

A RESOLUTION

to Amend the Rules of the New York State Democratic Committee to be Further Inclusive of Individuals who Identify as Being Outside of the Gender Binary

August 10, 2020

WHEREAS the New York State Democratic Committee (“NYSDC”) passed a historic resolution in October of 2019 to provide for the inclusion and recognition of non-binary individuals;

WHEREAS it is the aspiration of those in support of the resolution passed in October of 2019 for these changes to be replicated amongst the various Democratic County Committees in New York State; and

WHEREAS certain language included in the resolution passed in October of 2019 can be improved in order to be more conducive towards those aspirations of creating a more inclusive Democratic Party;

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the Rules of the New York State Democratic Committee be amended as follows:

(New language is indicated with underlines and deleted language is indicated with a [~~bracketed strike-through~~].)

ARTICLE I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1: Party Membership

...

(b) No test for membership in, nor any oath of loyalty to, the Democratic Party of New York shall be required or used that has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone, or support discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, gender identity, gender [~~identity~~] expression, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, disability, or economic status.

Section 2: Public Notice and Meetings

(a) All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party of New York are open to all members of the Democratic Party of New York regardless of race, sex, gender identity, gender [~~identity~~] expression, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, disability, economic status or philosophical persuasion.

...

(c) The Democratic Party on all levels, shall support the broadest possible registration without discrimination on grounds of race, sex, gender identity, gender

[**identity**] **expression**, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, disability or economic status.

...

ARTICLE II: PARTY ORGANIZATION

Section 1: State Committee

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

...

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 the county shall be entitled to elect two members and the members so elected shall be entitled to cast a proportionated share of the vote to which the Assembly District is entitled.

a. In all cases in which provision is made in this Section for the election of two members, the two members shall not identify as the same gender [~~;~~ **unless they both identify as a non-binary gender**].

...

ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE COMMITTEE

Section 1: Election of Officers

...

(b) In electing officers in accord with Section 1(a) of this Article, the State Committee shall assure that the two highest-ranking officers of the State Committee do not identify as the same gender [~~;~~ **unless they both identify as a non-binary gender**]; that the variance between the number of Vice Chairs who identify as women and the number of Vice Chairs who identify as men does not exceed one (1); that the Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer do not identify as the same gender as the Secretary and Treasurer, respectively [~~;~~ **unless both the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary, or both the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, identify as a non-binary gender**]; and that the officers, as a whole, reflect the diversity of the Democratic Party of New York State.

...

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 thirteen (13) Judicial Districts in the State, who shall not identify as the same gender, [~~unless they both identify as a non-binary gender,~~] to be elected at the organizational meeting by the State Committee members from each of such Judicial Districts, and eight (8) at-large members, where the variance between the number of at-large members who identify as women and the number of at-large members who identify as men shall not exceed one (1), to be elected by the entire membership of the State Committee upon nomination by the State Chair. For purposes of this provision:

...

(e) A member of the Executive Committee may authorize as [~~his~~] ~~their~~ proxy only another member of the Executive Committee, but in no event shall a member of the Executive Committee hold more than one proxy.

THEREFORE, be it further RESOLVED that the NYSDC will work with the various Democratic County Committees to help them conform to the changes made in this resolution and the resolution passed in October of 2019, namely, with regard to the election of members of the NYSDC beginning in 2022 and the appointment of individuals to fill vacancies created by the resignation, death, or ineligibility of members of the NYSDC before and after 2022 ; and

THEREFORE, be it further RESOLVED the NYSDC supports efforts undertaken by the various Democratic County Committees to amend their rules to be inclusive of individuals outside of the gender binary in ways similar to those accomplished in the resolution passed in October of 2019, namely, with regard to the election of members of the County Committee and of District Leaders.

Submitted August 10, 2020, by the following Members of the New York State Democratic Committee:

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