



2018 Lieutenant Governor Candidate Questionnaire

Completed questionnaires will be public documents available on our website, so put your best foot forward. If we ultimately hold an endorsement vote in your race, your questionnaire will be circulated to our membership before the vote.

Name	Jumaane Williams
Preferred campaign contact information: name, email address, phone number	Martha Ayon, [REDACTED] Alex Voetsch, [REDACTED]
How long have you lived in New York? Where in the state have you lived?	I have lived in Brooklyn, New York my entire life.
What civic and political organizations are you involved with, either in your area or statewide?	As a New York City Councilman I am involved with dozens of civic and political organizations in my district and Citywide. I am a founding member of the Ernest Skinner Political Association and board member of Brooklyn Progressive Action Network.
What are New York State's greatest strengths and struggles?	The people of New York State have the values, resources, and will to make our State the progressive leader of our Country. We have incredible grassroots leaders and local enthusiasm in every corner of our State, which is a tremendous strength. However, one of our greatest challenges is having a State government that is not responsive to the people and is not truly progressive. I've seen the problems that I knew were prevalent in NYC mirrored around the State. People are struggling with finding affordable housing, a lack of reliable public transportation, and inequitable schools. Protections for our environment, public health, and our immigrant neighbors are inadequate. These are just a few of many struggles New Yorkers face on a daily basis. Our State government has not seized the opportunity to lead on these issues and solve the problems.
Why do you want to serve as Lieutenant Governor?	I plan to be a Lieutenant Governor for the people and not just a mouthpiece for the administration. I have had success drawing attention to issues in my career and will use the LG position to shine a light on the problems described above. I will support the governor, whomever it may be, in enacting real, progressive change and call her or him out when promises are not kept and when moderate, inefficient legislation is touted as real progressive change. I am running because a large segment of New Yorkers do not have a voice in State government. I believe I can give them that voice and make a real impact on the lives of our most vulnerable residents.
What have you accomplished in public life that you are most proud of?	My level of productivity at City Council. To date I have authored and passed forty-eight laws during my tenure, including landmark legislation such as the Community Safety Act, the Fair Chance Act, and the Construction Safety Act. All the while, I have been able to successfully negotiate funding increases from two different mayors, establishing new anti-gun violence programs and doubling the size of the summer youth employment program.
What do you consider to be the highlights of your work experience?	Helping to change the thinking that public safety is not just law enforcement, being apart of showing you can have safer streets and better policing. Going from being a tenant organizer to the Chair of the Housing & Buildings Committee, where we accomplished such things as passage of the Construction Safety Act requiring a baseline amount of safety training for every construction worker in NYC, extensive anti-tenant harassment legislation, and pushing to expand the affordability targets of the Housing New York plan. The work I've done around gun violence in the city of New York and nationally is probably the most personally impactful work that I have accomplished.

Why do you want New Kings Democrats' endorsement?	The New Kings Democrats embody the type of activism, civic participation, and progressive values that I hope to expand across the State through my campaign and as Lieutenant Governor. Not only is the NKD endorsement a respected stamp of validation, but I respect and value the work that NKD puts in for endorsed candidates.
If elected, what will your top three priorities be while in office?	Ensuring that the voices of the most marginalized New Yorkers are heard loudly in the halls of State government and in the media. Publically calling out our Elected officials when they do not act in the best interest of the people. Working with the Governor and State Legislature to pass meaningful progressive legislation that has stalled for years. In my time in the Council, I was not only a vocal advocate, but passes more bills in the past 4 years than anyone other than the Speaker. I believe this skill set will enable me to be a catalyst in legislative negotiations.
If elected, how will you support the work of New Kings Democrats and its partners to make New York City government more transparent, accountable, or inclusive?	As LG, I will shine a light on the inner workings of Albany and our State Government. While I cannot single handedly enact legislation to reform government transparency and ethics, I hope that I can build enough public pressure to move the dial. As far as inclusivity, as I mentioned above, the voices of many New Yorkers, particularly those of color, and those struggling economically are not represented. I plan to increase inclusivity by magnifying their voice – publically and in the halls of the Capitol.
What is your vision for the Brooklyn Democratic Party and for the statewide Democratic Party?	Both parties should be significantly more representative of the Democrats they represent. Our current State Party is simply a mouthpiece for the Governor that pushes his agenda, instead of being an apparatus that supports Democrats across the State and pushes progressive issues. I know I can't change that overnight, but once I am elected, I will encourage and facilitate the grassroots network that I build during the campaign to continue their activism through their local party structure. If we can't reform the State Party from the top down, we can certainly do it from the bottom up. Likewise, the Brooklyn Democratic party should be more inclusive of all communities in Brooklyn. The decision making of the Party should be more transparent and democratic – allowing the members of the Party to have a greater say in platform, endorsements, and resource allocation. I support the New Kings Democrat's efforts to elect new people to County Committee across the entire borough.
How will you contribute to efforts to attain unified Democratic control of the New York State Senate?	Currently, the IDC claims to be unified with the mainline Democrats under Andrea Stewart Cousins. I will aggressively opposed any Democrat who waffles on this agreement and does not fully support Senator Cousins as Senate Leader. Furthermore, it will be critical to ensure that Democrats win seats back from Republicans across the State. There are a handful of seats that we have a great shot to win. As my campaign expands our grassroots network and GOTV operation, I will work directly with those candidates (particularly after the Primary), to ensure that they are benefiting my resources at the top of the ticket. Whether the Democratic nominee for Governor makes this a priority or not, I will support taking back the Senate as top priority.
How do you think the New York State Democratic Party can improve the way it operates?	Please see my answers above under my vision for the State Party, but to reinforce that, my priorities would be: transparency, inclusivity, and support for new candidates across the State.
What is one important way you think New York State government should be reformed, and what is your plan for trying to implement such reform?	Campaign finance reform. While we have many issues in State Government regarding structure, transparency, and ethics, much of our issues can be improved through Campaign Finance Reform. We must close the LLC loop hole that allows many businesses to essential give unlimited amounts of funding to candidates. I also support public financing of elections – I believe that it has worked wonders on the City level in allowing candidates who otherwise wouldn't have the resources needed, to run for office. This increase inclusivity, provides more voices in government, removes incumbents, and reduces the influence of big money.
What funds have you raised for this campaign? What are the major sources of your campaign funds?	I have raise close to (if not over) \$100,000 at this point of my campaign and have a finance plan which will get me to \$500,000. I believe this amount, while less than our Governor has, will be enough to build a Statewide campaign apparatus and bring my message to the voters. The vast majority of my contributors are low dollar

	<p>individuals. To be clear, I have accepted some checks from labor unions, and will consider accepting checks from certain PACS belonging community organizations who pool their money to give, and carefully vetted business.</p>
<p>What endorsements have you received from publications, electeds, community leaders, or political organizations?</p>	<p>Our endorsement list is growing at a rapid pace and can be found, updated, at www.jumaanewilliams.com. Here are the endorsements we have thus far:</p> <p>State Sen. Kevin Parker (<i>D- Brooklyn</i>) Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte (<i>D-Brooklyn</i>) Legislator Joel Tyner (<i>D-Dutchess County</i>) Legislator Doug Bullock (<i>D- Albany County</i>) Legislator Sam Fein (<i>D- Albany County</i>) Legislator Bill Reinhardt (<i>D- Albany County</i>) Legislator Merton Simpson (<i>D- Albany County</i>) Council Member Vanessa Agudelo (<i>D-Peekskill</i>) Council Member Latoya Allen (<i>D-Syracuse</i>) Council Member Khalid Bey (<i>D-Syracuse</i>) Council Member Brad Lander (<i>D-Brooklyn</i>) Council Member I. Daneek Miller (<i>D-Queens</i>) Council Member Brian Nowak (<i>D-Cheektowaga</i>) Council Member Robin Reynolds-Wilt (<i>D-Brighton</i>) Council Member Antonio Reynoso (<i>D-Brooklyn</i>) Council Member Joyce Love (<i>D-Albany</i>) Alderwoman Tiffany Garriga (<i>D-Hudson</i>) Zephyr Teachout, <i>Former candidate for Governor, Professor.</i> Minister Kirsten Foy, <i>Activist</i> Katie Goldstein, <i>Tenants Rights Activist</i> Eddie Kay, <i>Labor Organizer</i> Bertha Lewis, <i>Activist</i> Natasha Soto, <i>Resisting In Buffalo</i> Alexander Wright, <i>Activist</i></p> <p><u>ORGANIZATIONS</u></p> <p>New York Progressive Action Network (NYPAN) District Council 1707 – AFSCME People For Bernie Sanders Citizens Action, New York Tenants PAC Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats New York Communities for Change ROCITIZEN</p>
<p>What areas of the state do you see as your biggest sources of votes and support?</p>	<p>About half of the vote will come out of NYC and half outside the City. Four years ago, the candidate for LG against Cuomo’s pick was Tim Wu, who got about 40% of the vote in each category (in NYC, and out). We believe that we can break even outside of NYC through our aggressive Statewide organizing effort, and will win NYC with margins to spare by heavily focusing on our base. Brooklyn provided more votes than any other county in 2014. However, every endorsement we get from a political organization will go a long way towards our success.</p>
<p>Which elected in New York State do you admire most and why?</p>	<p>Since my formative years I have always looked up to Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm. I know it doesn’t specifically answer the question about NYS, but I’ve drawn inspiration from those individuals and the values of love, resistance, and courage to stand up to power.</p>
<p>What are some of the ways you think New York City or State residents can best participate in civic life?</p>	<p>The key is to do something that you enjoy and inspires you. I hope more and more people will join their local political clubs and run for office at the lowest level. However true civic engagement can be found volunteering with a local religious group, community group, or issue advocacy group that focuses on areas you are most</p>

	interested. I strongly feel we should invest more in civic education in our schools and provide opportunities for students to begin giving back to their communities in fun and helpful ways from the start.
What is one fun fact about you?	My first love was acting, which I studied in college. I still try to perform whenever I can, and recently took part in a series of reading with the organization "Theater of War".

I have reviewed this questionnaire and agree that the responses set forth in this document are accurate:

Candidate Signature:



Date: 4/30/18

You must sign this questionnaire! When complete, please e-mail your signed and scanned questionnaire to politics@newkingsdemocrats.com and info@newkingsdemocrats.com