



Dear 2022 Candidate:

The Village Reform Democratic Club is interested in knowing about your qualifications, thoughts and plans for the office you're seeking. We have prepared this very brief set of questions to help us know you better as we decide on our Club endorsements.

Please provide your name, website URL, the office for which you're running and contact information in case our members wish to request additional information or clarification.

Brian Kavanagh

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Seeking reelection to the Senate, representing the redrawn and renumbered 29th District.

- 1) What are your top 2-3 issues going forward? If elected or re-elected, what will be your specific approach to each of them?
 - **Making New York an inclusive and affordable place to live—for all New Yorkers, not just multi-millionaires and corporations—and doing everything possible to end homelessness.** As the Senate Housing Chair, I'll work to pass a new five-year capital plan that will invest billions of dollars to increase production and preservation of housing, especially new supportive housing, renovations to fix the terrible conditions in public housing, and new housing affordable for low- and middle-income households. I'll also build on the work I've done—including the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act (HSTPA, the strongest tenant protection law in at least half a century), the COVID-19 eviction and foreclosure moratorium, and the COVID-19 emergency rental assistance program, all of which I negotiated and passed, and which I'm still fighting to fully fund. I'll work to strengthen anti-eviction laws and other provisions that prevent tenants and homeowners from being evicted and displaced from their homes and communities; enact new programs like the Housing Access Voucher Program, which will offer rental subsidies rather than shelters when people are homeless or in danger of losing their homes; and ensure that fair housing laws, codes that are necessary to keep people's homes safe, and other housing laws are enforced.

- **Protecting public safety without sacrificing justice and respect for our communities.**

I will do this by recommitting to effective gun violence prevention strategies and laws (which I've played a leading role in enacting for many years and which have been part of giving New York one of the lowest rates of gun-related deaths in America); by helping to foster a mutually respectful and productive relationship between the police and our communities; by supporting more mental health treatment for people who exhibit persistent dangerous behavior (and supportive housing for those who are homeless, as discussed above); and by continuing to actively invest in community organizations working to respond to hate crimes and bigotry, especially Anti-Asian hate and anti-semitism.

- **Taking strong, decisive action to fight climate change and ensure a fair transition to clean energy, healthier communities, and economic vitality.**

This includes properly funding and effectively implementing the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, the the most comprehensive and ambitious climate change law in the United States, which I was proud to help enact; making rapid reductions in climate pollution, investing in clean, renewable energy sources; passing legislation like my All-Electric Building Act; and expanding training for green jobs to enable us to do the work we need to get done and promote environmental justice.

2) Please list 2-3 things you have done for our community (the greater Greenwich Village area) and the results you achieved. What were the challenges, how did you address them, and how did you involve the community?

- I am proud of the work I have done for this community on a local and state level. First, a lot of the work I do that has statewide implications is particularly relevant locally. For example, before we enacted the HSTPA (discussed above), this community, along with much of the Senate District, had one of the highest rates of residents being displaced from their homes due to deregulation; repealing deregulation has stabilized this community and enabled many people to stay here who would otherwise have been pushed out.

- I've also worked effectively, and collaboratively with colleagues, on distinctly local issues like ensuring that NYU lives up to the commitments the university made in the context of getting approval for their expansion many years ago. This includes winning extensions on the City's option to build a new school on Bleecker Street while also ensuring they maintain space for a full scale grocery store. Although the process is still ongoing, I believe that we have successfully ensured that the community's needs will continue to be central to the process.

- I've also worked to ensure that Hudson River Park is properly funded, without excessive non-park development, including by ensuring that direct capital subsidies have been included in the State budget. When the Hudson River Park Trust tried to move forward on an understanding (which pre-dated my representation of the area) that construction on Pier 40 at Houston Street would be permitted in order to provide funding for park maintenance, I worked closely with colleagues in the legislature to host community forums on what should be permitted, solicited input from the community board and other stakeholders, and ultimately drafted a bill that would have put severe restrictions on the development. Ultimately, in direct negotiations with the Governor, we agreed that the plan for new construction on the pier would be scrapped in deference to ongoing community concerns and the State would pursue other funding sources.
 - I've made it a big priority to ensure that local organizations receive State funding to serve the community effectively. I've particularly championed funding that is not restricted to a single purpose specified by a State contract, but can be used flexibly to meet specific needs identified at the community level. This includes the Settlement House Program and the Neighborhood Preservation Programs, each of which provides direct grants to many organizations that are actively serving residents of our local community.
- 3) What do you most want our club members to know about you and why you believe you're the best candidate for the position?
- I am a legislator with a proven track record advancing a progressive agenda, building a more equitable and just New York, and protecting and strengthening our communities. I have been proud to be endorsed by VRDC in prior elections, including my first run for the State legislature in 2006. I would be honored to receive your support in this year's competitive race.