



I grew up on a small farm in Delaware County and went on to study political science at Hartwick College. Three years into my degree, I had to pause my education due to financial hardship. I was working full time while pursuing my degree, but life expenses were still adding up. When the pandemic hit, I joined an essential sector that needed employees badly - education. I'm employed at Franklin CSD as a long-term substitute teacher, currently teaching middle school science. I have worked in education for the past two years, and my employment there inspired me to run for this office. As a state, we have a lot to fight for. Every day, I wake up and instill in my students the knowledge they need to be successful in today's society. I'm running because I'd like to ensure that life in Central NY works for them, post-high school.

### **Agriculture**

Our district, as well as a majority of Upstate NY, was built on a strong foundation of agriculture. As you drive through the district, you see old barns that symbolize the livelihood of our ancestors. We need to ensure family farms are not just a mark in our history, yet instead, help them innovate and adapt to the future. We need to ensure we can grant subsidies to farms that need government aid. While doing extensive research into the topic, I concluded we could implement certain elements of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) of 1933 into today's market. Simply put, the AAA was a bill to lift farmers out of the Great Depression. To pay for government subsidies for small farms, the government increased taxes on the industries that buy the raw materials from farms. If we can implement an element of this bill into law today, I believe we can help our farmers out when they need us most.

### **Economy**

Economic growth needs to be an important focus during the next legislative session. The pandemic crippled our economy, and together, we can work to make it stronger than before. We need innovative ideas on how to bring about an increase in manufacturing, number of jobs, and economic productivity in our district. As your Assemblyman, I pledge to make informed votes based on bipartisan input from our local business owners. We need to figure out how to incentivize our district in order to be seen as prime real estate for manufacturing. In addition to manufacturing jobs, we need to understand that small businesses are essential in combating unemployment throughout our district. We need to work together to increase the amount of small businesses, starting with ensuring they have the resources and funds they need to start up and be successful, with minimal obstruction from the state government.

## **Education**

Education reform will be one of my top issues. Our education system is lacking greatly, and it needs to be rectified immediately. I believe that the success of our state's future can be gauged on the quality of education our students receive today. I have worked the past two years in education, and I'm running for my students, as well as my colleagues. We need to call for higher funding to rural schools and ensure that funding is based on need, and not on school performance. A portion of this funding needs to go to raises for teachers. They work diligently, day in and day out to ensure the best for their students. In fact, in small schools like mine, I'd go as far as to call them family. Teachers are professionals with master's degrees, and they SHOULD NOT have to work two, sometimes three jobs, just to stay afloat. The remainder of this funding needs to go to our needy schools, to ensure they are receiving a world-class education. Our students shouldn't have decades old textbooks because new ones are too much. Our students shouldn't be missing out on educational advances due to high costs. Our students deserve the best, and as Assemblyman, I won't stop until we can promise them the best. As Assemblyman, it would be my goal to visit each school district in the 102st at least once per term, and hold a meeting with both students and teachers. Hearing their concerns is essential when it comes to representing them during a time of education reform.

## **Energy**

Energy, particularly methods of energy production, will be a rising issue in the coming years in state government. If we want to adapt, our state needs to go green. In 2019, Albany passed New York's "Climate Act" which is a step in the right direction. We need to ensure the state can maintain the goals we have set in order to achieve the standards set by this law, while maintaining fiscal responsibility. I am an advocate for incentives given to any household or business who decides to start transitioning to green energy, and ensure they have the capital to do so. Recent events have shown us that our economic supply chain is fragile and unpredictable, let's set ourselves up for success in this respect. It is essential we take action now, and I will be the Assemblyman to do so.

## **Healthcare**

I believe that healthcare is a human right, not a privilege. As such, legislators need to ensure that they can provide healthcare for the less fortunate, while at the same time, allowing the more financially fortunate to buy their own insurance plans, if they wish to do so.

## **Infrastructure**

Infrastructure throughout our district needs to be improved. Potholes are rampant on our roads, which is a safety hazard, as well as the catalyst of costly vehicle repairs. Affordable broadband access needs to be universal in our state. The pandemic exacerbated the need for broadband, especially regarding the education of our children. We live in a digital world, we need to embrace it and adapt.