

New York State YMCA Youth & Government 2018 – 2019 OFFICER NOMINATION

I declare my candidacy for the position of:

Senate Pro Tempore

Name: Makayla Willets

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



Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:

Throughout the past three years in the program I have been heavily involved in a various amount of Youth and Government related activities. This past year, I had the opportunity to serve as a committee chair in my district as well as chairing at local meetings. At my first conference, my bill was ranked 1st in Assembly Liberty and was nominated for best bill. Last year my bill was ranked in the top 10 of Assembly Liberty. I hold many leadership roles on the various sports teams I play on such as being captain of my travel soccer team and captain of the school's lacrosse team. Being a captain has taught me how to be a leader and lead by example. For the past 3 years I have also been a part of my schools 2019 class council. This has also given me a multitude of leadership experience and many opportunities to effectively work with others. This has also has empowered me to cooperate in conjunction with others to understand and listen to all viewpoints. This past February I had the opportunity to attend Camp Greenkill where I received training to serve as a committee chair at this conference. Through all of these experiences and my immense passion for this program, I believe I can effectively lead the senate as your President Pro-Tempore.

If you were faced with a bill topic that goes against your personal standpoint, how would you effectively handle the matter?

If presented with a bill topic that against my personal standpoint, I would not let that alter the outcome of the bill in any way. As a chair, it is your duty to hear the votes of the delegates and allow that to decide the bill's passage or failure. If a bill that is close in voting it is dishonest and unethical to let your own opinion get in the way of that outcome. During the past three years in Youth and Government I have come across many bill topics that I have not agreed with but have learned to listen and respect all viewpoints. As leaders we all must be open to all viewpoints and give every delegate the opportunity for their voices and opinions to be heard.

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

Servant leadership is a trait that should be valued by all and is essential to serve as an effective leader. Servant leadership means serving for the good of the people and putting the people's needs before your own. If elected, I will listen to every single person in the chamber to ensure all opinions are heard in an equal manner because everyone deserves to feel empowered and comfortable when sharing their opinion. As speaker, I want everyone to feel comfortable enough to express their needs and concerns so I can make a positive difference not only for them, but the club as a whole.