



THE VILLAGE REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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.

(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?

This has been one of the most productive years for the House of Representatives in a long time. We've passed essential legislation like the American Rescue Plan to help our country weather this pandemic. We also just passed the largest investment in our country's infrastructure in decades – funding major rail expansions like Gateway and renovating Penn Station, supporting the MTA and transforming how we look at transportation – changing our focus from highways to include bikes, buses and pedestrians. And we passed the Build Back Better Act, the first major expansion of our social safety net since the 1960's. It will make childcare more affordable and accessible, lower the cost of prescription drugs, invest in NYCHA, and begin to tackle the ever-growing threat of climate change.

New York State and City have done quite well under these bills in no small part to the seniority of our House Delegation. What we will have been able to pass into law this year will be transformative for the nation and New York – but it's only a portion of the work we've done. I'm proud to have helped build a coalition in the House that has supported incredible and vital progressive legislation that even a few years ago would have seemed impossible. We passed the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, the Equality Act, some of the first gun control legislation in decades, and we restarted efforts to reign in big business and empower antitrust enforcement. I don't expect much of this to get through our Senate because even with New York's own Senator Schumer at the helm, the filibuster is standing in the way of making the changes we need.

We have a lot left to do – including some huge, nation defining fights on the immediate horizon. I expect the fight over the right to access an abortion and over other basic civil rights will be ever more fraught in the next year. And while we have major advances in the fight to limit climate change in the Build Back Better Act, we will need to continue to fight for the Green New Deal to avoid the worst impacts of what is truly a global threat.

And most importantly we will need to continue to fight back against Republican's attempts to limit the right and ability of people to vote in this country. I truly believe we are teetering on the edge of seeing the Republican Party – and our country – fall into anti-democratic, authoritarian hands. I shepherded through the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, but until the Senate takes action, we will need to continue to fight on the ground with everything we've got.

(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 have joined with the community and fought against the ill-conceived SoHo and NoHo rezoning. There were better ways to create housing and improve the commercial and retail landscape, and the de Blasio administration should not have pushed through a plan that threatens longtime residents and tenants.

I along with my colleagues in government fought for additional public schools in Greenwich Village. From the creation of a public school at 75 Morton Street to a new elementary school to be built on Bleecker and LaGuardia Place. In addition, I am working to ensure that Morton Williams remains in the neighborhood and that NYU fulfills its legal commitments to include a new supermarket in their new building on Mercer Street.

(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?

As Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, I have also been proud to use every tool at my disposal to address the issues facing our country at every possible point. My committee has jurisdiction over many of the most pressing and vital issues facing our country today – from civil rights to immigration to gun control.

To note a few of the major pieces of legislation that I have brought to the floor and been instrumental in passing the House of Representatives:

- The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would strengthen the Voting Rights Act and restore key protections for minority voters that were gutted by the Supreme Court.
- The American Dream and Promise Act, which would provide legal protections and a path to citizenship for Dreamers, who were brought to this country as children and only know the U.S. as their home.

- The Equality Act, which would provide comprehensive civil rights protections to LGBTQ Americans.
- The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which would reform policing in a variety of ways.
- Legislation to require universal gun background checks.
- The NO BAN Act, to ensure that no president could enact another Muslim Ban, like President Trump imposed.
- Legislation to remove the deadline for finally ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment; and
- Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

Unfortunately, each of these bills remains stuck in the Senate, where a minority of Senators can use the filibuster to block consideration, even if they would command majority support.

I have also never stopped fighting for New York and my district. I have worked tirelessly to help New York recover from the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks, and I worked tirelessly in the aftermath to gain substantial federal aid, as well as health care and compensation for the responders and survivors. I am also proud of the many educational, cultural, and social welfare organizations based in the district and proud to have helped bring hundreds of millions of federal dollars home to these organizations and numerous economic and community development initiatives; and finally, I take tremendous pride in serving my constituents through my highly regarded constituent services program.

Thank you, and I would welcome the support and the endorsement of Village Reform Democratic Club in my re-election.