



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	Diana Reyna
Top-line summary of your public service roles and areas of New York State represented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2014-2017: Deputy Brooklyn Borough President • 2001-2013: Member of New York City Council (34th District: Williamsburg, Bushwick, Ridgewood) • 2000-2005: District Leader / State Committee Member (53rd Assembly District)
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?	<p>For too long, the Lieutenant Governor role has been a ceremonial one limited to things like street renamings. We saw that throughout the Cuomo-Hochul Administration, when Lieutenant Governor Hochul had no major role in the decision-making process. It continued into the Hochul-Benjamin Administration, when Lieutenant Governor Benjamin was assigned to represent Governor Hochul in the candidate forums and meetings she didn't want to attend. Oftentimes at candidate forums, Benjamin struggled to come up with clear answers for what Governor Hochul's positions were on key topics.</p> <p>I want the Lieutenant Governor to be a true partner to the Governor, to have agency and a portfolio of issues that she can take charge on. One such project in Brooklyn that I will take on as Lieutenant Governor is BQGreen, which will add much needed open green space for the residents I used to represent in Los Sures.</p>
As Lieutenant Governor, how would you engage with communities traditionally underrepresented in Albany? In what ways and with which organizations are you involved?	<p>I've worked for underrepresented communities for my entire career in public service. I grew up in the 1970s and 1980s in Southside Williamsburg, which was a very different neighborhood then from what it is today. Because of years of collaboration between public officials and local groups like El Puente de Williamsburg, conditions in the neighborhood have improved dramatically and young people there have opportunities like they never did before.</p> <p>While it might sound like a cliché, one of if not the most important ways that underrepresented communities can make their voices heard is at the ballot box. As Lieutenant Governor, I will build on the progress New York has made on voting rights, including by improving language accessibility at polling places and in election materials.</p>
If elected, what will your top three legislative and/or budgetary priorities?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fighting crime 2. Lowering taxes and making New York more affordable 3. Finally helping the children in our troubled schools
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>The defeat last fall of the ballot proposals 3 and 4, which would have allowed for same-day voter registration and no-excuse absentee voting, were setbacks for voting rights in New York. As Lieutenant Governor, I will not rest until both of those important initiatives are signed into law.</p> <p>We must also be cognizant of the fact that in New York and across the country, Republicans are trying to roll back vital progress we've made on voting rights. Donald Trump is not the only person lying about voter fraud, Lee Zeldin and Alison Esposito are too.</p> <p>The most important thing that we can do to protect and expand on New York's progress on voting rights is beat Republicans. To do that, we need candidates who can win general elections. My long track record of public</p>

	service as well as my common sense vision for New York make me the Democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor best positioned to win in November.
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?	Yes, I have supported organizations that have worked to fight against Sexual Harassment such as Holla Back.
What is your path to victory? This could include endorsements, relationships, and major sources of campaign funds.	<p>I have been endorsed by a number of New York City politicians in recent weeks and will be announcing more soon. I expect to have raised at least \$500,000 by my first filing.</p> <p>Most importantly though, the reason why I am going to win this race is because I am the only candidate for Lieutenant Governor talking to voters about the issues they actually care about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crime 2. Affordability 3. Albany corruption 4. Troubled schools
What could New York State do to improve conditions for NYCHA residents and to create more truly affordable housing statewide?	We need to go back to pre-9/11 funding levels for NYCHA from both the state and federal governments. NYCHA is currently getting significantly lower than pre-9/11 funding levels from both.
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>I disagree with the premise of the question. Every other state in the country, including progressive states that have passed important legislation on bail reform, allows judges to take public safety into account when determining whether to remand. New York is the only state in the entire country that does not.</p> <p>I supported the goals of bail reform because people should not languish in jail awaiting trial for nonviolent offenses simply because they cannot afford to pay bail. However, I support the following amendments to bail reform that were excluded from the State Budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allow judges to consider public safety when deciding whether to keep defendants behind bars - Make more serious crimes subject to arrest, not merely a desk appearance - Advocate for more accountability of the Chief Administrative Judge <p>Making these changes would make New York safer, but it would not roll back the important progress that New York has made on making our criminal justice system more just.</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>New York has set ambitious energy storage goals for 2025 and 2030 as well as goals of 100% clean energy by 2040 and net-zero emissions by 2050. I support these goals because New York must be a leader on clean energy and climate policy. As Lieutenant Governor, I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate the electrification of transportation in New York through the lens of racial justice. • Incentivize the building of clean energy infrastructure like solar, wind and energy storage • Use the Environmental Bond Act, which voters will hopefully approve in November, to build climate resilient infrastructure, open space conservation, flood mitigation efforts, and water quality improvements
What is one fun fact about you?	I love to dance and in the past entered two dance competitions!

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

Candidate Signature: *Diana Reyna*

Date: May 6, 2022

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