

Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

DRAFT

2022 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE

CANDIDATE'S NAME and ADDRESS:

Position for which you are a candidate: **Governor of the State of New York**

Kathy Hochul

Candidate's Address for All DRC Correspondence: 420 Lexington Ave., Suite #2149, New York, NY 10170

Telephone:

Cell Phone:

Fax:

E-mail: rob@kathyhochul.com

THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE POSTED ON THE DRC WEB SITE.

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

Rob Silverstein

rob@kathyhochul.com

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

Governor Kathy Hochul is the 57th Governor of New York State, and its first female Governor.

Governor Hochul began a career in public office on her local Town Board in Hamburg. She went on to serve as Erie County Clerk and represent New York's 26th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Prior to her tenure as Governor, she served as the Lieutenant Governor of New York State.

Governor Hochul holds a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and a law degree from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. She began her legal career working at a firm in Washington, D.C. and later served as legal counsel and legislative assistant to Congressman John LaFalce and Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. She was instrumental in drafting legislation related to campaign finance reform, immigration reform, and combating drug abuse.

Back home, Governor Hochul helped her mother start a flower & gifts shop and established a downtown business alliance, advocating for small businesses — including minority- and women-owned businesses.

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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?

Governor Hochul has been elected to represent the State of New York at the local, state, and federal levels. Throughout her tenure in public service, she has worked to build a stronger, more equitable State for all New Yorkers, and as a statewide official, she has visited all 62 New York counties to ensure voices across the State are heard.

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?

Governor Hochul’s administration has committed to several initiatives that will positively impact rural communities and address some of the most pressing issues they face, including:

- Expanding the state’s digital infrastructure with over \$1 billion in new investments to provide affordable broadband access to rural communities — including a rural broadband grant program and a build-free initiative for rural broadband deployment;
 - Revitalizing New York’s rural economies by creating and investing in the NY Forward program designed to advance the renaissance of smaller downtowns;
 - Recruiting medical professionals to work in underserved areas by increasing funding for the “Doctors Across New York” program, creating a “Nurses Across New York” program, and expanding the SUNY Pre-Medical Opportunity and the Diversity in Medicine Programs;
 - Launching a comprehensive five-year housing plan that will create and preserve 100,000 affordable homes in both urban and rural communities; and
 - Improving the housing stock of rural rental properties.
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?

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By exhibiting strong and effective leadership, Governor Hochul is entering the 2022 election having earned the support of a broad Democratic coalition — receiving endorsements from hundreds of elected officials and county committees throughout the State. By building a sense of collaboration and fostering key partnerships among her Democratic colleagues, the Governor has been able to deliver meaningful results for New Yorkers — enacting more than 400 pieces of legislation and guiding our State through a global pandemic. Over the next four years, Governor Hochul is committed to strengthening the party by ensuring representatives from every corner of the State can contribute to building a stronger New York.

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?

Governor Hochul understands the importance of every New Yorker having a voice in government. As a statewide elected official, she has made a concerted effort to remain present in all of New York's communities, having traveled to every county across the State. The Governor is committed to ensuring every New Yorker has a seat at the table and that the diverse needs of their communities are heard.

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

The Hochul administration has placed regional representatives in every county to liaise between the communities, their local leaders, and the Executive Office. This system allows the Governor's Office to maintain an ongoing dialogue with every community in the State.

The Governor also visits all 62 counties throughout the year, allowing her to communicate and collaborate directly with all of New York's communities.

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?

Governor Hochul has shown decisive and effective leadership since her first day in office. With the State battling a once-in-a-century pandemic, the Governor stepped up and made tough decisions that helped protect the public health of New Yorkers, spurred economic growth, and safely kept our children in schools. Governor Hochul has led on the issues that matter most to New York's working families, small businesses, and

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disadvantaged communities, and over the next four years, she will continue fighting for all New Yorkers with the same urgency and decisiveness she has exhibited throughout her entire career.

8. CAMPAIGN IN DRC COUNTIES – How would you campaign in DRC counties? Will you personally appear with local candidates?

As a statewide elected official, Governor Hochul has made it a point to visit — in many cases, multiple times — all 62 counties in New York State annually. Throughout her campaign, the Governor has made it a priority to stand alongside local Democratic leaders and communicate directly with New Yorkers in their communities about the issues that matter most to them. Governor Hochul knows the importance of earning every vote, and having previously run statewide and for federal office in rural counties (including Genesee, Livingston, and Wyoming Counties), she has experience putting in the work to reach New Yorkers in every part of the State.

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

1/24/22
Date


Signature of the Candidate

Please return THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE at your earliest convenience but no later than **January 24, 2022** to Judith Hunter, DRC Chair via e-mail at **judith.hunter@gmail.com**. Ms. Hunter can also be contacted at (585) 615-2986.