

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE NYS DEMOCRATIC PARTY RULES  
TO ESTABLISH A NOMINATING PROCEDURE FOR OFFICERS OF THE STATE COMMITTEE**

**MAY 2018**

**Whereas** Officers of the State Committee are elected by State Committee members; and

**Whereas** the current rules do not include a nominating procedure for identifying candidates for Officer positions; and

**Whereas** the Massachusetts Democratic State Party nominating procedure offers a simple model that can be replicated: Candidates are nominated from the floor with at least two seconds. Additionally, any person seeking such a position who provides written notice of their candidacy three weeks prior to the meeting can also supply a one page statement of their candidacy, for distribution with the official meeting notice materials. One-pagers include a statement as to whether the candidate is or is not a member of various committees; and

**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;” and

**Whereas** the Unity Reform Commission, established at the 2016 Democratic National Convention, recommends in its December, 2017 report that "state parties must have an open and transparent path to leadership that depends on member engagement and not engagement by leadership alone;" and

**Whereas** the establishment of a nominating procedure will ensure that any Democrat interested in serving in these leadership positions has a way to put forth her or his candidacy for consideration by State Committee members; now, therefore be it

**Whereas** the May business meeting of the State Committee is the last chance to establish a nominating procedure before the September organizational meeting; now, therefore be it

**Resolved** that the NYSDC shall amend Article III, Section 1 of its rules to include a nominating procedure based on the Massachusetts model, with the following text to be inserted as new subsection (c):

(c) Candidates for Officer positions shall be elected by the State Committee by majority vote. Such candidates may be nominated by any State Committee member from the floor with at least two seconds. Additionally, any person seeking such a position who provides written notice of their candidacy to the State Chair or Secretary three (3) weeks prior to the organizational meeting may include with said notice a one page statement of the individual's candidacy, for distribution to State Committee members with the official meeting notice materials. Said statement shall include a statement as to whether the candidate is or is not a member of the State Committee or his or her County Committee.

Kelleigh McKenzie, AD 103, Ulster County

Jonathan Piel, AD 76, New York County

Elisa Sumner, AD 105, Dutchess County

Rachel Lavine, AD 66, New York County

Benjamin Yee, AD 66, New York County

Nancy Schaeff, AD 102, Ulster County

A. Finley Schaeff, AD 102, Ulster County

Daniel Cohen, AD 69, New York County

Jay V. Bellanca, AD 113, Washington County

Robert Haskins, AD 104, Ulster County

Brad Will, AD 103, Ulster County

Tom Schimmerling, AD 101, Delaware County