

New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

Deputy Speaker of Assembly Freedom

Matthew Vlacich

Years in Youth and Government: 4

Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:

Throughout my life, I have joined and participated in many clubs and activities, but none of them have been more rewarding than Youth and Government. Through my previous years in this club, I've had the ability of attending three Albany conferences, and have been able to present my bill and debate on various others. Being able to work with excellent bill partners and meeting others from all across our state has allowed me to realize how important it is to work with and receive feedback from those around you. I was able to receive training from my district and at Camp Greenkill on how to become a skillful committee chair. I am in various clubs as well, such as National Honor Society and Foreign Language Honor Society, and have been able to raise hundreds of dollars for breast cancer, donate toys for Toys for Tots, and raise money for The Pulsera Project, a project that helps residents of Latin America have a better life. Being a member of various varsity sports has also allowed me to gain leadership abilities that I will be able to use throughout my time as an officer. This program overall has impacted my life, and as your deputy speaker, I will use my experiences to help each and everyone of you.



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 to be the next Deputy Speaker of Assembly Freedom for two major reasons. Throughout my previous three years of being a delegate, I have grown a passion for this program. When I first joined, I always felt nervous and could never grow the confidence to debate, but after attending my first State Conference, I was able to learn from experienced delegates on how to speak, and finally gained enough courage to raise my placard. From debating passionately on topics I wholeheartedly agree with, to presenting my bill in front of hundreds, this club has truly left its mark on my life. Furthermore, I believe that it is my duty to give back to this club that has taught me so many valuable lessons, and inspired me to learn more about politics and the law. I would love to help teach new delegates the Y-Core values and the importance of service leadership. It is because of the excellent officers that led this club in previous years that allowed me to develop into the person I am, and it would be an honor to encourage someone else to do the same. I will work with the Speaker of the Assembly to ensure everyone's conference is better than it has ever been before, and help other delegates grow in this club simultaneously.

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

Servant leadership is one's ability to assist and aid by putting others above your own. A good servant leader is a person who is always looking to help and encourage others, no matter what the circumstances are. Having servant leadership is an absolute necessity to anyone in any officer position, and allows you to see how a bill may affect those besides yourself. When elected, I would make sure that every delegate and lobbyist is given an equal chance to persuade others, as well as managing time to make sure every bill has an equal and fair amount of time to present their ideas. I would also give delegates the opportunity to contact me via email or text message, to help solve any problems, concerns, or inquire they may have. I can guarantee that the members of Youth and government are my main priority.