



Office of the Governor
United States Virgin Islands

**QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR
GOVERNOR'S NOMINEE FOR
DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.

- 1) **ALL** questions must be fully and correctly answered and returned to the Office of Legal Counsel **within seven (7) business days of your receipt of the Questionnaire.**
- 2) Do not submit a resume instead of this Questionnaire.
- 3) If more than the allotted space on this form is required for a complete and full answer, please attach as many additional 8½ x 11 sheets as may be needed. At the top of each additional sheet put your name, "Office of the Governor, Office of Legal Counsel", and then reference the question number before each answer.
- 4) **The Questionnaire is in Word Format. Please complete all responses clearly in black font color. Responses are NOT to be handwritten.**
- 5) Please do not hesitate to call the Office of Legal Counsel at Government House at (340) 774-0001 if you have any questions concerning this Questionnaire.

NOMINEE'S NAME:

10. EMPLOYMENT RECORD: Please list, in chronological order, your complete employment record for the past ten (10) years, beginning with the present or most recent position. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

Employer	Dates of Employment	Position	Address/Phone #	Supervisor
VI Department of Agriculture	May 1, 2023	Commissioner Designee	#1 Estate Lower Love, STX (340) 778-0997	Governor
University of the Virgin Islands	March 1, 2015 - April 30, 2023	Assistant Director, Cooperative Ext. Service	#2 John Brewers Bay, STT (340) 693-1080	Mr. Stafford Crossman CES State Director
VI Department of Agriculture	March 2007 - December 2014	Commissioner	#1 Estate Lower Love, STX (340) 778-0997	Governor

11. GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE:

A. List all federal, state, territorial or local government services, giving dates and type of service such as employee, boards, commissions, executive, legislative or judicial branches, consultant, voluntary service, part-time or honorary. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

USVI Agriculture and Food Fair Board of Directors (2007 - 2014)
 St. Thomas/St. John Agriculture and Food fair Board of Directors (1989 - 2019)

B. List and attach a copy of all service contracts you have held independently or been a party to with the Government of the Virgin Islands.

N/A

NOMINEE'S NAME:

12. BUSINESSES AND FINANCIAL INTEREST: List all businesses (for profit or not for profit), real estate and trusts in which you have at least a 10% interest or control of assets or serve as an officer or member of a board with voting rights. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

Lion's Gate Farm (Family-Owned Small Farm Operation)

13. QUALIFICATIONS: What in your opinion qualifies you to serve the People of the Virgin Islands in the position which the Governor has nominated you?

In addition to my years of formal education and practical experience in the field of agriculture, it is my heart-felt desire and passion to deliver my contribution to the Virgin Islands community through my chosen profession of agriculture. Furthermore, my previous professional roles have prepared me well to assume the role of Commissioner of Agriculture. These roles include serving as USVI Coordinator for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture, and Commissioner of Agriculture.
As a result of my career experiences, I am not only very familiar with the target clientele, but the pertinent issues and needs of the agricultural community. Moreover, throughout my years of service I have developed meaningful insights regarding strategies and solutions to address the challenges facing the sector.

SECTION II: HONORS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

14. MEMBERSHIPS: List all memberships and offices held in professional, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, and other organizations.

Caribbean Food Crops Society - Member (1990 - Present)

15. BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, TRUSTS, ETC.: List all government or private sector boards, trusts, or fiduciary responsible positions on which you have served or are now serving.

USVI Agriculture and Food Fair Board of Directors - President (May 2023 - Present); (2007 - 2014)
St. Thomas/St. John Agriculture and Food Fair Board of Directors (1990 - 2019)
Aquaculture and Mariculture Commission May 2023 - Present)
Farm and Food Council (May 2023 - Present)

16. HONORS AND AWARDS: List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honor society memberships, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

NOMINEE'S NAME:

17. PUBLISHED WRITINGS: List all titles, publishers and dates of books, articles, reports, or other published materials you have written.

The Value of Focus Group Discussions for Understanding Barriers to Agriculture-Tourism Linkages in Developing Regions; Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education, 2009, Vol. 16, No. 3, pp. 55-63
Addressing Food Safety Educational Needs of Food Handlers in the U.S. Virgin Islands; Food Safety Trends, July 2021, Vol. 41, No. 4, pp. 400-408

SECTION III: CHARACTER

18. Have you ever been the subject of a grand jury, police, and department of justice or any legally constituted government authority, investigation anywhere or at anytime?
 YES NO

If your answer is yes, please explain with details including date and location. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

19. Have you ever been arrested in any geographical location for any offense, including traffic violations? YES NO

If yes, please explain with details including offense, date of location and disposition. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

NOMINEE'S NAME:

- 20.** Have you ever been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor? YES NO
If yes, please explain with details including offense, date, location, and current status. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

- 21.** Is there now or has there ever been a judgment entered against you? YES NO
If the answer is yes, please explain with details on date, location and disposition or current status. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

- 22.** Have you ever been a respondent in any labor dispute or discrimination proceeding?
 YES NO
- If the answer is yes, please explain with details on date, location and disposition or current status. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

- 23.** Have you ever been named as a party in any hearing, administrative, civil, and criminal, including Equal Employment Opportunity or sexual harassment? YES NO

If yes, please explain in detail, giving date, venue, agency, and the names of the other parties and the disposition. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

NOMINEE'S NAME:

24. Have you now or have you ever been a member of an organization or an associate of an individual advocating terrorism, overthrow of a government by force or the advocacy or subordination of any ethnic group or individuals? YES NO

If the answer is yes, please give details of dates, names of organizations, names of individuals and all pertinent circumstances. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

25. Do you know of any individual, organization or group, which can be expected to oppose your nomination? YES NO

If the answer is yes, please list the individuals, organizations or groups by name and give the details of your belief for their opposition. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

26. Do you have any outstanding and delinquent monetary obligations to the Government of the Virgin Islands or any other public or private entity, including but not limited to, personal income taxes, business taxes, real property taxes (commercial or residential), business license renewals, trade name renewals, annual reporting fees, professional organization dues, child support, judgments, debt

NO

NOMINEE'S NAME:

Government of the Virgin Islands, includes but is not limited to the following departments, agencies and instrumentalities: the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Tax Assessor, Department of Justice Division of Paternity and Child Support, Board of Education, Economic Development Authority, U. S. Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Center, Police Department, Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs, the Water and Power Authority, the Waste Management Authority, Department of Health, Department of Human Services

_____ YES X NO

If the answer is yes, please attach a detailed explanation of what outstanding and delinquent monetary obligations are owed, the reason for the delinquency, and the intended plan to bring the matter current.

SECTION IV: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

27. Please explain your understanding of "Conflict of Interest" as it applies to the position to which you have been nominated to serve the People of the Virgin Islands.

In the workplace - specifically in the position of Commissioner - a conflict of interest situation would be developed or created when the position of Commissioner is used to make decisions that result in the development of policies, transactions, and/or arrangements that result in financial or other benefits to me as Commissioner and/or my family.

28. Do you own a business or real estate, or are you a partner or shareholder or affiliated in any way to sell or provide goods or services to the Virgin Islands Government?
_____ YES X NO

If the answer is yes, please explain and give the name and location of these interest(s) and how you promise to remove yourself from any possible conflict. [Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary, and reference this question number]

NOMINEE'S NAME:

29. Does any close relative or spouse have a business or real estate interest(s) as described in question 25? ___ YES X NO

If the answer is yes, please explain and give the name and location of these interest(s) and how you propose to remove yourself from any possible conflict. (Attach additional sheet(s), if necessary.)

SECTION V: JOB PERFORMANCE

30. In no more than 150 words, please outline in priority order your four (4) specific short-term and four (4) specific long-term goals and objectives you would employ to achieve the entity's purpose and improve its service delivery system if your nomination is confirmed for this position.

If my nomination is confirmed, my four short term goals would include 1) The enhancement of staff morale, 2) The improvement of agency/clientele relationships, 3) The enhancement of the agency's image and public relations efforts, and 4) The acquisition and installation of a mobile abattoir facility on St. Thomas.
If my nomination is confirmed, my four long term goals would include 1) To improve the infrastructure of public farmland, especially with respect to water harvesting, storing, and distribution to farmers; 2) To construct a new, permanent abattoir facility on St. Thomas; 3) To facilitate the formation of new, effective farmers' organizations, including cooperatives; 4) To develop and institutionalize a local safety net program to support producers during periods of natural disasters and adverse environmental conditions

31. Is there any additional information that you believe would assist the Committee on Rules and the Judiciary in processing your nomination expeditiously?

NOMINEE'S NAME:

CERTIFICATION:

This is to certify and affirm that all the statements contained herein and in any supporting documents or schedules or other such supporting documents or schedules executed at a later date as a part or addendum to this document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and are made in good faith.

Signed this 3rd day of July 2023

Louis E. Petersen, Jr.
Nominee's Name [Print Clearly]

Louis E. Petersen, Jr.
Signature of Nominee

Sworn and subscribed before me this 3rd day of July, 2023

Natalie Mae Knight
Notary Public of the U.S. Virgin Islands

[seal]

My commission expires: 5-18-2025

Natalie Mae Knight
Notary Public
St. Thomas/St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands
NP459-21
My Commission Expires: May 18, 2025

