



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.

Name: Jumaane D. Williams

Office Sought: Governor, State of New York

Website: [www.JumaaneWilliams.com](http://www.JumaaneWilliams.com)

Contact Information: Trip Yang, Campaign Manager, [trip@tripyangstrategies.com](mailto:trip@tripyangstrategies.com)

- 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?
  - My biggest priorities are housing, public safety and creating a transformative economy. These are long-standing systemic issues that neither party has sufficiently addressed. We have residents living in public housing across the state that have experienced 30 to 40 years of disinvestment and excuses. We have a public safety model which requires police officers to engage in functions that they shouldn't - such as being first responders to mental health calls. We can support funding these services, especially if we require the wealthiest New Yorkers to pay their fair share. I'll work with the legislature and agencies to move our state in a better direction, focusing on these issues, but realizing that they are intersectional.
- 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?
  - A few challenges not only impact the greater Greenwich Village area, but throughout Manhattan, and indeed, the city. For example, the village has challenges that include a need to better engage those with mental health issues, lack of affordable housing and because of amenities including Washington Square Park, a place where New Yorkers rightfully engage in protest. In response, I've worked to overhaul our city's mental health crisis response system, including as

Public Advocate, releasing a report of recommendations, and sponsoring legislation to create a unique system to route these calls. I've also pushed the administration to tweak its affordable housing policy to include incomes as low as 30% of the Area Median Income. Finally, I've worked during major recent acts of civil disobedience to ensure that officers don't take an overly aggressive approach. A balance has to be stricken between our first amendment rights and the police response.

- 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?
- We cannot return to normal. Normal governance didn't work for the vast majority of New Yorkers. Throughout my entire career - from a tenant organizer, to Public Advocate of the City of New York - I've fought for those who have been historically left behind in a system that was designed to do just that. I'm often called an activist-elected official because I've been able to combine elements of successful organizing and achieve results in government. Whether passing the Community Safety Act, which helped address the abuse of Stop, Question of Frisk, to passing the Fair Chance Act, which helped address employment discrimination against those leaving the carceral system, to passing more legislation than any previous Public Advocate, I know how to bring the voice of the people into the halls of power. This is why I'm running to be the Governor - not just to hold a title, but to bring transformational change to the people of our state. I believe we need to move beyond the old-style politics and deliver for our people.