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Resolution of the Progressive Caucus of the NYSDC

Calling for Real Ethics Reform

in New York State Government

NYSDC Meeting May 2016

Whereas New York State was once considered a progressive beacon to the country and is now best known for a series of seemingly unremitting political corruption scandals that reach the highest level of government leadership; and

Whereas this particular view of New York is exemplified in the sardonic words of New York Times columnist Gail Collins: "While we like to pretend New York politics is exciting, it's mainly just one indictment after another." (New York Times op-ed, April 8, 2016); and

Whereas these political corruption scandals significantly damage the governing structures that New Yorkers rely upon to enact laws and policies that benefit this State and all who reside here; and

Whereas the ongoing convictions of New York State political leaders destroy voters' trust in the institutions that are supposed to be serving them, and further corrode citizens' faith in all political leaders and systems; and

Whereas these recent scandals have again highlighted the corrupting influence of money in New York politics; and

Whereas the pay-to-play culture of New York politics must end; and

Whereas our existing campaign finance and ethics laws are weak, and prone to repeated abuse; and

Whereas the corrupting influence of campaign contributions, Political Action Committee spending, and the earning by elected officials of unaccounted-for outside income or income related to the governing process, has been repeatedly demonstrated; and



Now therefore, be it resolved that the New York State Democratic Committee calls upon our elected officials to pass legislation which would close the LLC loophole; and

Be it further resolved that we call upon our elected officials to pass legislation which would require all elected officials to completely disclose all sources of outside income and prohibit any such income from being in any way related to the governing process; and

Be it further resolved that we call upon our elected officials to pass meaningful campaign finance legislation, with a goal of publicly financed elections; and

Let it be further resolved that passage of these critically needed laws would help to restore the trust of New York voters in our governing bodies, and demonstrate the commitment to and leadership of New York Democrats on the matter of Real Ethics Reform.

_____ Name (Print)

_____ Signature

_____ A.D.