

# New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

## Speaker of Assembly Freedom

### Michael Berger

Years in Youth and Government: 4



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

2019 Committee Chair, 2017-18 CONA Alternate, 2019 CONA delegate, 2020 Secretary of Press

#### **Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am seeking this office because I want to give part of myself to something that has given me so much; Youth and Government. Since my first year as a TR delegate in 7th grade, YAG has helped me grow as a person. It has taught me priceless lessons, from the necessity of listening and coordination to the principle of servant leadership. It is my dream to be able to repay this program, by helping others learn these lessons, and to foster a sense of achievement and self-worth in those who are entrusted to me. I also seek this office because I believe it's the responsibility of each person and generation to step up and to use their talents to understand the situations around them, and to strive to improve areas that require it. Ever since my first pro statement, I been invigorated by the energy of the assemblies, and have grown to appreciate both the debate floor and the administrative qualities of the chamber. I believe I can use this love of the legislative branch and my experience in coordinating several sessions of parliamentary debate to act as a Speaker who balances both the administrative needs of the assembly and its desire for healthy, informative debate.

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

Servant leadership is the idea that a leader's character, actions, and interactions with others should guide their relations with other people, not their authority. This is because a leader is not chosen for the sole purpose of holding power. Rather, he or she is called to use that power to help others who are need, and to be a friend and mentor before anything else.

I plan to incorporate this if I am elected by being an active listener and mentor who delegates can easily get into contact with if they need advice or just someone to talk to. Unfortunately there is often little time for readily having such casual interactions during chambers, with some exceptions. Instead, I would keep in contact with committee chairs and leading members from the districts in my assembly. By communicating with them, I can find out how the delegates are doing and who needs help, and I can work with them from there. I would also give my assemblymen and women the username of an Instagram account linked to my phone, so correspondence with me could always be an option. In short, if elected, I would use realistic methods to ensure that everyone has access to me, and I will give them my time and attention.