

New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

Lt. Governor

George Laopodis

Years in Youth and Government: 3

Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:

I started my Youth and Government adventure three years ago. As a freshman, I didn't realize the transformative experience State Conference would be. In my first year, I had the honor of winning the Best Debater Award in the Senate Chambers. Working diligently throughout the year with my bill group enabled us to be nominated for Best Bill as well. As a sophomore, I learned to not only speak but to listen as well; maintaining an open mind and respecting the views of others. Serving as a committee chair at state conference that year I made delegates feel empowered in their voice and welcome in the Youth and Government family. At the end of the conference, I became Speaker of Assembly Freedom. Chairing over an entire assembly will have me prepared to chair over the senate chambers. I also was awarded to be a CONA delegate that following summer. At the Conference of National Affairs I was enlightened by how some of the most influential delegates across the entire country debate. This experience greatly broadened my horizons and showed me students can impact the nation as a whole. As Lieutenant Governor, I will work to ensure that all delegates have the opportunity to experience the learning that I underwent. I have learned that it is important to not only be confident and assertive while speaking, but to make a difference and inspire the future generations of New York State. Most importantly, it is the delegates that have made my experience as amazing as it has been thus far. It would be my honor to lead some of these young adults into forming a greater state for the future.

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 believe that the potential power of this program is always offset by our age. As Lieutenant Governor, I will utilize this position to serve as a voice for the delegates that may be too shy to talk openly to leadership. Young adults like you and me, are well aware of how frustrating it may be to always be told that you're too young for this or that. I will use this position to make the State Conference more accommodating for all, and ensure that a "group of kids" can be just as, if not more, impactful than a group of adults. One responsibility of the Lieutenant Governor is the service learning project. Through this project I will demonstrate the importance of service and how students can change New York State for the better. For my peers, I offer a bright future of representation and change for the greater good. As Lieutenant Governor, I will work tirelessly for an even more influential and life-changing State Conference next year.

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

Servant leadership is putting the good of others above your own, it is a necessary quality in any and every leader. It is worrying about the people you are leading, and not just merely yourself. It is selflessness and righteousness for the greater good of everyone. Above all, it is remembering that when people come together, they can make a greater difference than an individual. I believe this quality is not just necessary for leaders, but is a vital part of the Youth and Government program; ensuring exact and equal representation of all delegates, not only conference leadership. As Lieutenant Governor, I will incorporate the ideals of servant leadership into my time in office by encouraging all delegates to not only debate, but also gain the knowledge of how service outside of Youth and Government impacts New York State as a whole.

