

# New York State YMCA Youth & Government 2018 - 2019 OFFICER NOMINATION

I declare my candidacy for the position of:

## Lieutenant Governor

Name: Liora Reiken

Year in school: 11      Number of years in Y&G: 3

### Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other

qualifications: For my third Youth and Government conference, I am excited to be your Commissioner of Education on the Governor's cabinet.

With this position, I became more informed on an issue that I am immensely passionate about and learned a lot about issues about which

other delegates are passionate. This position also allows me to collaborate with the rest of conference leadership, a useful skill to hold if elected Lieutenant Governor.

I have been a newcomer at this conference and understand how frightening and confusing the whole experience can be. I've come to learn that all of the hard work pays off in Albany. Presenting your bill, arguing for or against other bills, voting and speaking your mind again and again: these are all experiences that have shaped me into the public speaker and leader I am today. I am the founder and president of Baking for Change, a club where we make desserts and donate them to local food pantries and soup kitchens. I am also the President of my youth movement's teen board, for which I create and lead events about important issues and facilitate meaningful debates between my peers. I believe these skills would allow me to serve you well as your Lieutenant Governor.

### In regards to your platform, what are 2-3 issues you deem important to the delegates of New York State and how do you plan to support their advancement?

Violence in public schools in New York City is spiking. The amount of money spent per student differs vastly from school district to school district. Our country's future lies in the hands of us, the young people, and we need to provide safe environments for students to learn and become their best selves. As Lieutenant Governor, I would work with the governor to pass bills that keep public schools safe, provide money for low-income districts, and make learning environments safer for the students in New York State.

Another issue facing New York State is hunger. Nearly 1.3 million New Yorkers go hungry consistently. Without proper nutrients, people struggle physically, mentally, socially, and academically. This problem is unavoidable, but solvable. As Lieutenant Governor, I would work with the governor to pass bills that provide programs for people of all ages to properly sustain themselves and eradicate needless hunger in New York State.

### Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:

Servant leaders are characterized by putting others' needs before their own. If elected, I will ensure that my fellow delegates viewpoints are heard, even if that means I can't express my own. As Lieutenant Governor, I would make sure that parliamentary procedure is in the bill book so that no one is afraid to make their voices heard. We have all been a newcomer at some point, myself included, and we all know the fear of speaking up at the conference. Putting the parliamentary procedure in the bill book, will allow newcomers, and all delegates, to speak their mind at the conference, not having to worry about messing up.

