

## **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING GENDER EQUALITY LANGUAGE IN NEW YORK STATE ELECTIONS AND LEGAL DOCUMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, every two years, all Towns in New York State hold elections for Town offices with one of the most important offices being members of the Town Council, and

**WHEREAS**, in New York Town Law, **Article 3, section 20** states as follows:

- 1.a “Every town of the first class shall have a supervisor, four **town council members**...”
- 1.b “Every town of the second class shall have a supervisor, two justices of the peace, two **town councilmen**...”, and

**WHEREAS**, the issue of gender identification of elected officers is also addressed in **Article 3, section 20, part 5** of New York State Law,

**WHEREAS**, this variation in the title of a member of the Town Council may have been unintended, but nevertheless it sets a tone and insinuates that the person running for office, in a Town of the second class, will be male, and

**WHEREAS**, a review of ballots, as printed for a Town election by a county Board of Elections, shows that the office is referred to as “**Councilman**” regardless of the gender of the candidate, and

**WHEREAS**, when questioned about the use of “**Councilman**” on the ballot, a representative of the Board of Elections stated that the ballot must use the language of the law, and

**WHEREAS**, only legislation passed by the New York State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Hochul can change this language, and

**WHEREAS**, a bill to be introduced by Assemblymember Carrie Woerner in the upcoming legislative session aims to do precisely that.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the New York State Democratic Committee urges the New York State Legislature and Governor Hochul to pass Assemblymember Woerner’s anticipated bill, *An Act to amend general city law, the general municipal law, the public authorities law, the real property law, the town law and the village law, in relation to replacing all instances of the words councilman or councilmen with the words council member or council members*, and all other non-necessary gender specific language in New York State Law, into law after it has been introduced.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul; Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Carl Heastie; Majority Leader of the New York State, Andrea Stewart-Cousins; Assemblymember Carrie Woerner and the Chairs of the other 49 State Democratic Committees.

Submitted by:

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Kimberly Davis, Clinton County  
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Jason Clark, St. Lawrence County  
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Rachel Lavine, New York County  
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