Name: Quang Huynh Opp: 3

***EXPLORING YOUR COMMUNITY***

**Useful Websites:**

[www.ny.gov](http://www.ny.gov)

[www.townofgtes.org](http://www.townofgtes.org)

[www.townofchili.org](http://www.townofchili.org)

[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

[www.monroecounty.gov](http://www.monroecounty.gov)

[www.ontheissues.org](http://www.ontheissues.org)

The town I am researching is:

**Town of Gates**

**Community History:**

1. **What important historical events have taken place in this area, including Rochester?** Susan B. Anothony, Frederick Douglass, George Eastman. The Town of Gates was named after General Horatio Gates.
2. **What is the area’s (including Rochester) most important waterways and geographic features? Why?** Erie Canal, Genesee River, Lake Ontario. These are important waterways because they connected Rochester to other parts of the world for transportation and, these waterways were used to produce energy
3. **What is the population of your town?** 29,125 people
4. **What is the size of your town?** 15.28 square miles

**Education:**

1. **How many students attend Gates Chili Central School District?** 3,671 students
2. **List the names of the current Superintendent and school board members.**

* Christopher J. Dailey (Superintendent)
* Catherine Coffee (School Board President)
* Francis Muscato (School Board Vice-President)
* Michael Bailey (School Board Member)
* Katie Davis (School Board Member)
* Kerri Keyes (School Board Member)
* Nicole Littlewood (School Board Member)
* Robert Long (School Board Member)
* Jeffrey Pettenski (School Board Member)
* Dr. Christine Brown Richards (School Board Member)

1. **Identify 3 major changes that have occurred over the past 5 years in the school district.**

* Establishment of the PAC (Performing Arts Center)
* New track outside
* New COVID policies and regulations

1. **What is the purpose of the school board?** The school board is to discuss budgets, establish goals, and oversee resources for a school district.
2. **How does the average citizen have a say in the school district’s policies?** An average citizen can take part in poll votes in the school district.

**Town Government:**

**10. What is the name of your town? What is the address of the town hall?** The name of my town is Gates. The address of the town hall is 1605 Buffalo Rd, Rochester, NY 14624.

1. **In what year was the town incorporated?** April 1st, 1813

**12. Name the three branches of government in your town.**

- Legislative Branch (Town Board)

- Executive Branch (Town Supervisor)

- Judicial Branch (Gates Town Court)

**13. How many members are there on the town board? Identify 3**

There are five total members on the town board.

* Cosmo Giunta (Town Supervisor)
* Lee A. Cordero (Councilman)
* Christopher B. DiPonzio (Councilman)

**What is their role in town government?** They are responsible for managing the Town of Gates

**How are town board members chosen?** The citizens of the town elect them.

**14. Who is the town supervisor?** The town supervisor of Gates is Cosmo Giunta

**What is their role in town government?** They are responsible for preparing an annual budget, dealing with citizen concerns, and for the daily cost-effective operation of town government.

**How long is their term?** 2 years

**15. What other town officials are elected?** The town council members

**County Government:**

**16. What is the name of your county? Where are the county offices located? Provide the address.** The name of my county is Monroe County. The Monroe County Government Office is in Rochester. The address is 39 W Main St, Rochester, NY 14614.

**17. How many members are there in the Monroe County Legislature?** There are 29 members in the Monroe County Legislature.

**How long are their terms?** 4 years

**18. Who is the current County Executive?** Adam J. Bello

**Describe 3 biographical facts about this person’s political history.**

1. First Democrat to lead Monroe County
2. Solved the opioid epidemic.
3. Bello’s victory brought an end to a long campaign season for Bello and Dinolfo

**Describe 3 biographical facts about this person’s personal history.**

* Born February 28, 1980
* Born in Rochester, NY
* Helped small businesses that struggled through the pandemic

**State Government:**

**19. What is the name of your state governor?** Kathy Hochul

**Describe their role in state government?** Enforce state laws and approve/veto bills passed by the N.Y. State Legislature

**How long is their term?** 4 years

**20. What is the name of your representative from the state assembly of the New York State Legislature? Use your home address with zip code to find this out.**  Harry B. Bronson

**Include 5 facts or positions for this person.**

\* Harry Bronson was first elected to the New York State Assembly in November 2010.

\* Bronson grew up with 11 siblings

\* Has an undergraduate degree in Public Justice from SUNY Oswego

\* Earned a Juris Doctor at the University of Buffalo

\* Represents the 138th Assembly District

**21. What is the name of your representative from the state senate of the New York State Legislature? Use your home address with zip code to find this out.**  Jeremy A. Cooney

**Include 5 facts or positions for this person.**

\* Cooney was adopted from an orphanage in Kolkata, India

\* Prioritizes poverty relief

\* Earned his B.A. from Hobart College and J.D. from Albany law School

\* Married to Dr. Diane Lu

\* First Asian American to be elected to state office from upstate New York

**22. Who is the New York State Attorney General?** Letitia James

**What is their role in state government?** The Attorney General serves as the guardian of the legal rights of the citizens of New York, its organizations, and its natural resources.

**Federal Government:**

**23. What are the names of the two U.S. Senators who represent New York State in Congress? How long are their terms?** Kirsten E. Gillibrand and Charles E. Schumer. Schumer has served since 1999 and Gillibrand has since 2009.

**24. Provide 5 pieces of biographical information for each about their rise in politics.**

**Senator #1: Kirsten E. Gillibrand**

\* Grew up in Upstate New York

\* First member of Congress to post a daily report listing of her business

\* Authored the STOCK Act to ban members of Congress from insider trading

\* Repealed the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy that banned gay people from serving in the military

\* Passed the 9/11 health bill

**Senator #2: Charles E. Schumer**

**\*** Born and raised in Brookyln, New York

\* Graduated from James Madison High School

\* Graduated from Harvard Law School in 1974

\* Elected as a congressperson from the 9th Congressional District in 1980

\* Elected to U.S. Senate in 1998

**25. What are the senator’s positions on the following policies? Do you agree with them?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Senator #1 (Kirsten E. Gillibrand) | Senator #2 (Charles E. Schumer) |
| Immigration | Kirsten E. Gillibrand has been a strong advocate for comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. She has also pushed for measures to improve border security and address the root causes of migration from Central America. Gillibrand has criticized the Trump administration's policies, including the separation of families at the border and the rescinding of protections for Dreamers. I agree with Gillibrand. | Charles E. Schumer has been a vocal advocate for comprehensive immigration reform, including a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. He has supported measures to improve border security while also protecting the rights of immigrants and asylum seekers. Schumer has been critical of the Trump administration's policies, including its attempts to restrict legal immigration and deport Dreamers. I agree with Schumer. |
| Civil Rights | Kirsten E. Gillibrand has been a strong advocate for civil rights throughout her career. She has been a vocal supporter of equal pay for women and LGBTQ+ rights, including the repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Gillibrand has also pushed for criminal justice reform and measures to address sexual assault and harassment in the military and on college campuses. I agree with Gillibrand. | Charles E. Schumer has a long record of advocating for civil rights. He has been a staunch supporter of LGBTQ+ rights, voting rights, and racial justice. Schumer has also been a vocal critic of discrimination in all forms and has worked to pass legislation to address issues such as police brutality and hate crimes. I completely agree with Schumer. |
| Health Care | Kirsten E. Gillibrand has been a vocal supporter of universal health care. She has advocated for a single-payer system and has pushed for measures to make health care more affordable and accessible for all Americans. Gillibrand has also been a strong advocate for women's health, including reproductive rights and access to contraception. I agree with Gillibrand. | Charles E. Schumer has been a longtime supporter of expanding access to health care for all Americans. He has pushed for measures to improve the Affordable Care Act and has been a vocal opponent of efforts to dismantle it. Schumer has also supported efforts to address the opioid epidemic and to increase funding for medical research. I agree with Schumer. |

**26. Which US Congressional District are you in? Use your zip code to find this out at** [**www.house.gov**](http://www.house.gov)**.** I live in the 25th Congressional District of New York

**How many representatives are there in the House of Representatives?** 435 representatives

**How long is their term?** 2 years

**27. What is the name of your representative?** Joseph D. Morelle

**Provide 5 pieces of biographical information about their rise in politics.**

\* Graduated at the State University of New York at Geneseo

\* Former small business owner

\* Elected to the Monroe County Legislature and New York State Assembly

\* Improved healthcare for all people

\* Protects our community by passing legislation to ban weapons and improve gun background checks

28. **Who is the current president and vice president of the United States?** The president is Joe Biden, and the vice-president is Kamala Harris

**What are their primary roles in government?** The president makes and enforces the laws written by Congress. The vice-president's key role is to succeed the presidency and preside over the Senate.

**29. Identify 5 departments in the president’s cabinet and who currently holds these positions.**

1. Vice president – Kamala Harris

2. Secretary of State – Antony Blinken

3. Dr. Janet Yellen – Secretary of the Treasury

4. Secretary of Defense – Lloyd Austin

5. Attorney General – Merrick Garland

**30. How many justices are currently on the Supreme Court? Identify them by name.** There are currently 9 justices on the Supreme Court. They are

- John G. Roberts

- Clarence Thomas

- Samuel A. Alito, Jr.

- Sonia Sotomayor

- Elena Kagan

- Neil M. Gorsuch

- Brett M. Kavanaugh

- Amy Coney Barrett

- Ketanji Brown Jackson

**Who is the current Chief Justice?** John G. Roberts

**How long are their terms?** Lifetime appointments

**31. What is the role of the Supreme Court? I**nterpret the meaning of a law, to decide whether a law is relevant to a particular set of facts, or to rule on how a law should be applied.

**32. Identify a case and the decision that the court has decided within the last year.** Cruz v. Arizona (2022). The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Cruz.