

# Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

Please address these questions, but make your answers brief so the entire questionnaire does not exceed 4 pages.

1. ABILITY TO LEAD THE ENTIRE STATE – What contact and experiences have you had with parts of the state, other than where you currently reside, which demonstrate your recognition of the geographic, demographic and economic diversity of the state and your ability to provide leadership on behalf of all New Yorkers?

I've been a proud New Yorker for nearly 24 years. I began my career in Manhattan and have had the opportunity to work and live in a variety of areas throughout the state, ranging from Albany to the Hudson Valley region. As a Congressman, I've come to know the range of issues impacting the diverse populations I represent - from the farmers of Orange County to the urban issues facing folks in the City of Poughkeepsie. Having the ability to live, work and serve in multiple counties across the state has given me insight into the unique challenges that my neighbors in rural areas face and provided me with a better understanding of what it takes to serve rural residents and meet their needs.

2. KNOWLEDGE OF THE ISSUES – What issues do you believe are of most concern to voters in rural counties, and what will be your message in addressing those issues?

Since the start of my campaign for Attorney General, I've heard from voters all across the state, especially in rural New York, who have felt disconnected and as if their voices aren't being heard. I believe voters in rural counties are faced with unique challenges like being without power for long periods of time after natural disasters, accessing rural broadband services and issues that prevent voters from getting their mail from the United States Postal Service.

As Attorney General, I plan to be a voice for my neighbors in rural counties and support legislative proposals that expand access to rural broadband services and increase funding to help support local post offices.

3. PARTY BUILDING – How have you expressed and demonstrated a commitment toward building our party statewide and what are your ideas for future party building, specific to rural counties?

There's no secret that there is an uprising happening across our country and within our party and the only way to harness the passions and energy Democrats are feeling is to move forward as a united front. But to do that we must address the concerns that folks have about their leaders. As a party, we've done a great job at fighting to protect the

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values that are essential to our core but after the 2016 election, we've realized that we need leaders who speak to a new generation of voters. We need to elect leaders who understand these issues and are not simply the pick of party insiders. I believe we need to return to being the party that speaks from the heart and lets the people pick their leaders.

4. In the event of a primary for the office you are seeking, will you support the winner of the Democratic primary? (This calls for a YES or NO answer only.)

YES

5. FAIRNESS IN SHARING POLITICAL POWER - How have you and how will you defend and further the rights of small counties to be represented in the decision making process and in governmental and political positions?

One of the most important roles of the Attorney General is to vindicate the rights of all New Yorkers. I take that obligation seriously and will use the power of the office to ensure that New Yorkers in rural counties are treated fairly and their rights are protected. I would also make the resources of the Office of Attorney General available to District Attorneys in rural parts of the state that don't always have the resources and capacity they need.

6. INCLUSION – If elected, how would your administration include the people from DRC counties and address the issues of concern in those counties?

Working with leaders throughout the Democratic party in order to enhance the lives of our neighbors and protect their right to equal access under the law is my top priority. As Attorney General, I plan to empower each of the regional offices of the Attorney General to tackle fraud and corruption in every corner of the state and by partnering with local District Attorneys, we can bring considerable resources to bear on the problems that impact the rural communities of New York.

7. VOTER APPEAL – What qualities or experiences do you have that would attract support from voters in DRC counties, not just from Democrats but also from non-enrolled voters and cross-over Republicans?

Throughout my time in Congress, I've had the opportunity to work with members on both sides of the aisle to do what's right for American voters and my neighbors in New York. That's not just talk. I've passed nearly 30 pieces of legislation into law as a Member in the minority. That means working across party lines and sometimes bucking party leadership to do what's right. I ran in one of the toughest congressional districts in the country, and I was fortunate enough to have my constituents support me during the 2016 election, while still voting in favor of President Trump. I have the ability to reach

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voters on both sides of the aisle because I listen and understand their issues and stand up for them when politicians in Albany and Washington, D.C. are playing politics.

8. CAMPAIGN IN DRC COUNTIES – How would you campaign in DRC counties? Have you personally appeared with any local rural candidates? In what rural counties have you campaigned? How have you helped rural candidates campaign?

Due to the short nature of the Attorney General's race I have not had the opportunity to visit every part of New York yet but will do several tours throughout the state and hold town halls in every place I stop.

9. OTHER CRITERIA – Please set forth anything else you want us to consider.

N/A



08/15/18  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Candidate

THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE MUST BE postmarked or e-mailed at your earliest convenience but no later than \_\_\_\_\_, 2018 to Phil Jones at 19 Elm Street, Geneseo, NY 14454 or via e-mail at [paj12147@gmail.com](mailto:paj12147@gmail.com). INTERVIEWS MAY BE ARRANGED THEREAFTER.