

Mock Election Candidate Information

(compiled by Ms. Weissman and her AP Government and Politics Students)

To vote, go to <https://bit.ly/stuymockelections2022>

Federal Election Senator



Joe Pinion

Occupation: CEO of Pinion Media Group

Qualifications:

- Eco-Right Spokesperson @ republicEn.org (2017-Present)
- Board Member @ Listen First Project (2018-Present)

Education:

- BA from Colgate University

Party Endorsements:

- Republican Party
- Conservative Party

Contact Info:

- info@joepinion.com
- <https://joepinion.com/>
- insta: @iamjoepinion
- twitter: @JosephPinion

Key Issues

- Get rid of Schumer



Chuck Schumer

Occupation: US Senator

Qualifications:

- NYS Assembly District 45 (1975-1980)
- US NY District 9 Representative (1981-1999)

Education:

- BA from Harvard University
- J.D from Harvard University

Party Endorsements:

- Democratic Party
- Working Families Party

Contact Info:

- info@chuckschumer.com
- <https://www.chuckschumer.com>
- insta: @chuckschumer
- twitter: @chuckschumer

Key Issues

- Jobs and the Economy
- Climate Change
- Voting Rights & Democracy
- Health Care
- Justice & Equality
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Education & Student Debt
- Covid Relief
- LGBTQ+ Equality
- Immigration



Diane Sare

Occupation: Political Organizer @ HSDI

Qualifications:

- Political Organizer @ HSDI (1988-Present)

Education:

- BA from Hamilton College

Party Endorsements:

- LaRouche

Contact Info:

- info@sareforsenate.com
- www.sareforsenate.com/
- insta: @sareforsenate
- twitter: @DianeSare

Key Issues

- Economy
- Foreign Policy
- Cancel "Cancel Culture"
- Stop the Coup
 - Break-up of tech monopolies
- Pardon Julian Assange and Edward Snowden
- The New Silk Road

State Elections

Governor



Kathy Hochul

Occupation: NYS Governor

Qualifications:

- 8th County Clerk of Erie County (2007-2011)
- US NY District 26 Representative (2011-2013)
- NY Lieutenant Gov'r (2015-2021)

Education:

- BA from Syracuse University
- J.D from Catholic University

Party Endorsements: Democratic & WF Party

Contact Info:

- instagram & twitter: [@kathyhochulny](#)
- <https://kathyhochul.com/>

Key Issues

What will be your three top priorities?

With a full term, I will continue to focus on public safety, affordability, and building an economy that works for all New Yorkers.

What reforms would you propose to strengthen NYS's ethics and campaign finance laws and enforcement?

In my first budget, I fulfilled a promise to replace the broken JCOPE with a new, more transparent independent entity, the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government. If elected to a full term, I will push additional reforms, such as term limits and ban outside income for statewide officials.

NYS has one of the lowest voter participation rates in the country. What election reforms would you support to improve voter participation?

I worked to improve absentee voting so more voters would be eligible and required that polling sites be opened on college campuses in order to encourage youth participation in elections. I've also committed to signing legislation that will establish a state-level voting rights act.



Lee Zeldin

Occupation: US NY District 1 Representative

Qualifications:

- State Senator @ NY-3 (2011-2014)
- US NY District 1 Representative (2015-present)

Education:

- BA from SUNY Albany
- J.D from Albany Law School

Party Endorsements: Republican & Conservative Party

Contact Info:

- instagram & twitter: [@leezeldin](#)
- <https://zeldinformnewyork.com/>

Key Issues

What will be your three top priorities?

Public safety, cost of living, and education. Repealing cashless bail, firing DAs who don't enforce the law, cutting taxes across the board, creating good paying jobs, lifting the cap on charter schools, implementing school choice programs, and more.

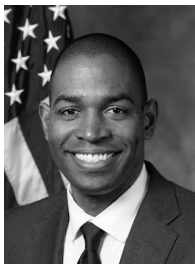
What reforms would you propose to strengthen NYS's ethics and campaign finance laws and enforcement?

Establishing term limits, overhauling JCOPE, strengthening FOIL, appointing a Special Prosecutor for the Cuomo-Hochul Administration's deadly nursing home order and coverup, creating a State Budget Office, ending three persons in a room governance, being more accessible to the media, and more.

NYS has one of the lowest voter participation rates in the country. What election reforms would you support to improve voter participation?

Ensuring our elections are free, fair, and secure is pivotal in driving up voter participation. I support expanding early voting so more New Yorkers can get to the polls, and implementing voter ID. We must always strive to make it easier for citizens to vote and harder to cheat.

Lieutenant Governor



Antonio Delgado

Occupation: NYS Lieutenant Gov'r

Qualifications:

- Counsel @ Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP (2011-2018)
- US NY District 19 Representative (2019-2022)
- NY Lieutenant Gov'r (2022-Present)

Education:

- J.D from Harvard Law

Party Endorsements: Democratic & WF Party



Alison Esposito

Occupation: Commanding Officer of 70th NYPD Precinct

Qualifications:

- Captain @ NYPD (2016-2020)
- Deputy Inspector @ NYPD (2020-2021)
- Commanding Officer of 70th Precinct @ NYPD (2021-2022)

Education:

- BA from CUNY John Jay

Party Endorsements: Republican & Conservative Party

Comptroller



Thomas P. DiNapoli

Occupation: NYS Comptroller

Qualifications:

- Trustee of the Mineola Board of Education (1972-1982)
- NYS Assembly Member (1987-2007)
- Comptroller of the State of New York (2007-Present)

Education:

- BA from Hofstra University,
- Masters in HR Management from the New School

Party Endorsements: Democratic & WF Party

Contact Info:

- info@dinapoli2022.com
- <https://dinapoli2022.com>
- insta: [@tomdinapoli.ny](https://www.instagram.com/tomdinapoli.ny) | twitter: [@TomDiNappoli](https://twitter.com/TomDiNappoli)

Key Issues

What are the biggest challenges facing the pensions and what will you do as Comptroller to manage them?

I grew up in a middle class, union household and I understand the financial pressures families are facing. I am aware of the enormous responsibility I have to those relying on the State Pension Fund for their retirement security and have made critical management and investment decisions to keep it one of the top ranked funds in the nation. Financial markets are tumultuous at this time. I have lowered our assumed rate of return four times since being Comptroller to ensure that we are managing conservatively and are prepared for the downtimes that will occur. Since becoming Comptroller, the value of the state pension fund has gone from \$154.5 billion to \$272.1 billion. I have managed the fund through the Great Recession to the pandemic and been proud that independent auditors have praised us for our strong management practices and Pew Charitable Trusts puts us among the best.

What can the Comptroller do to encourage sound fiscal practices that will insure benefits to state's citizens?

As the people's fiscal watchdog, one of my responsibilities is to hold the government accountable for how it uses taxpayer resources. My office audits every level of government from large and small cities to school districts to state and city agencies. We examine programs to make sure they are working as intended and we look closely at how a government entity is operating and whether there are ways to save money or improve operations. In many instances, I've called out the state or city for not using resources effectively, not saving enough money or a lack of transparency. I have studied how the state's economy is performing and whether government actions could better support economic and job growth. I have made it a priority to study issues that many New Yorkers struggle with such as housing affordability, the cost of college, consumer debt and more. As Comptroller, I will continue to push for fiscal practices that put New York on stronger fiscal footing and hold government accountable.



Paul Rodriguez

Occupation: Nonprofit Development Professional

Qualifications:

- Senior VP @ BBVA (2005-2013)
- Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley (2017-2018)
- Operations Manager @ Archdiocese of New York (2020-Present)

Education:

- BA from University of Georgia

Party Endorsements: Republican & Conservative Party

Contact Info:

- info@rodriguezfornewyork.com
- <http://www.RodriguezforNewYork.com>
- instagram & twitter: [@rodriguez4nys](https://www.instagram.com/rodriguez4nys)

Key Issues

What are the biggest challenges facing the pensions and what will you do as Comptroller to manage them?

Public pension funds should not be managed like private, activist hedge funds. Politics are subject to the changing winds of public opinion, which is not a sound basis for making long-term investment decisions. The comptroller must avoid activism and remain genuinely independent. The comptroller has a fiduciary duty to allocate state pension assets ethically and prudently to maximize investment returns for pension holders. I believe that political ideology should not influence pension fund management. It is irresponsible and unethical to use pension assets as a political tool to fund pet causes or promote social agendas. I will take the politics out of the pension fund's investment management decisions.

What can the Comptroller do to encourage sound fiscal practices that will insure benefits to state's citizens?

I believe that the Comptroller should take a proactive role in the state budget process to ensure good stewardship of the taxpayers' hard-earned money. As State Comptroller, I will provide increased oversight at every stage of the process. I will also seek to expose harmful policies and wasteful spending before any budget is passed. The Comptroller must be proactive in overseeing the annual budgetary process that is often delayed and increasingly leads to out-of-control spending.

Attorney General



Letitia James

Occupation: Current NYS AG

Qualifications:

- NYC City Councilor (2004-2013)
- NYC Public Advocate (2013-2019)

Education:

- BA from CUNY
- J.D. from Howard University

Party Endorsements: Democratic & WF Party

Contact Info:

- info@jamesforny.com
- <http://jamesforny.com>
- instagram & twitter: [@newyorkstateag](https://www.instagram.com/newyorkstateag)

Key Issues

What would be your top three priorities if elected?

I am running for re-election to finish the jobs that New Yorkers elected me to do: To hold power accountable, stand up for the vulnerable, and make New York a more fair and just place for everyone.

Do you envision a more robust role for the Attorney General's office in investigating and prosecuting public corruption? Please explain your answer.

The people of New York deserve the best that the government has to offer. That's why I make it a priority to hold public officials accountable for any misdeeds. For example, in 2021, I announced the arrest and indictment of Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin for allegedly stealing thousands of dollars in campaign contributions. This is also why I recently announced the guilty plea, resignation, and sentencing of Bronx County Clerk and former Assemblymember Luis Diaz for intentionally writing, certifying, and submitting false information to the court in support of a criminal defendant. I have also partnered with other agencies, including the New York City Department of Investigation, on numerous investigations to root out public corruption. My office will continue to aggressively investigate and prosecute these cases to ensure that New York's public servants adhere to the highest standards of transparency, integrity, and accountability.

What do you see as the biggest threats to New Yorkers' voting rights and what role can the Attorney General play in protecting voting rights?

Some politicians manipulate election processes to reduce minority voting rights. My office is fighting back. Recently, I successfully sued Rensselaer County for depriving minority voters of adequate early voting sites. Next year, my office will be the primary enforcement agency of the NYS VRA.

How do you plan to use the authority of the office to ensure law enforcement transparency and accountability throughout NYS - from police to prosecutors to corrections officials?

I have greatly expanded my office's law enforcement oversight, including receiving complaints of police misconduct and the statutory authority to investigate officer-involved killings. I have also sued individual departments, including the NYPD for its conduct during the BLM protests in 2020.



Michael Henry

Occupation: Lawyer, Firm owner

Qualifications:

- Partner @ Gustman & Henry LLP (2017-2018)
- Principal @ the MH Law Firm PLLC (2018-Present)

Education:

- MA in Gov from St John's U
- J.D. from Touro University

Party Endorsements: Republican & Conservative Party

Contact Info:

- info@michaelhenryforag.com
- <https://michaelhenryforag.com/>
- instagram & twitter : [@michaelhenry4ag](https://www.instagram.com/michaelhenry4ag)

Key Issues

What would be your top three priorities if elected?

My campaign is focused on the three Cs: Crime, Corruption and Cost-of-Living.

Do you envision a more robust role for the Attorney General's office in investigating and prosecuting public corruption? Please explain your answer.

Yes. Corruption erodes public trust in government. This office can work in conjunction with local prosecutors to bring cases against corrupt public officials and can seek additional powers from the legislature to expand the scope of its own internal work to restore confidence in government. I will work to expand and support the Public Integrity Bureau's work in rooting out corruption across the state and ensure that New Yorkers know they have a place to go to report corruption.

What do you see as the biggest threats to New Yorkers' voting rights and what role can the Attorney General play in protecting voting rights?

One Party rule is the biggest threat to New Yorkers' voting rights. NY has some of the most democratic voting laws in the country. After the redistricting debacle, we now finally have fair election district lines from a federal court. As AG, I will ensure every single New Yorker is able to vote.

How do you plan to use the authority of the office to ensure law enforcement transparency and accountability throughout NYS - from police to prosecutors to corrections officials?

The Office of the New York State Attorney General serves as a special prosecutor in cases involving law enforcement. While I support law enforcement, those who do their jobs and serve the public want those who abuse that privilege held accountable.