

ELECTION CANDIDATES: CHAIR

The following are questionnaire responses from the candidates for chair for the second year of the 2021–2023 Term. Please review before the election to be held during the meeting on April 5, 2022.

CANDIDATE 1: Youth Legislator Patrick Donn Dimasin

What is your strongest leadership quality?

My leadership is situational. Effective leaders must be able to adapt to new environments quickly, ready to engage in discussions or solutions depending on whether or not the group or an individual is willing to take a specific action. Throughout my leadership organizations, I understand the importance of listening rather than fixing. Too often, many leaders will listen in conversations and engage with the speaker in order to ‘fix’ the issue, when individuals who are speaking just want to be heard. As a hopeful chair for the Nevada Youth Legislature, I duly hope to use my skills in situational leadership to apply differing perspectives with each legislator in this body.

How would you inspire youth legislators to fully engage in the Nevada Youth Legislature?

It’s no understatement that this opportunity is a transformative experience. We have the opportunity to provide tangible change for the constituents that we represent, but in order to be faithful representatives, we have to be active in our communication and our voices. Silence is the greatest enemy to democracy. When our legislature moves into the process of drafting bills, we must be willing to engage in intellectual discourse in order to pass a bill that is effective. That is why, I want to suggest that when we move onto more productive conversations that are substantive on policy, every legislator at least speaks twice per legislative session. It’s also crucial for youth legislatures to continue reaching out to their community, which is why I want to set up community programs with high schools for each legislator to independently schedule.

What would you want your leadership legacy to be?

My desire for my leadership legacy has relied on one unwavering principle: criticism. I don’t seek idolization. I don’t seek biased judgement. I seek honestly, and constructive criticism as to how I can become a better leader—how I can become a better legislator for my thousands of constituents. I pray that my leadership legacy is one that is a clear collaboration between the body I owe my public service to. I am only here to guide the direction of our legislature into a desirable foreseeable future, but the success of this legislative body purely relies on the members making up the body, more importantly, however: the constituents. My legacy must be pinned on the emphasis of looking to our community for answers. We must be connected to those we represent. And it is with those connections, that I trust my leadership legacy can be criticized into becoming a better one.

CANDIDATE 2: Youth Legislator Madeline Krieger

What is your strongest leadership quality?

My strongest leadership quality is my passion for connecting and empathizing with the people around me. As part of my school’s Peer Advising Liaison team, I’ve had the irreplaceable opportunity to support and mentor younger students throughout this school year. Listening to their concerns and validating their experiences has taught me the importance of interpersonal connection as a leader. My advisees frequently ask me for academic or emotional support because I’ve earned their trust by seeking to hear their voices. Because of these experiences, I’ve prioritized establishing strong connections because leadership requires representing the beliefs of the individual.

How would you inspire youth legislators to fully engage in the Nevada Youth Legislature?

Even when working with a team of talented individuals, one of the most difficult aspects of leadership is finding a shared passion within a group. If elected as the 2022 Nevada Youth Legislature Chair, I’d like to foster stronger connections between Youth Legislators and learn more about their bill proposals. Even though each member of our team has different ideas, I want to hear the voices of each of their districts and offer as much individual support as possible. I believe that every Youth Legislator has a unique and incredible idea that I’d like to support throughout their planning process.

What would you want your leadership legacy to be?

As a leader, I’d like my legacy to inspire people to be thoughtful and involved members of their communities. In my everyday life, I try to focus on small acts of kindness, like passing around welcome back cards for signatures or offering to help peers who seem overwhelmed. Taking initiative consistently is important to me because I want to demonstrate genuine interest and dedication to the people I work with. I volunteer to help whenever I can and I hope my legacy motivates others to do the same.

CANDIDATE 3: Youth Legislator Joseph Seddon

What is your strongest leadership quality?

My strongest leadership quality is leading by example. I fully embrace the idea of servant leadership, always available to help those around me. As a leader, I never ask anyone to complete a task I myself am not comfortable undertaking. I strive to lead by setting an example, embracing all a program has to offer. As Chair of the Nevada Youth Legislature, I will continue to be a servant leader that sets an example for others.

How would you inspire youth legislators to fully engage in the Nevada Youth Legislature?

As Chair of the Nevada Youth Legislature, I will inspire other Youth Legislators to fully engage in the NYL through leading by example, fully participating in all the NYL has to offer myself. I will be engaged in all trainings and meetings, encouraging and motivating every Youth Legislator to follow suit. I hope to show that participating in the NYL is not difficult and can be accomplished through actively listening to speakers and analyzing the ideas they present. Especially in the digital age we live, it can be difficult to fully embrace the NYL and the roles we play as Youth Legislators. However, I will show this is possible by doing so myself.

What would you want your leadership legacy to be?

I hope to leave a leadership legacy that includes setting an example for others through actively participating in all the Nevada Youth Legislature has to offer. I understand that it is challenging to engage in NYL meetings and trainings through Zoom and other digital platforms. However, I believe it is possible. My goal as Chair of the NYL is to inspire all Youth Legislators, both present and future, to immerse themselves in the program. I hope that others will look at my term as Chair of the NYL and see a time full of participation and engagement.