

2026 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE  
DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE

CANDIDATE'S NAME and ADDRESS: **Raj Goyle, 354 Broadway, #2, NY, NY 10013**

Position for which you are a candidate: **NYS Comptroller**

YOUR ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE POSTED ON THE DRC WEB SITE.

List your qualifications for this office including but not limited to other offices you have held, educational background, etc.

**Former 2-term Kansas State Lawmaker, Harvard Law, Duke undergrad**

**Please address these questions, but make your answers brief so the entire questionnaire does not exceed 4 pages.**

1. ABILITY TO LEAD THE ENTIRE STATE – What contact and experiences have you had with parts of the state, other than where you currently reside, which demonstrate your recognition of the geographic, demographic and economic diversity of the state and your ability to provide leadership on behalf of all New Yorkers?

**My commitment to New York is deeply personal and extends far beyond the five boroughs. While I am proud of the work I do across the state today, my perspective is shaped by my roots in this state stretching back nearly half a century. When my parents first arrived in the United States, they lived in Rochester. Additionally my wife and her family have been Orange County for over 55 years. Spending time in Orange County, I have had a firsthand look at the unique challenges and incredible potential of our state, from the bustling corridors of our cities to the quiet strength of our valley towns. I recognize that a State Comptroller must be a champion for every New Yorker, ensuring that the financial engines of our state support the infrastructure and services that rural families rely on just as much as those in urban centers.**

**Before coming to New York, I grew up and served as a legislator in Kansas, so I have a lifelong understanding of the distinct challenges and concerns faced by urban, suburban and rural communities. Since coming to New York, I have made it a priority to engage with New Yorkers from the North Country to the Southern Tier. I understand that economic diversity is our greatest strength, but it requires a leader who respects that a one size fits all approach fails our smaller communities. My experience navigating complex legislative environments has taught me that true leadership involves showing up, listening, and translating statewide fiscal policy into tangible benefits for local economies. Whether it is protecting pension funds for workers in small towns or ensuring transparency in state spending, I am dedicated to representing the entirety of this great state with the dignity and attention it deserves.**

2. KNOWLEDGE OF THE ISSUES – What issues do you believe are of most concern to voters in rural counties, and what will be your message in addressing those issues?

**Voters in rural counties are rightfully concerned about economic sustainability, the rising cost of living, and the preservation of the essential services that keep their communities vibrant. I understand that issues like high-speed internet access, affordable and accessible healthcare, and the protection of family farms are not just rural issues—they are fundamental New York issues. My father served as a doctor in a rural town of 1500 inhabitants, and, from the time I spent there, I well understand the challenges of accessing and providing healthcare in rural underserved areas. In my time as a progressive lawmaker in the Midwest, I fought to ensure that working families weren't left behind by corporate-centered policies, and I bring that same determination to the office of Comptroller. I know that for a rural county to thrive, the state must be a reliable partner in providing the fiscal stability necessary for long-term growth and local investment.**

**My message to rural voters is one of accountability and partnership. I will use the power of the Comptroller's office to audit and highlight where state resources are falling short in our rural districts. I believe we must focus on regional economic development that respects the heritage of our small towns while preparing them for a modern economy. By focusing on smart investments in local infrastructure and ensuring that tax dollars are used efficiently to lower the burden on residents, we can build a New York where the success of cities and towns is not determined by their distance from Albany or Manhattan.**

3. **PARTY BUILDING – How have you expressed and demonstrated a commitment toward building our party statewide and what are your ideas for future party building, specific to rural counties?**

**Building a strong Democratic Party requires a commitment to a big tent mindset that values every vote in every county. My political journey began in the Midwest, where I learned how to build winning coalitions in areas that many Democrats had written off. I successfully championed progressive values by speaking a language of common sense, hard work, and mutual respect. I have consistently demonstrated that our party is strongest when we invest in local committees and empower grassroots organizers who know their neighbors best. Statewide success is impossible if we only focus on high-density areas; we must have a presence and a voice in every corner of the state.**

**Moving forward, my vision for party building in rural counties involves direct investment and sustained engagement. I want to see a Democratic infrastructure that supports local candidates year-round, not just in the weeks leading up to an election. This means providing the data, training, and financial resources that small-county committees need to effectively communicate our message. By showing up at town halls, county fairs, and local meetings, we prove that the Democratic Party is the party of all working people. I am committed to being a partner in this effort, ensuring that our rural neighbors feel heard, represented, and inspired to join our movement.**

4. **In the event of a primary for the office you are seeking, will you support the winner of the Democratic primary? (This calls for a YES or NO answer ONLY.)**

**Yes**

5. **FAIRNESS IN SHARING POLITICAL POWER - How have you and how will you defend and further the rights of small counties to be represented in the decision-making process and in governmental and political positions?**

**Small counties are the backbone of New York, yet they often feel sidelined in the halls of power. I have always believed that the size of a county should not dictate the volume of its voice in the decision-making process. During my time as a legislator in Kansas, I saw how easily the concerns of smaller communities could be overshadowed by larger interests, and I made it my mission to bridge that gap. I will defend the rights of small counties by ensuring they have a seat at the table when we discuss state investments, procurement opportunities, and economic policy. Representing the interests of all New Yorkers means actively seeking out the perspectives of those who live outside major metropolitan hubs.**

**In practice, this means my administration will reflect the geographic diversity of the state. I will prioritize appointing qualified individuals from a variety of backgrounds and regions to key positions within the Comptroller's office. Furthermore, I will advocate for governmental processes that are accessible to small-county leaders, ensuring they have the technical assistance and support needed to navigate state bureaucracy. By fostering a culture of transparency and inclusion, we can ensure that the political and governmental power of New York is shared fairly and that our small counties are never an afterthought in Albany.**

6. **INCLUSION** – If elected, how would your administration include the people from DRC counties and address the issues of concern in those counties?

**If elected, my administration will be defined by its accessibility to the people of DRC counties. I plan to establish regular regional meetings where staff and leadership can meet directly with local officials and residents to discuss fiscal concerns, pension questions, and local audits. I don't believe the Comptroller should wait for people to come to Albany; the office must go to the people. By maintaining a consistent presence in rural New York, we can ensure that the unique economic pressures facing these counties are integrated into our statewide reporting and policy recommendations.**

**Inclusion also means ensuring that the state's massive investment power is working for every community. I will work to increase the participation of rural-based businesses in state contracts and ensure that our retirement system investments reflect the long-term health of our state's varied industries. My door will always be open to DRC leadership to discuss how the Comptroller's office can better serve their specific needs. We will address the issues of concern in these counties by being proactive, transparent, and, most importantly, present.**

7. **VOTER APPEAL** – What qualities or experiences do you have that would attract support from voters in DRC counties, not just from Democrats but also from unaffiliated voters and cross-over Republicans?

**My appeal to voters across the political spectrum is rooted in my Midwest values and track record of practical, effective leadership. I grew up in a place where you were judged by your word and your work ethic, and those are the principles I bring to public service. As immigrant doctors in rural Kansas, my parents embodied what it means to serve your community selflessly. As a progressive lawmaker in a traditionally conservative state, I learned how to build bridges and find common ground without sacrificing my values. This experience allows me to speak to unaffiliated voters and cross-over Republicans who are tired of partisan gridlock and are looking for a fiscal watchdog who is focused on results, transparency, and the bottom line.**

**I believe voters in DRC counties are looking for a leader who understands their daily lives and respects their independence. My background as an attorney and a legislator gives me the technical expertise to manage the state's finances, but my personal history gives me the empathy to understand why those finances matter to a family in Orange County or a small business owner in the North Country. I offer a fresh perspective that combines progressive vision with a disciplined, pragmatic approach to governance. I am a candidate who can win in tough territory because I lead with integrity and a genuine commitment to the public good.**

8. **CAMPAIGN IN DRC COUNTIES** – How would you campaign in DRC counties? Will you personally appear with local candidates?

**My campaign strategy is rooted in an "everywhere, all the time" approach. I will be on the ground in DRC counties, meeting voters where they are—whether that's in a diner, at a local firehouse, or on a main street. I do not believe in the term "flyover country"; every community in New York is worth the time and effort of a personal visit. I will bring my message of fiscal accountability and rural empowerment directly to the voters, and I will listen to their concerns with the seriousness they deserve. My campaign will be visible, energetic, and deeply rooted in the communities we seek to serve.**

**Furthermore, I am fully committed to campaigning alongside local Democratic candidates. I know from experience that a strong top-of-the-ticket presence can help energize the base and provide a boost to local races that are often won or lost on the margins. I will use my platform to highlight the**

**importance of local governance and to support the hardworking individuals running for county and town offices. By working together, we can build a coordinated campaign that strengthens the party from the ground up and ensures that our message resonates in every corner of the state.**

9. OTHER CRITERIA – Please set forth anything else you want us to consider

Raj Goyle, April 12, 2026

Date and Signature of the Candidate