

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

I declare my candidacy for the position of:
Speaker of Assembly Freedom

Name: Dominique Eric Varier

Year in school: Junior (11th Grade) **Number of years
in Y&G:** 3 Years



**Previous Youth and Government experience
and/or other qualifications:**

I have been and still currently a bill sponsor in the legislative branch for the past three years. Currently, I am a Committee Chair and a potential Cabinet member.

If you were faced with a bill topic that goes against your personal standpoint, how would you effectively handle the matter? We live in a society diverse in culture, religion, but most importantly in thought. Therefore, there will always be a time where each and every one of us faces an opposing belief to ours. But when facing a point uncorrelated with my personal standpoint, I must first analyze the underlying reasons as to why I don't support such a point. I must ask myself "why do I not support this?" Thus I am able to approach different issues with an open mind, one understanding of other sides yet strong enough to maintain my personal opinion. But why should my personal standpoint get in the way of the democratic process as the Speaker? As a New Yorker and American, it is my duty to speak out my personal opinions, but as the Speaker it is instead my responsibility to allow the people to speak out what they want. Therefore my duty as the Speaker outweighs that as a citizen, as I must allow the democratic process to ensue. I must not let my personal standpoint get in the way, but as Speaker give back the power to the people by letting them, not me, decide on the issue at hand.

Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office: We, as a nation, as a people, are at a critical moment in time where our actions and thoughts are key to our future. We may have grown stronger, but in many ways continue to rift apart. We give our power to "leaders" devoted to our well-being. We plot neighbor against neighbor, brother against brother, American against American, due to the whims of these "leaders" over different opinions. These leaders of America believe they exemplify "servant leadership" as they promise to serve the people and set an example. They sure do this, but they disappointingly serve the people and set the wrong example. It is time that we redefine the contract with our leaders. We must establish new terms with future leaders. This is where I come in. I believe that as a leader, I must remember who gives me the orders. The whole point of "servant leadership" is that the leader is a servant, but of who? As the Speaker, I may be a leader, but more importantly I am a servant to the people, the same people who signed a contract with me under the trust that I will act in their best interests. I must remember that the people are my boss and I am not theirs, that the people empower me and I don't overpower them, and that the I answer to the people and not vice-versa. Thus as Speaker, I will always have the interests of the people in my thoughts by giving back power to the people. I will allow the democratic process to ensure as it was always meant to be. The time has come to redefine our governmental contracts. Why wait?