



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: Tom Suozzi

Office Seeking: Governor of New York

Contact Information: info@suozziforny.com

Campaign Website: <https://suozziforny.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?

Fighting Crime

In New York City, the number of shootings doubled and the number of homicides rose 50% from 2019 to 2021. We have a crime crisis and we need a comprehensive plan to address it. I have laid out a 15-point plan to fight crime:

Part 1: Urgent Intervention in Our Ongoing Crime Crisis

1. Fix the Bail Reform Law by Allowing Judges to Take Dangerousness into Account
2. Remove District Attorneys Who Refuse to Enforce the Law
3. Implement Precision Policing Model that Targets Trigger Holders, Respects Civil Liberties
4. Improve Juvenile Justice System so Judges Have Proper Information and Authority
5. Sufficiently Fund DAs' Offices so They Can Implement the Discovery Process Overhaul

Part 2: Get Guns Off Our Streets

6. Create a Multi-State Commission to Stop Flow of Illegal Guns from States with Lax Laws
7. Expand Use of ShotSpotter and National Integrated Ballistic Information Network
8. Expand Gun Buybacks in Coordination with Trusted Community Groups
9. Fully Implement New York's Red Flag Law
10. Unite Behind Common Sense Federal Legislation

Part 3: Help Vulnerable People to Prevent Future Crimes

11. Bring All Existing Social Services into Troubled Schools
12. Implement Nassau County's Revolutionary "No Wrong Door" Program Statewide

13. Enhance Gun Violence Prevention with Expanded SNUG Program
14. Expand Kendra's Law to Allow Judges to Get Troubled People the Help They Need
15. Provide Social Workers to Team with Probation Officers

Lowering Taxes

We have some of the highest taxes in the nation and it has made our state uncompetitive. We lost 300,000 residents from July 2020 to July 2021. If we don't lower taxes (and lower utility rates and address quality of life issues like crime), we risk losing even more people and losing the ability to fund progressive priorities like health care and environmental protection. Property taxes particularly are a killer for low and middle income New Yorkers because they drastically increase the cost of living for people who are already struggling to get by. As Governor, I will lower our property and income tax rates.

Helping Our Troubled Schools

Bringing all of our federal, state, local, and not-for-profit social services into our troubled schools is the cause I am most passionate about. When I was Nassau County Executive, I created a revolutionary new program called "No Wrong Door" that brought all Health and Human Services agencies to one campus so they were easier to access. I want to apply that same concept to our schools by bringing our social services into school buildings. Teachers, who see their students on a day-to-day basis, are the people best able to tell if a child might be going through a problem, but they simply don't have the capacity to diagnose and treat those problems. As Governor, I will bring our social services into schools (much like community schools and the Harlem Children's Zone) so that teachers can flag potential problems for social workers and they can be addressed early on.

- 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?

Fought for Medicaid Cap to Save New York City's Finances

As Nassau County Executive and founder of "Fix Albany" campaign, I fought for and attained a cap on the local share of Medicaid spending. The Medicaid Cap has saved New York City nearly \$100 billion since it was implemented.

Because of the Medicaid Cap and how it has benefitted New York City's finances, the City has been able to spend far more money on other important causes, including social services in the Greenwich Village area.

State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction Increase in House-Passed *Build Back Better Act*

New York has some of the highest taxes in the nation, and for good reason. We properly pay our unionized public employees, we provide health care to low income residents, we protect the environment, and we have a robust public transit system. However, New York's ability to remain

affordable despite those high taxes was put in grave danger in 2017, when President Trump and Republicans imposed a \$10,000 cap on the SALT deduction, the ability to deduct property and other state and local taxes from one's federal tax bill.

As a result of my relentless efforts, in November 2021, the House of Representatives passed much-needed relief for middle class families in New York. I was one of the lead negotiators who struck the deal to increase the SALT cap to \$80,000.

Throughout this effort, I faced enormous headwinds from politicians who do not like New York and want to use the tax code to punish us for funding progressive priorities. To address these challenges, I lined up a diverse, bipartisan coalition from government, labor, and business groups to stand with me in the fight for SALT that included:

- United States Conference of Mayors
- National Association of Counties
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- American Federation of Teachers
- National Association of Police Organizations
- National Association of Realtors

As negotiations with Senate continue, I will continue to adhere to my “No SALT, No Deal” pledge, meaning I will not support changes to the federal tax code if they do not provide meaningful SALT relief for New Yorkers. While the bill has not passed the Senate yet, if and when it does, it will have a major impact on the affordability of living in the Greenwich Village area.

Brought the Issue of Crime to the Forefront of the Gubernatorial Race

As I wrote earlier, New York City is facing a crime crisis. The number of shootings doubled and the number of homicides rose 50% from 2019 to 2021. The need to tackle crime was one of the main reasons why I was such a strong supporter of Mayor Adams' campaign (I was an early and enthusiastic endorser of his.) In November, then Mayor-Elect Adams asked me to serve as Deputy Mayor to support him on issues like crime. I told him that I would be in a better position to support him and New York City as Governor.

Throughout the campaign, I have taken a firm stand on what we must do to address crime, laying out a 15-point comprehensive plan and rallying a diverse range of community groups. Governor Hochul refused to address the issue at first, choosing not to get involved in a controversial topic. However, I kept the pressure on, urging her to go on record and imploring her to lay out a comprehensive anti-crime plan.

Despite the Governor's initial unwillingness to take on this issue, it has rightfully become a central issue of the campaign. I will continue to advocate for common sense solutions to fight crime and improve the quality of life in New York City.

- 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?

There are three primary factors that voters will consider when they decide who will be their next Governor, and when judged against my opponents on these three factors, I clearly stand out:

1. Proven Executive Experience: I am the only candidate in the field with years of experience and a long track record of accomplishment as a chief executive. I served as Mayor of my hometown of Glen Cove for eight years and as County Executive of Nassau County for eight years. When I took over as Nassau County Executive in 2002, we were on the brink of bankruptcy, our social services were a mess, and our physical infrastructure had deteriorated. During my eight years in office, I restored the fiscal health of a County with a budget larger than 11 states, I brought a revolutionary "No Wrong Door" human services delivery system to those most in need, I championed a \$150 million environmental restoration program, and I dramatically upgraded the County's physical infrastructure and technology.

2. A Common Sense Approach to Governing: While I am a lifelong Democrat who will always advocate for my progressive values, I have learned throughout my career that in order to get things done that will make peoples' lives better, you need to be willing to work with people who you disagree with. I will work with anyone, whether they are progressive or moderate, Democrat or Republican, to make New York the best that it can be.

3. A Clear Vision for New York: I am the only candidate in the field who has laid out a comprehensive vision for New York:

- Fighting crime
- Lowering taxes
- Helping our troubled schools
- Protecting the environment

I have the proven executive experience, the common sense approach, and the vision for the future to make New York successful again. I hope to have your support.