crime is a complex symptom of our diseased society. It is not a direct line from A to B. Crime is increasing throughout the nation – not just in New York. It is being used as a scare tactic to win votes and arguments. Mental illness, trauma, addiction, inferior education, lack of opportunity, and hopelessness are all contributing factors to this current uptick in crime.</p> <p>In the short-term, we must support law enforcement and the judicial system to provide as much public safety as possible, but we will never be able to police ourselves to safety.</p> <p>In the medium term, we must reform our judicial and prison systems. Courts should have options readily available that will help the accused be better members of society. Jail should not be the first best option. Prisons should be designed to reform, not merely to incarcerate. Post-release supports need to be intentionally applied.</p> <p>In the long term, we must reform our systems of support for the ill, damaged, hopeless, and hurting members of our society. We must improve educational outcomes for our students. We must encourage economic growth and entrepreneurship. Only when we overcome our societal ills will we well and truly eliminate crime.</p>
<p>The IPCC report shows we need immediate action to survive climate change, but NYS legislation has only set targets for future administrations. What concrete actions will you take in your first term to reduce emissions that cause climate change?</p>	<p>New York should be a world leader in green energy production and transmission.</p> <p>In my first term, I will work with the Governor to ensure that all state agencies are keeping the environment first and foremost in their minds when taking actions and when making funding decisions. We also need to improve the energy grid throughout New York. We need to partner with utility companies to build the best, most reliable, smartest grid in the nation, complete with energy storage facilities. We can build all the solar fields we want, but if the grid can't handle the power, they are useless. We can generate massive amounts of solar power during the day, but if we can't store that energy until nighttime, we'll have to keep</p>

	relying on natural gas-fired plants. We can't keep talking about reducing our carbon footprint without making the serious commitments necessary to transform power generation and delivery. New York State has laid out the goal. Now it's time to draft an aggressive plan and commit to it.
What is one fun fact about you?	I am an unapologetic Taylor Swift fan.

I have completed this questionnaire and confirm that my responses in this document are accurate:

Candidate Signature: _____



Date: May 8, 2022

You must sign this questionnaire! When complete, please email your signed and scanned questionnaire as a PDF file to politics@newkingsdemocrats.com