



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	Kathy Hochul, Lieutenant Governor
Preferred campaign contact information: name, email address, phone number	Pascale Bernard [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
How long have you lived in New York? Where in the state have you lived?	I have lived in New York my entire life. I was born and raised, and currently reside, in Buffalo, NY.
What civic and political organizations are you involved with, either in your area or statewide?	Joined my mother and aunt to begin the Kathleen Mary House, a transitional home for female victims of domestic violence in Western New York. I'm also a proud Erie County Democrat and New York State Democratic Committee member. I also like to point back to my history as an active member of the YWCA and League of Women Voters.
What are New York State's greatest strengths and struggles?	Politically, representing New York State is like representing Texas and San Francisco at the same time. It's a challenge, but it's also an opportunity to bring diverse views together around common values to better the lives of all New Yorkers. Our diversity is a great strength. Our biggest struggle is the ongoing social and economic injustices surrounding the intersectionality of race and gender, many times as a result of Republican-branded policies and ideology such as tax reforms that leads to increased income inequality or a war on drugs that targets by race.
Why do you want to serve as Lieutenant Governor?	I have the opportunity to listen to New Yorkers in every corner of our state. I have traveled to all 62 counties every year I've been in office and have seen firsthand the positive impact government can have on people's lives. Look at the innovation going on at Brooklyn Navy Yard, much a result of State investment, or our targeted approach to supporting tech, innovation, bioscience, media – these are the jobs of the future, and through my role as Chair of the Regional Economic Development Councils I have also been proud to secure a record \$175 million increase in workforce development funding, so every New Yorker has an opportunity to fill one of these positions. Or let's look at Buffalo, NY, where I come from. The State's targeted investment in formally depressed cities like Buffalo are now vibrant, and I have worked to accomplish change. Coming from someone who has seen this city at both its best and worst, I can visibly see a remarkable transformation happening before my eyes, and I'm proud to be part of that change. I've used this position to be a voice for the people and to solve problems on behalf of all constituencies, as well as champion reforms to combat the heroin and opioid addiction crisis.
What have you accomplished in public life that you are most proud of?	I was incredibly proud to win as a Democrat in my special election in the most Republican congressional district in the State, which received national attention as a referendum on Paul Ryan's budget to break the guarantee of Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. And then I held strong, voted over 43 times to uphold the Affordable Care Act – because I knew what it meant to women who need contraception and to all the mothers, children, families, seniors on Medicaid and other vital federal programs that are supported through the legislation. Now as Lieutenant Governor I found leaving the gridlock of Washington that state government is far more productive and responsive to the needs of my constituents. In my first year, I was especially proud to spearhead the Enough is Enough campaign in New York to combat sexual assault on college campuses across the State. I traveled to 40+ college campuses and heard from

	<p>students of every gender, race, and sexual preference, professors, law enforcement, administration, advocates, and spoke about the culture that's allowed this epidemic. And by bringing that conversation to the forefront, I believe there was a societal shift, and it's continued on into the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements and the overall belief of equality for both genders. And last year, I was so proud to be an instrumental advocate for the passage of New York State's Paid Family Leave legislation, the most generous in the nation. Because as a mother and a daughter, I know firsthand how important having paid time-off to care for an infant or ailing parent is for your professional career and family's overall wellbeing.</p>
<p>What do you consider to be the highlights of your work experience?</p>	<p>The highlight of my work is inspiring women and girls to achieve their dreams. I have the opportunity to meet countless women every year and tell them their voice deserves to be heard. This is something I've been doing my entire career, and it's what I truly love about public service. This year, we passed meaningful gun safety legislation to remove guns from domestic abuses. This will save the lives of women and families all across this state. And I have used my unique experience as a former Member of Congress to go to Washington and advocate against the repeal of the ACA and Republican tax reform, federal issues that directly impact all New Yorkers.</p>
<p>Why do you want New Kings Democrats' endorsement?</p>	<p>Now is the time for progressive policies and transparent government, values the New Kings Democrats and I share.</p>
<p>If elected, what will your top three priorities be while in office?</p>	<p>Be a voice on behalf of all New York women and families in the fight to codify Roe v. Wade & secure an ERA, comprehensive criminal justice reform, and voting reforms to expand access to the ballot box.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>I look forward to working with the New Kings Democrats to elect more Democrats throughout the city, State, and Federal government. I have released tax returns every year I've ran for office since my days in Congress. I believe all candidates have a responsibility to be transparent to voters, as well.</p>
<p>What is your vision for the Brooklyn Democratic Party and for the statewide Democratic Party?</p>	<p>I envision the Brooklyn Democratic Party and statewide Democratic party supporting proven progressive leaders and policies together to stop Donald Trump and elect more Democrats across the city, state, and country. Especially here in NY, it's so important to have a strong Democratic majority in the State Senate and focus energy on flipping some key Upstate Republican congressional districts. We need all the help we can get – I remember clubs like New Kings Dems that traveled from NYC to get me through a tough congressional race, I know Democrats can do it again in 2018.</p>
<p>How will you contribute to efforts to attain unified Democratic control of the New York State Senate?</p>	<p>I have personally campaigned for Shelley Mayer and Todd Kaminsky during their heated state Senate Special Elections along with other Democrats during the general election. I have always supported Democratic control of the New York State Senate and Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, and they know they have an ally in me.</p>
<p>How do you think the New York State Democratic Party can improve the way it operates?</p>	<p>New York Democrats all know we need to improve on 2016. The State party is taking shape and has hired new staff to increase efforts in today's rapidly changing political environment. I think we will be proud in our State party after this year's election.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>We need automatic voter registration and early voting. The people need easier access to the polls that elect their government officials. Period. I have been laser focused working on this issue as Chair of the NYS Women's Suffrage Commission and literally shame Republicans into supporting this issue. And I will continue to fight for a solid Democratic State Senate. Also, I will continue to fight to take big money out of politics, just as I did when I drafted campaign finance reform for Senator Moynihan.</p>
<p>What funds have you raised for this campaign? What are the major sources of your campaign funds?</p>	<p>I am beginning to fundraise and have a broad base of support across the State.</p>
<p>What endorsements have you received from publications, electeds, community leaders, or political organizations?</p>	<p>Formally: HK Dems, NOW-NY, UFCW Local 1500, Benjamin Franklin Reform Dems, and Queens County Democrats. And in addition, I have a large amount of support among my elected colleagues in all levels of government, from Congress to the New York City Council.</p>

What areas of the state do you see as your biggest sources of votes and support?	I would say I'm the most well-known in Upstate New York, but I know New York City, neighboring suburbs, and Long Island are more densely populated, and I can count on broad base of support from them and statewide.
Which elected in New York State do you admire most and why?	Shirley Chisholm – she was a role model who gave hope and inspiration to countless women as the first African American woman to run for President. I've used her story in countless speeches to motivate other women to overcome barriers and run for public office. I was proud to showcase the documentary of her life during a film series celebrating the centennial of women's right to vote.
What are some of the ways you think New York City or State residents can best participate in civic life?	Vote
What is one fun fact about you?	I organized and ran a month long boycott of the Syracuse University Bookstore to protest their mistreatment of students, and as a result had to take incompletes on a few college courses.

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

Candidate Signature: _____ Kathy Hochul _____

Date: __5/1/18_____

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