

## **Five (5) Proposed Amendments to the RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

*To support any of these proposed amendments, fill out this form:*

<https://www.grassrootsdemsny.org/state-committee-supporters>

*Contact Kelleigh McKenzie with questions: [kelleighmck@gmail.com](mailto:kelleighmck@gmail.com), 845-518-7352*

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENT 1**

#### **Improved Opportunities for Meeting Participation**

##### *Synopsis of Amendment*

Proposed amendment requires the Secretary to electronically announce the date and location of regular meetings at least 25 days prior to such meetings, and to include itemized meeting agendas with written meeting notices.

##### *Rationale*

State Committee members need adequate time to plan for travel to regular meetings and the opportunity to submit items for inclusion on meeting agendas. The current 10-day notice requirement not only makes it difficult for some State Committee members to attend, it also effectively prevents members from submitting items or resolutions for inclusion on meeting agendas, since the 15-day submission deadline typically passes before the meeting is even announced. Distributing an itemized meeting agenda with the written Notice of Meeting helps members prepare for meetings so they can better engage in discussions and cast more thoughtful votes.

### **RESOLUTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENT 1**

**Whereas** Article I, Section 4 of The Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States directs Democrats to “Establish standards and rules of procedure to afford all members of the Democratic Party full, timely and equal opportunities to participate in decisions concerning the selection of candidates, the formulation of policy, and the conduct of other Party affairs;” now, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that Article IV, Section 1 of the Rules of the Democratic Party of the State of New York shall be amended as follows (new language in bold and underlined, deleted language indicated with strikethrough):

ARTICLE IV.  
MEETINGS OF THE STATE COMMITTEE

Section 1: Regular Meetings.

At least two (2) regular meetings of the State Committee shall be held each year, one (1) in the spring and one (1) in the fall, at such times and places as the State Chair may fix, but in the alternative locations downstate and upstate, ~~upon ten (10) days prior written notice.~~ **At least 25 days prior to a regular meeting, the Secretary shall announce the date and location of such meeting via posting on the State Party website and an email or written announcement sent to each State Committee member. A written Notice of Meeting shall be given at least 10 days prior to the date of such meeting and shall include the itemized meeting agenda.**

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENT 2**

### **Democratic Representation on the Executive Committee**

#### *Synopsis of Amendment*

Proposed amendment requires that the 24 Executive Committee members representing the 12 Judicial Districts are elected at the organizational meeting and are members of the State Committee. Judicial District representatives elected prior to April 12, 2017 may continue to serve until the next organizational meeting regardless of membership status.

#### *Rationale*

Electing the 24 Executive Committee members during the organizational meeting ensures that State Committee members get to cast their votes for these positions, in accordance with the rules. Since the Executive Committee is empowered to act on behalf of the State Committee between State Committee meetings, the 24 members representing the 12 Judicial Districts should be State Committee members, who are democratically elected by Democrats living in their districts.

## **RESOLUTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENT 2**

**Whereas** Article I, Section 4 of The Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States directs Democrats to “Establish standards and rules of procedure to afford all members of the Democratic Party full, timely and equal opportunities to participate in decisions concerning the selection of candidates, the formulation of policy, and the conduct of other Party affairs;” now, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that Article III, Section 3, Subsections (a) and (a)(i) of the Rules of the Democratic Party of the State of New York shall be amended as follows (new language in bold and underlined, deleted language indicated with strikethrough):

#### ARTICLE III.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE COMMITTEE

#### Section 3: Executive Committee.

(a) The Executive Committee shall consist of the State Chair, the Executive Committee Chair, the First Vice Chair, the Vice-Chairs, the Executive Director, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Chair of the Law Committee, the Chair of the Finance Committee, the Assistant Secretary, the Assistant Treasurer, the Sergeant-at-Arms, a

Labor Representative appointed by the State Chair, the Co-Chairs of the Policy Committee, the President of the New York State Young Democrats, two (2) members from each of the twelve (12) Judicial Districts in the State, one male and one female, **to be elected at the organizational meeting** by the State Committee members from each of such Judicial Districts, and eight (8) at-large members, four male and four female, to be elected **at the organizational meeting** by the entire membership of the State Committee upon nomination by the State Chair.

(i) The representatives of the Judicial Districts shall be members of the State Committee, ~~or Chairs, or Co-Chairs or Vice-Chairs of county Committees, or County Executive Committees, or officials of County Committees who occupy positions having similar duties and responsibilities.~~ **Judicial District representatives elected to the Executive Committee prior to April 12, 2017 may continue to serve until the next organizational meeting, regardless of State Committee membership status.**

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3**

### **A Limited Number of Vice Chairs**

#### *Synopsis of Amendment*

Proposed amendment changes the number of Vice Chairs from an undetermined number to five. Vice Chairs elected prior to April 12, 2017 may continue to serve until the next organizational meeting regardless of the total number of Vice Chairs in office.

#### *Rationale*

Limiting the number of Vice Chairs to five prevents an imbalance of power on the Executive Committee between State Committee members and non-members. At present, there are 29 Vice Chairs who represent 38% of the vote at Executive Committee meetings.

### **RESOLUTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3**

**Whereas** Article I, Section 4 of The Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States directs Democrats to “Establish standards and rules of procedure to afford all members of the Democratic Party full, timely and equal opportunities to participate in decisions concerning the selection of candidates, the formulation of policy, and the conduct of other Party affairs;” now, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that Article III, Section 1, Subsection (a) of the Rules of the Democratic Party of the State of New York shall be amended as follows (new language in bold and underlined, deleted language indicated with strikethrough):

#### ARTICLE III.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE COMMITTEE

##### Section 1: Election of Officers.

(a) The members of the State Committee shall meet within fifteen (15) days after their election, and shall organize at such meeting by the election of the following persons: State Chair, Executive Committee Chair, First Vice Chair, ~~such number of Vice Chairs as determined by the Executive Committee~~ **up to five (5) Vice Chairs**, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Sergeant-at-Arms, none of whom need be members of the State Committee. **All Vice Chairs elected prior to April 12, 2017 may continue to serve until the next organizational meeting regardless of the total number of Vice Chairs in office.**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT 4**  
**Democratic Approval of the Executive Director Appointment**

*Synopsis of Amendment*

Proposed amendment requires a majority vote of the Executive Committee to approve the State Chair’s Executive Director appointment.

*Rationale*

Democratically elected State Committee members deserve to have a voice in the choice of the Party’s administrator.

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENT 4**

**Whereas** Article I, Section 4 of The Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States directs Democrats to “Establish standards and rules of procedure to afford all members of the Democratic Party full, timely and equal opportunities to participate in decisions concerning the selection of candidates, the formulation of policy, and the conduct of other Party affairs;” now, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that Article III, Section 10 of the Rules of the Democratic Party of the State of New York shall be amended as follows (new language in bold and underlined, deleted language indicated with strikethrough):

ARTICLE III.

ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE COMMITTEE

Section 10: Executive Director.

There shall be an Executive Director appointed by the State Chair, **upon approval by majority vote of the Executive Committee**, and such staff members as shall be appropriate on a full-time, year-round basis, for the administration of the State Committee and its affairs.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT 5**  
**Restoration of Missing Language About the State Committee**

*Synopsis of Amendment*

Proposed amendment restores Article II, Section 1, sub-sections (a), (b), and (c)i, ii, and iii from the 2009 NYS Party rules describing State Committee powers, units of representation, and election of members.

*Rationale*

The rules adopted at the September 19, 2016 organizational meeting of the State Committee went from Article I, Section 2, sub-section (e) on the bottom of page two, to Article II, Section 1, sub-section (c)iv at the top of page three. Article II, sub-sections (a), (b), and (c)i, ii, iii are missing and the information contained in these sections in previous versions of the rules is necessary and not present elsewhere in the rules.

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENT 5**

**Whereas** the Rules of the Democratic Party of the State of New York adopted at the September 19, 2016 organizational meeting of the State Committee were missing Article II, Section 1, Subsections (a), (b), (c)(i), (ii), and (iii); now, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Rules of the Democratic Party of the State of New York shall be amended with the insertion of the following language between “ARTICLE II” and “(iv):”

PARTY ORGANIZATION

Section 1: State Committee

(a) The State Committee shall be the official organization of the Democratic Party of the State of New York, and shall possess such powers and perform such duties as may be fixed by statute or prescribed by these rules.

(b) The unit of representation of the State Committee shall be the Assembly District, from which the members of the State Committee shall be elected. Except upon the vote for the designation of candidates for any office to be filled by the voters of the entire state, each Assembly District shall be entitled to two votes.

(c) Members of the State Committee shall be elected as follows:

(i) In each Assembly District which comprises a whole county or is entirely within a county, there shall be elected two members of the State Committee, each of whom shall have one vote.

(ii) In each Assembly District which comprises two or more whole counties, two members shall be elected from each whole county, and each member so elected to cast a proportionate part of the two votes to which the Assembly District is entitled.

(iii) In each Assembly District which comprises one or more whole counties and one or more parts of counties, each whole county shall be entitled to elect two members and each part of a county shall be entitled to elect two members, and the members so elected shall be entitled to cast a proportionate share of the vote to which the Assembly District is entitled.