

Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

2018 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE

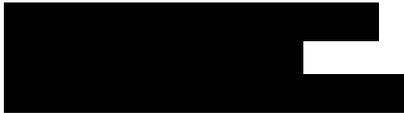
CANDIDATE'S NAME and HOME ADDRESS:

Jumaane D. Williams



Position for which you are a candidate: Lieutenant Governor

Candidate's address for all DRC correspondence:



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.



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

I am in my third term as a New York City Council Member representing the 45th District in Brooklyn. Prior to that I served on Community Board 18 and was the executive director of Tenants And Neighbors, a statewide affordable housing advocacy group. I attended Brooklyn College where I received both my bachelor's and master's degrees. While in the New York City Council, I have passed more legislation than any other sitting Council Member, including legislation such as the Community Safety Act, Fair Chance Act, Construction Site Safety Act, and more.

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?

Prior to becoming an elected official, I was the executive director of Tenants & Neighbors, a statewide advocacy organization for affordable housing and tenant empowerment. Then, and now in my travels for the campaign, I've seen how many

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of the problems affecting Brooklyn and New York City are replicated and mirrored in every direction of New York State. While these problems manifest themselves in somewhat different ways, people want the same things- fair, affordable housing, quality and equitable education for their children, a living wage to work a good job, safe streets, and a system that operates justly for all communities. The roadblocks to progress may be different, the local government structure may vary, and there may be some unique cultural intricacies, but the core is the same. These are issues I've worked on for many years, and I want to share the successes I've had with the full state.

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?

I think every issue affecting voters in rural counties flows from one central concern – the availability and investment of public resources into these areas. We've seen most recently the failures of relying on inducing private companies to build out infrastructure like rural broadband access when we should make those investments in rural communities directly. My white paper on revenue reform outlines how New York is leaving \$20 billion uncollected every year at the expense of working-class New Yorkers. Capturing and investing these resources into everything from quality public education, to expanding ballot access through universal absentee voting, to renewing and enhancing infrastructure and making our rural communities attractive to economic development would go a long way.

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?

I believe the largest and fastest way to grow our party is to turn non-voters into voters. We can accomplish this by committing to being a party that engages every voice, that guarantees those voices will be heard throughout Albany. I commit that as lieutenant governor, I will bring these voices to the table when substantive policy decisions are made affecting them. Our party cannot operate as an insulated organization where a few establishment power brokers make all of the decisions- we need open processes with all communities represented.

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.)

I intend to be the Democratic nominee come September 14th, and if that is not the case I will re-evaluate. I believe any Democrat, however flawed, is a better option than a Republican. I will not support a Republican.

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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?

Persistent engagement with all stakeholders, including rural counties, as policy is shaped and pushed in Albany. To be The People's Lieutenant Governor includes all the people, especially from rural New York.

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

I would seek to coordinate regular listening tours through rural NY to gauge the effectiveness of state policies in rural NY and gather feedback to bring to Albany. I've proven that using my voice to elevate the issues of those who have less influence institutionally is a powerful strategy for systemic change.

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 believe to my core democratic principles and have stood up for those who would be abused by powers-that-be in any place and time, often to my political risk. I believe strongly in public engagement conducted directly with people rather than filtered through established corporate-Democrat structures. I pride myself on my honesty, the strength of my convictions, and my ability to elevate overlooked communities, values that have cross-party appeal.

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 endorsement from candidates in Erie, in Hudson, in Onondaga, in the Capital region, and across the state, held town halls in Ulster, and this year attended the the Local Progress conference in Saratoga Springs to work with legislators from across the state. I hope to continue to direct efforts toward rural areas, sharing a progressive message that resonated regardless of city, town village, or hamlet.

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

For too long, New Yorkers have not had an adequate voice at the highest level of State Government—especially when it comes to the Lt. Governor's office, which has historically served as a rubber stamp to the Governor by simply echoing their

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agenda. But that's not the type of Lt. Governor our state needs at this moment in time. I will be a Lt. Governor for the People, who serves as an independent voice for all New Yorkers— similar to the Public Advocate position in New York City, and can ensure that our elected officials in Albany uphold their promises and are held accountable for the actions they take. We also need a leader who has effectively navigated challenging waters to produce positive change, and won't sway with whichever way the political winds blow. I will be that leader.

I will hold the Governor and the State Legislature accountable to the people of New York. The status quo in the Governor's Mansion of the last eight years has been to promise change, rarely deliver, and trust that no one paid attention. Forcing accountability, refusing to let an issue drop without resolution, is the first step to making the transformative change New York desperately needs.

_____8/15/2018_____
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.