

2022 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE

Chuck Schumer, 9 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, NY 11215

Position for which you are a candidate: United States Senator from the State of New York

Candidate's Address for All DRC Correspondence:

Telephone: 212-532-2266

Cell Phone: 917-733-5246

E-mail: nick@chuckschumer.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.

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

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?

In my first year as senator I decided to visit each of New York's 62 counties, to get to know the people, places and issues. I learned so much that I decided to do it again, and again, and again. I am very proud to say that I have visited every one of New York's counties, each and every year since. No statewide elected official had ever done that before. A lot of people thought that I would have to stop once I became Majority Leader due to constraints on my time, but I make it my top priority because I learn so much as I do it. Actually looking people in the eyes as they share a problem, or a plan for growth makes it so much more visceral than if I just read a memo at my desk, or met with people in my Washington office. You can say a lot of things about me, but "inaccessible" isn't one of them. I've been to every corner of the state multiple times, and God willing I will do it again this year.

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?

Jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs. We must continue to work to provide viable employment opportunities for our constituents in rural counties and across New York. That can come in the form of growing the semiconductor industry, or funding urban transit systems so that rail cars and buses can continue to be built in Plattsburgh and the Southern Tier. At the same time, we must continue to support agriculture so that farming remains a viable employer as well. That means preserving dairy markets by fighting undue Canadian importation tariffs, and standing up for the organic dairy farms in the Eastern part of the state when corporate co-operatives wanted to shut them down. It also means funding conservation efforts so that we can preserve our existing farmland and not lose it to development sprawl.

This past year we passed historic legislation to address our infrastructure needs, so that our roads, bridges, rail, airports and, of course, broadband access in rural areas can dramatically improve.

At the same time, we must continue to strive for increased wages for working people, dependable child care options, and preserve and expand our health care networks Upstate.

And we simply must address the undeniable impacts of climate change. Our rural counties have borne the brunt of historic storms and floods in recent years that have disrupted and devastated families, communities and businesses. We know that this pattern will continue and worsen if we don't take immediate action.

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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?

As I have crisscrossed our state and visited every county, every year, I have assiduously built relationships with party leaders and elected officials at every level. I have befriended, mentored and promoted dozens of them, and seen many of them become tremendous public servants and stalwarts of our party at every level, from village and town boards, to county and state legislatures, and even to statewide offices. I have attended hundreds of party fundraisers over the years both in person, and during the pandemic, via remote video.

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?

I have always tried to make sure that smaller communities are represented in both governmental and political decisions. I have been a stalwart friend and supporter of the DRC, maintained official offices throughout Upstate New York, and supported the choice of my friend and colleague Kirsten Gillibrand to replace Hillary Rodham Clinton when she left the Senate to serve as Secretary of State. As Majority Leader, I constantly

empower and promote my colleagues who come from smaller, rural states and always make sure that their viewpoints and issues are given fair consideration.

Most recently, in the American Rescue Plan, I made sure that every level of government, regardless of population, received historic local aid funding from the federal government. Each and every New York county -- and countless municipalities -- received funding that helped to keep taxpayers whole, kept civil servants from being laid off and enabled economic development projects to move forward.

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

I have always believed the best way to represent rural areas is to hire staff who grew up, and live in those areas. They understand the benefits and challenges of rural communities because it is in their bones. Currently, I have staff members from Rensselaer, Saratoga, Oneida, Broome, Orange, Chautauqua, St. Lawrence, Oswego, Ulster, Dutchess, and Rockland. They are embedded in the communities across the state, and consistently fight for rural communities by communicating with their neighbors and developing ideas and strategies for me to try and make life just a little bit better. In just the past couple of years, my office has convinced the federal government to keep the current metrics that determine a Metropolitan Statistical area so that communities like Glens Falls, Elmira and Ithaca don't lose annual funding. I secured millions of dollars of new funding for the Appalachian Regional Council and the Northern Border Regional Council, both of which fund important environmental and economic development projects throughout rural New York. And, my work on semiconductor competitiveness, convinced GlobalFoundries to agree to build a second chip fabrication plant in Saratoga, which will create thousands of jobs in that area.

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 am proud and humbled that I am a proven vote getter in New York's rural counties and I believe that is because of the hard work that we have done on behalf of those communities. I have never, and will never let a county's partisan leanings, or "redness", stop me from fighting as hard as I can to address their pressing issues. I think the voters know that. They may not agree with me on everything, but they know I work hard on their behalf. For example, the only county that I have never carried is Hamilton, our state's smallest. Still, when the existence of the Piseco Airport was threatened because of a new Federal Aviation Administration regulation that the tiny Town of Arietta could not comply with, I made it a top priority in the last FAA reauthorization bill and fought just as hard for them as I would for LaGuardia and JFK, and saved the Piseco Airport. It was the right thing to do, and as polarized as our politics is, I believe that if you demonstrate to voters that will treat them fairly and work hard on their behalf, you will attract a wide spectrum of support.

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

I will continue visit each and every corner of the state and to work hard for New Yorkers on issues large and small, and firmly believe that is the best way to earn re-election.

I am always happy to assist our local candidates with local appearances and endorsements.

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

2/09/2022
Date

Ch K Sch
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.