

Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

2018 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE

CANDIDATE'S NAME and HOME ADDRESS: Thomas P. DiNapoli

Position for which you are a candidate: **New York State Comptroller**

[REDACTED]

THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE POSTED ON THE DRC WEB SITE, Facebook Page, and as many other media outlets as possible.

Name, cell phone number and e-mail address for the person on your staff who will be your liaison with the DRC. [REDACTED]

List your qualifications for this office including but not limited to other offices you have held, educational background, etc.

Mineola School Board of Education 1972-82
Hofstra University, B.A.
New School University, Graduate School of Management and Urban Professions, M.A.
16th District Assemblymember 1987 – 2007

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?

Since taking office as State Comptroller, I have made it a priority to travel to all parts of our great State. Governmentally and politically, I have been present across New York including in our rural counties. I have participated in the annual DRC conventions and attended many events in DRC counties.

My government work on audits and economic profiles has included a focus on key issues such as the contribution of agriculture to our economy. Our audits of local governments and pension fund administration have helped rural communities.

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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?

Like voters everywhere, rural voters are concerned about taxes, public corruption and the future of our state's economy. My focus will remain on helping upstate local governments find ways to reduce expenses to protect taxpayers, strengthening the State's pension fund and supporting our agricultural sector. Every county, city and town matters in our State, and we all rise or fall together, so I'm committed to continuing our work to support rural communities.

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?

For my entire career, I've made it a priority to support County and local party organizations wherever and whenever I can. I have attended countless County dinners in virtually every DRC county as well as DRC conventions. In this challenging time in American politics, I think it is more important than ever that we continue to build our party structure with aggressive outreach and engagement of volunteers and supporters, and I stand ready to support DRC counties in this mission in any way possible.

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 (but I do not have a primary).

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?

From the time FDR put together the coalition that would become the foundation of the modern Democratic Party, rural voters have always been a key constituency, and that must always be part of our Party's profile. I have supported the DRC for years specifically because I believe it is vital to have rural voices included in our political decision-making process. And I will strongly oppose any effort to minimize the role of DRC counties in our Democratic Party.

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

My office engages with every local government in the state, so I have always had a keen focus on ensuring that the needs and views of rural communities are heard in

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all decision making. Further, former State Senator and Commissioner of Agriculture Darrell Aubertine serves as a senior adviser in my office, where he brings a distinctly rural perspective to my administration.

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?

I'm proud to represent *every* resident of New York. I was appointed Comptroller in 2007 at a time when the office was mired in scandal. I immediately took steps to restore the reputation and integrity of the Comptroller's office. I've fought against public corruption and the misuse of taxpayer dollars.

I worked hard to grow our state pension fund to an historic high of \$209.2 billion, developed a program of Emerging Managers to provide opportunities for women and minority asset managers, and I visit communities every year to make sure everyone has the opportunity to re-claim their unclaimed funds.

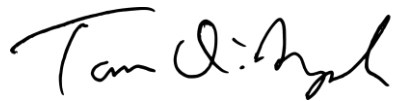
8. CAMPAIGN IN DRC COUNTIES – How would you campaign in DRC counties? Have you personally appeared with any local rural candidates? In what rural counties have you campaigned? How have you helped rural candidates campaign?

I have and will continue to make DRC counties a focus in my campaigns. I have also appeared with local candidates in DRC counties, even appearing at endorsement rallies with some candidates and headlining fundraisers. I will continue to help DRC candidates in any way I can.

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

8/17/18

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. INTERVIEWS MAY BE ARRANGED THEREAFTER.