

Request and Invitation for Public Comments



Kings County Democratic Task Force on Gender Discrimination and Representation

You are respectfully requested and invited to submit public comments to the Kings County Democratic Task Force on Gender Discrimination and Representation concerning the present Rules governing the composition of the County Committee of the Kings County (Brooklyn) Democratic Party. More specifically, at issue is the provision that **“the representation of each Election District shall be equally divided between men and women.”** This effectively prevents nonbinary individuals from serving and also serves as a barrier to women from filing for more than 50% of the County Committee’s positions.

Any suggestions you propose for amending said Rules will be reviewed by the Task Force, which is charged with reporting a recommended amendment to the Kings County Democratic Party.

If you elect to submit public comments, you must email **KingsDemTaskForce@aol.com**, with the following information:

- Name
- Residence Address
- Telephone / Cell Phone No.
- Email Address
- Your written comments
- Whether you wish to submit only written comments, or both written and oral comments

You will be contacted with further details, including appearing before the Task Force at one of its Zoom public forum meetings if you wish to do so. The first such meetings are scheduled for the evenings of December 7 and 8, 2020, and further scheduling will depend on the number of responses received. See page 14 for further details concerning public comments.

PLEASE CONTINUE READING FOR BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

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WHY YOU SHOULD SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS

You are urged to submit public comments if any of the following apply or you are otherwise interested in presenting your views:

If you are concerned about fairness and equality within the official organizational structure of the Kings County (Brooklyn) Democratic Party.

If you believe that all Democrats — regardless of sex or gender identity — should be able to serve on the party’s County Committee.

If you believe that a 50% / 50% division by sex of the membership no longer reflects modern notions of gender participation in political activism.

If you wish to be a part of the conversation about a framework of possible solutions for amending the subject Rules provision, by either commenting on some proposals or submitting your own.

Note: If you are presently a County Committee member and plan to run for re-election in 2022 — or if you previously attempted to run but were not successful and you intend to try again in 2022 — the preparation of your designating petition and the nature of a potential primary election contest could be affected.

BACKGROUND FOR REVIEW OF THE PRESENT RULES PROVISIONS

The County Committee is the basic governing body of the Democratic Party in Kings County. Each Election District is entitled to either two members (one male and one female) or four members (two males and two females). Whether it is two or four depends upon the vote for the Democrat in the Election District at the last gubernatorial election. Altogether, there are 5488 membership positions.

From where does the equal division of membership positions among males and females derive?

The ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1920 granted women the right to vote. In an effort to encourage women to participate in politics, in 1938 the New York State Constitution was amended to permit equal representation by sex on political party committees: “. . . any committee of a political party may, by rule, provide for equal representation of the sexes on any such committee. . . .” (Art. XIII, § 1) This was considered a progressive measure at the time since it afforded women more representation on political party committees should a party elect to structure its committees on the basis of parity between the sexes.

In furtherance of the constitutional provision, the New York Election Law provides presently in § 2-104(2):

If, pursuant to section one of article thirteen of the constitution, such committee or a state convention of the party shall provide by rule for equal representation of the sexes on such committee, the rules of such committee relative to additional members, either from election districts or at large, shall be formulated and applied in such manner that the whole membership shall consist of an even number, equally divided between the sexes. When any such rule provides for equal representation of the sexes, the designating petitions and primary ballots shall list candidates for such party positions separately by sexes.

The Kings County Democratic Party’s Rules have provided for such equal representation, in reliance on such State Constitutional and Election Law provisions, for at least 60 years. The provision is presently set forth in Article II [The County Committee Membership], § 2(d): “Each member of the County Committee shall be an enrolled member of the Party residing in the Assembly District containing the Election District in which such member is elected, and the representation of each Election District shall be equally divided between men and women.”

Clearly, back in 1938, no thought was given to the fact that by enabling parties to structure their membership on a 50/50 basis equally between men and women this would exclude non-binary individuals. At that time, little

thought was given to the fact that gender identity could be fluid. Society generally looked upon people as immutably being male or female.

Starting at the end of the 20th century and continuing to today, however, society has become more aware that human beings did not all fit within the strict confines of a binary system of males and females. With the rise of the gay and lesbian rights movement and efforts being made to recognize and protect gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, non-binary, non-cisgender, and gender non-conforming individuals, society began to rethink stereotypes of the gender spectrum.

Meanwhile, the provision at issue in the Kings County Democratic Party's Rules remained. Earlier this year, in April, several people who filed designating petitions for the position of Member of the Democratic County Committee did not specify whether they were filing for the "male" or "female" slots within the respective Election Districts. Their petitions were invalidated by the Board of Elections. They commenced a lawsuit in Supreme Court, Kings County, entitled *Bharat v. New York City Board of Elections*, in which they argued that the rule at issue discriminates against those who do not identify as men or women.

They asserted, "Each of the candidates subscribes to a gender identity other than 'male' or 'female' and identify across a spectrum of gender non-conforming identities." They also contended, "As applied, the rule effectively excludes candidacy of non-binary, intersex, gender fluid and/or many transgender individuals who cannot honestly and accurately select either male or female gender designations on the candidate application form." Further, the petitioners claimed that their Equal Protection and Due Process rights were violated.

Justice Edgar Walker denied and dismissed the petitioners' case. He held:

Since it is undisputed that petitioners all failed to specify in their respective designating petitions whether the office sought was that of Male Member of the County or Female Member of the County Committee, their petitions were in violation of Election Law §§ 2-102(4) and 6-132. Therefore, the petitioners' designating petitions were properly invalidated by the Board.

In so holding, the court wishes to emphasize that, while it finds that petitioners are precluded from the relief they seek in the context of this Election Law article 16 proceeding, it has made no determination of the merits of their constitutional arguments. Therefore, the dismissal of this petition is made without prejudice to such a determination in a properly commenced declaratory judgment action addressing these issues. The court further notes that the petitioners had ample time (about a year and half) following the KCDC's re-adoption of its longstanding sex parity rule at its last organizational meeting to commence a declaratory judgment action

challenging the constitutionality of the sex parity rule, as well as the authorizing state constitutional and statutory provisions. Petitioners, however, failed to do so and instead waited to seek such relief within this proceeding.

The judge wrote that the petitioners could commence a new lawsuit should the same party rule be adopted at the next organizational meeting.

PROCESS FOR AMENDING THE RULES OF THE KINGS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The Kings County Democratic Party's Rules can be amended as follows:

"These Rules may be amended from time to time by a majority of the members of the County Committee or when the County Committee is not in session, by a majority of the members of the Executive Committee present at a meeting at which there is a quorum. . . ." (Article X, § 1)

APPOINTMENT OF THE KINGS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC TASK FORCE ON GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND REPRESENTATION

Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte assumed the Chair of the Kings County (Brooklyn) Democratic Party on January 20, 2020. In her acceptance speech she committed to diversifying the party and making participation easier.

In early August 2020, Chair Bichotte followed up her commitment by, among other things, appointing the Kings County Democratic Task Force on Gender Discrimination and Representation, with a mandate to it to recommend a permanent solution to the problems resulting from the subject Rules provision: That the Task Force should recommend an amendment to the Rules which would take effect with the circulation of designating petitions and the primary election in 2022, when the County Committee comes up for re-election.

In a press release, it was stated:

[I]n recent years, societal views on gender identification have become more enlightened as there is now recognition of the fact that not all persons fit neatly within a strict binary division of genders. This has become an impediment for non-binary persons desiring to participate in local Democratic political affairs by running for the position of County Committee member. They are unable to comply with the aforesaid Election Law's strictures.

Moreover, in the last two decades, a new political phenomenon has arisen in Brooklyn whereby women actually constitute a majority of the grassroots political activists. Limiting membership of women on the Kings County Democratic Party's County Committee to 50% of the total positions serves to stifle full participation.

Chair Bichotte was quoted as follows:

My Task Force will review the Party's rules governing membership on the committee, the goal being to recommend to the Party's Executive Committee proposals to remedy the foregoing situations and to review any related rule provisions governing the Committee's composition. This will facilitate easier ballot access, expand participation among the rank-and-file party members, and bring the Party's rules into the 21st century, all in time for the next election of Committee members.

As a new county chair my first priority is to expand voting rights and the ability for all to participate in our democracy and run for office, and that very much includes individuals in Brooklyn regardless of identification as binary - male or female, non-binary, gender fluid, genderqueer, or transgender.

MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE

Aaron D. Maslow (Chair): Attorney, practicing for nearly 40 years; has represented numerous candidates in election law matters; NYS Accredited Provider, Continuing Legal Education; past NYC administrative law judge; legal counsel to the Board of Elections in the City of New York, 1988-1992; past vice president, Cong. Bnai Israel of Sheepshead Bay; began Democratic Party activism in 1968, supporting a local State Assembly candidate affiliated with the reform movement; candidate for delegate to 1976 Democratic National Convention; member of the Democratic County Committee for many years; past delegate to Judicial Conventions; resides in Marine Park, in the 41st Assembly District, with his wife Lori, a Democratic District Leader.

Waqil Ahmed: South Asian and Muslim community activist; former businessman and prominent member of Brooklyn's Pakistani community; serves as President of the Pakistani American Youth Organization; resident of Midwood.

Jared Arader (he/him/his): Jared Arader is the President of Lambda Independent Democrats of Brooklyn, the borough's only LGBTQ political organization. LID helps to ensure LGBTQ political representation throughout the borough, electing LGBTQ candidates and ensuring elected officials are held accountable to the community. Jared is an attorney with a deep background in public policy and advocacy, having worked for several national and local nonprofits and government agencies.

T.S. Candii: Transgender political activist and public speaker; lead organizer with Decrim NY and Repeal Walking While Trans Ban coalition; founder of Black Trans News and Black Trans Nation; resident of East Flatbush.

Darma V. Diaz: Darma V. Diaz is the former District Leader of the 54th Assembly District and the new City Council Member-elect from the 37th Council District. She has spent decades advocating for affordable housing, healthcare, education, crime prevention, social services, human rights, and more. This background, along with extensive knowledge in government policy, enables her to “hit the ground running” – something vital given the many needs of the 37th Council District. “I understand and appreciate the importance of being a County Committee member and will keep an open mind as the committee works on a proposal that will meet the needs of Kings County.” Darma is a resident of East New York/Cypress Hills.

Lisa Fane: Feminist, lesbian, member of the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization during ILGO’s epic fight for LGBTQ inclusion in the 5th Avenue St. Patrick’s Day parade, and co-founder of the Brooklyn Irish LGBTQ organization, which in 2018 successfully challenged the Brooklyn Irish American Day parade’s ban and became the first LGBTQ group to march in the parade. Lisa is a member of the Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats and a former board member of Lambda Independent Democrats; resident of Park Slope.

Jennifer Faucher: Jennifer served for two and a half years as Political Liaison/Registered Lobbyist for the NYS Public Employees Federation (PEF). She has more than 40 years of union experience. She was elected to four terms as Region 10 Coordinator (Regional VP), representing over 6000 members, served ten years as the Region 10 PAC Chair, and served six years as the State Insurance Fund Statewide Labor Management Chair. She also served on various other boards and committees. Jennifer served on the Rules Committee at the 1992 Democratic National Convention and as a Delegate to the 1996 and 2000 Conventions. She is a member of the Arab American Institute and National Organization for Women, and resides in Sheepshead Bay.

Edu Hermelyn: State Committee Member and District Leader, 43rd Assembly District, representing Crown Heights; tenant organizer, longtime political activist, education consultant.

Samuel (Samy) N. Olivares (he/they): State Committee Member and District Leader, 53rd Assembly District, representing Williamsburg, East Williamsburg and Bushwick. Olivares is a queer Latinx activist and community organizer that advocates for social, racial, gender, and economic justice.

Julio Pena III: State Committee Member, 51st Assembly District. Julio is a life-long Sunset Park resident, attended and graduated from NYC public schools and CUNY, and currently supports after school programs in Red Hook and East NY, Brooklyn at a large non-profit organization. He has been a member of Brooklyn Community Board 7 since 2016, serving as First Vice Chairperson, Chair of the Youth & Education Committee, and Chair of the By-Laws Committee.

Jesse Pierce (she/her/Jesse): Democratic State Committee member and District Leader, 52nd Assembly District; queer, political and community organizer; Director of Operations at Neverware; avid bicyclist.

Josue Pierre: Democratic State Committee member and District Leader, 42nd Assembly District; former senior financial analyst, Office of New York City Comptroller; past member, Community Board 17; resident of Flatbush.

Annette Robinson: Longtime Democratic State Committee member and District Leader, 56th Assembly District; Vice Chair, Kings County Democratic Party; State Assembly member, 2002-2016, and City Council member, 1992-2001; resident of Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Douglas Schneider (he/him): First elected in 2018, Doug Schneider is the District Leader/Member of the State Committee for the 44th Assembly District, encompassing parts of Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Kensington, Ditmas, Midwood, and Boro Park. He was an initial cosponsor of Emilia Decaudin's amendment to the State Democratic Party rules making the party inclusive of non-binary individuals and individuals who do not identify as being either women or men. Doug is a civil rights attorney specializing in plaintiff's-side employment discrimination.

Josh Skaller: Democratic State Committee member and District Leader, 52nd Assembly District; technology director; resident of Park Slope.

Nancy Tong: Nancy Tong, a resident of Bensonhurst, is the first Asian-American elected official in Brooklyn, serving as the District Leader of the 47th Assembly District. Furthermore, from 2015-2019 she served as the co-president of the United Progressive Democratic Club. Tong currently works as the Community Relations Director at Assemblyman William Colton's office. She assisted over 10,000 constituents since 2008 on a variety of issues. She brings her hands-on experience to the Task Force in hopes that gender and racial diversity will be a central pillar of the Kings County Democratic Party.

Jason L. Walker: Jason L. Walker is a non-binary activist and community organizer working within the intersection of Black and Queer liberation. He has helped to organize LGBTQ and TGNCNB youth in an organizing project known as Queerocracy. He currently works as the Senior Coordinator of Grassroots Advocacy at Health GAP and has worked for eight years as the HIV/AIDS Policy Coordinator for VOCAL-NY. He resides in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Rodneyse Bichotte (ex officio): Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn, covering Ditmas Park, Flatbush, East Flatbush and Midwood. She is currently the Chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBs), and serves on the following committees: Housing, Government Operations, Education, Banks, Health, and Higher Education.

She is also a member of the Task Force on Women's Issues and sits on Governor Cuomo's Domestic Violence Advisory Council and Mayor De Blasio's MWBE Task Force. In January 2020, she was elected Chair of the Kings County Democratic Party Executive Committee, thus becoming the first Black woman to lead a county party in New York City. Rodneyse Bichotte — also the first Haitian-American woman elected to public office in New York City — has been an outspoken advocate on issues concerning immigration, education, economic development, unemployment, education reform, health care access, senior citizen centers, affordable housing, school safety, women's and LGBTQ rights, and other issues affecting the quality of life in the community.

PROGRESS OF THE TASK FORCE

As of November 19, 2020, the Task Force has held six meetings.

August 12, 2020: Members introduced themselves. Mr. Maslow provided a review of the historical background of the rule providing for equal membership between males and females. The rule has its legal underpinning in the 1938 amendment to the New York State Constitution which permitted political parties to structure their committees on the basis of equal representation of the sexes. This was then enacted into the Election Law. For at least 60 years, the Kings County Democratic Rules provided for such equal representation. Certain Task Force members were assigned to responsibilities, including gathering statistical data. The members expressed support for Mr. Maslow's suggestion that public hearings be held at which people could make presentations to the Task Force.

August 28, 2020: We reviewed the accumulated statistical data (see below). Possible solutions for achieving the addition of nonbinary individuals while at the same time maintaining diversity were discussed. Some members were of the view that the only solution was to eliminate sex designations in order to comply with the Election Law: all candidates would run together and the ones receiving the most votes would be elected regardless of sex or gender identity.

However, others were amenable to a different solution: insure that all people were eligible to run but preserve some sort of mandated diversity among the sexes and genders/gender identities. Reference was made to a State Committee rule enacted at the behest of Emilia Decaudin, a Queens District Leader (see discussion re September 14, 2020 meeting). Mr. Maslow noted that decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court have held that a political party possesses a constitutional right to structure its internal processes in a manner which it deems best in order to broaden the base of participation and pursue its political goals. Among the cases cited by Mr. Maslow were: *New York State Bd. of Elections v. Lopez Torres*, 552 U.S. 196 (2008); *California Democratic Party v. Jones*, 530 U.S. 567 (2000); *Tashjian v. Republican Party of Conn.*, 479 U.S. 208 (1986); and *Democratic Party of United States v. Wisconsin ex rel. La Follette*, 450 U.S. 107, 122 (1981).

Of particular relevance is the decision in *Eu v. San Francisco County Democratic Central Committee*, 489 U.S. 214 (1989), where the Supreme Court struck down California laws mandating how parties were to govern themselves: “Each restriction thus limits a political party’s discretion in how to organize itself, conduct its affairs, and select its leaders.” *Id.* at 230. “[A] State cannot substitute its judgment for that of the party as to the desirability of a particular internal party structure, any more than it can tell a party that its proposed communication to party members is unwise.” *Id.* at 232-233.

September 14, 2020: The Task Force heard from Emilia Decaudin, a State Committee member and District Leader from Queens, who was the sponsor of an amendment to the State Democratic Rules which would provide for a single primary election contest — not separate ones for males and females — for State Committee in which the candidates would be ranked by votes received. The winners could not be two people who identify as the same gender. Task Force members asked many questions of Emilia Decaudin. Following the presentation by Emilia Decaudin there ensued a discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of Decaudin’s proposal, were it to be implemented for the Kings County Democratic County Committee. Samy Olivares volunteered to identify academic experts to address the Task Force.

October 12, 2020: The Task Force discussed the invitation to academic experts who would make presentations to it on the subject of the Task Force’s mandate, and the structure for these presentations. October 26, 2020 and November 9, 2020 were designated as meetings at which the academic experts would make their presentations. The Task Force also discussed the process by which Brooklyn Democrats and others would offer public comments at public forum meetings.

October 26, 2020: Three academic experts addressed the Task Force on gender diversity: history, evolving views of society, difference between sex and gender, terminology, need for diversity and concern over efforts to dismantle diversity. Task Force members asked probative questions of our speakers: Dr. Svati Shah, Associate Professor of Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies, University of Massachusetts at Amherst; Dr. Chiara Bottici, Associate Professor of Philosophy & Co-Director of Gender Studies at The New School for Social Research; and Dr. Carolyn Dinshaw, Dean for the Humanities, Silver Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis and English, New York University. The consensus of the professors was that sex and gender are not identical, as sex is biological while gender is malleable and the result of various influences, including socialization.

November 9, 2020: Three more members of academia made presentations: Dr. Rosamond King, Associate Professor of English and Women’s and Gender Studies, Brooklyn College; Dr. Paisley Currah, Professor of Political Science, Brooklyn College; and Dr. Robin Dembroff, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Yale University. Among the points made by the speakers were: Gender-neutral language in rulemaking is becoming more acceptable and would not

be inconsistent with modern English language usage; possible solutions included adding a third category, assigning a female slot and one for everyone else, all candidates run together but those elected shall not identify as the same gender, and eliminating designations and all run in one primary election. It was recognized that compelling gender identification raises privacy concerns; also that promoting gender diversity results in a membership with different social perspectives and interests. After the professors spoke, a Task Force member suggested a compromise whereby a position could be reserved for women, and another position would be open to all regardless of gender and without the need to identify the gender. At the November 23, 2020 meeting, Cynthia Richie Terrell, an advocate for advancing women’s representation, will address us. Also, the members discussed the possibility of recommending a temporary solution which would enable nonbinary individuals to serve on the County Committee for the present term (until 2022), while the Task Force continues its review preparatory to a recommendation for a permanent solution to take effect in 2022.

**STATISTICAL STUDIES UNDERTAKEN
BY THE TASK FORCE**

Petition filings for Kings Democratic County Committee:

	2012 male candidates	2012 female candidates	2014 male candidates	2014 female candidates	2016 male candidates	2016 female candidates	2018 male candidates	2018 female candidates	2020 male candidates	2020 female candidates
41 A.D.	103	108	73	74	56	61	49	65	24	28
42 A.D.	116	121	61	72	46	57	53	70	44	55
43 A.D.	9	9	6	4	17	78	24	53	51	59
44 A.D.	94	87	112	114	14	18	135	140	89	93
45 A.D.	7	6	55	66	10	14	45	56	13	21
46 A.D.	39	48	28	37	55	53	29	40	25	22
47 A.D.	54	62	62	67	47	66	47	61	44	44
48 A.D.	35	30	12	11	16	14	18	14	33	29
49 A.D.	24	23	31	31	40	49	25	26	33	31
50 A.D.	43	35	85	84	13	3	39	28	72	74
51 A.D.	28	26	6	8	11	11	74	77	32	36
52 A.D.	62	52	17	16	48	47	118	115	105	115
53 A.D.	126	124	42	63	72	79	65	62	83	88

54 A.D.	77	95		28	31		45	49		53	55		40	53
55 A.D.	3	4		23	25		7	9		25	46		116	132
56 A.D.	2	8		7	19		7	10		29	42		29	40
57 A.D.	9	10		13	13		12	13		34	62		53	73
58 A.D.	5	6		10	16		6	13		14	27		20	20
59 A.D.	93	89		124	124		93	112		98	116		89	101
60 A.D.	8	18		2	6		7	19		13	44		14	35
64 A.D.	18	19		20	20		40	37		23	27		24	22
	955	980		817	901		662	812		1010	1226		1033	1171
	49.4	50.6		47.6	52.4		44.9	55.1		45.2	54.8		46.9	53.1
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%

This data indicates that the number of females filing for County Committee has outpaced males. We thank Task Force members Jennifer Faucher and Samy Olivares for aggregating the data.

Task Force member Julio Pena III is thanked for reviewing the rules of the Democratic and Republican Parties in the five counties comprising New York City. Besides the Kings Democratic Party, the only other party to provide for equal division between the sexes on its County Committee was the Queens Democratic Party. Within the Democratic Party, only Queens limited membership to two per Election District; all the others have a method for awarding extra slots for E.D.s garnering a higher Democratic vote for governor. Within the Republican Party, some counties award extra members in E.D.s having a higher gubernatorial vote; some do not.

**POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AS A FRAMEWORK FOR
AMENDING THE RULES WHICH YOU MAY COMMENT ON
AND/OR SUGGEST YOUR OWN PROPOSAL**

As part of this Request and Invitation for Public Comments, we present various proposals which have been submitted as a framework for discussion — but without foreclosing other possible solutions. You may comment on these proposals and/or submit your own.

Most of the below proposals would eliminate the two or four position system and adopt a two, three, or four position system because with the elimination of 50/50 parity between males and females there is no need to mandate an even number of members per Election District (“E.D.”). Whenever a position is designated “Open Competitive,” any Democrat may run, regardless of sex or gender identity and without disclosing either.

Proposal #1: Maintaining equal representation of males and females; adding members at large by Assembly District for individuals who do not identify as male or female.

Proposal #2: A designation of “Open Competitive,” “Male,” “Female,” and “Non-Cisgender/Gender Fluid/Gender Non-Conforming [or other terminology]” is assigned to positions, depending on how many members an E.D. is entitled to elect. In a two-member E.D., the positions would be designated “Open Competitive.” In a three-member E.D., positions would be designated “Male,” “Female,” and “Non-Cisgender/Gender Fluid/Gender Non-Conforming [or other terminology].” In a four-member E.D., positions would be designated “Male,” “Female,” “Non-Cisgender/Gender Fluid/Gender Non-Conforming [or other terminology],” and “Open Competitive.”

Proposal #3: All candidates would file. If the number of candidates nominated does not exceed the number of positions assigned to the E.D., all are declared elected. If a contest is held, the number of people elected would be limited by sex or gender orientation so that not all positions would be won by persons with the same sex or gender identity. This is similar to the proposal of Emilia Decaudin.

Proposal #4: All candidates would file. If the number of candidates nominated does not exceed the number of positions assigned to the E.D., all are declared elected. If a contest is held, at least one of the winners must be a non-cisgender/gender fluid/gender non-conforming [or other terminology] person if such a person files.

Proposal #5: All candidates would file. If the number of candidates nominated does not exceed the number of positions assigned to the E.D., all are declared elected. If a contest is held, at least one of the winners must be a non-cisgender/gender fluid/gender non-conforming [or other terminology] person if such a person files. If a contest is held, at least one of the winners must be a female if such a person files.

Proposal #6: All candidates would file. There would be no designated positions. There would be no requirement to identify oneself by sex or gender identity. The top candidates in an Election District win if there is a contest, regardless of sex or gender identity.

Proposal #7: All candidates would file. There would be no designated positions. There would be no requirement to identify oneself by sex or gender identity. The top candidates in an Election District win if there is a contest, regardless of sex or gender identity. However, in addition, member at large positions would be created for the following: (1) Non-Cisgender/Gender Fluid/Gender Non-Conforming [or other terminology], (2) physically disabled, (3) veteran, (4) union member, and (5) Pacific Islander/Native American.

Proposal #8: Positions would be designated either “Female” or “Open Competitive.” In a two-member E.D., one position would be designated “Female,” and the other, “Open Competitive.” In a three-member E.D., one position would be designated “Female,” and the other two, “Open Competitive.” In a four-member E.D., two positions would be designated “Female,” and the other two, “Open Competitive.”

Proposal #9 (suggested by one of the academic experts as a possibility): Positions would be designated either “Female” or “Others.” This differs from Proposal #8 in that the latter would have an Open Competitive designation open to all, including females.

The above proposals are summarized here as possible solutions — as a framework for amendments which you may comment on and/or provide your own proposal. The Task Force has not yet collectively reviewed the above proposals, as it awaits your public comments before embarking on the deliberative process of analyzing all proposals, including yours.

FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING YOUR PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Task Force is soliciting public comments from Kings County Democratic County Committee members, State Committee members, enrolled Brooklyn Democrats, membership organizations operating within Kings County, and those interested in improving the party’s organizational structure.

The Task Force desires to base its final recommendation to the Democratic Party not only upon reviewed data and the presentations of the academic and other experts, but upon participation from as many Democrats and interested groups or persons as possible. That is why you are encouraged to participate.

Initial contact with the Task Force must be by emailing us at **KingsDemTaskForce@aol.com**.

At a minimum, every person presenting public comments must provide us with the following information:

- Name
- Residence Address
- Telephone / Cell Phone No.
- Email Address
- Your written comments
- Whether you wish to submit only written comments, or both written and oral comments

Please submit your written comments in your email or as an attachment.

The Task Force acknowledges that some Kings County Democrats do not have Internet service or have difficulty navigating technology. If such circumstances impair your ability to submit an email, please mail the required information listed above to:

Aaron D. Maslow, Chair
Kings County Democratic Task Force on Gender Discrimination and Representation
1761 Stuart Street
Brooklyn, NY 11229

The Task Force desires to hear from as many people as possible at its public forum meetings, where you would present your comments orally in addition to the written ones. There will be follow-up questions from Task Force members. When you submit your written comments, please indicate whether you wish to speak in person also.

The first public forums are scheduled for the evenings of December 7 and 8, 2020, and further ones will be scheduled as needed, depending on the number of responses to this solicitation. They will be conducted on Zoom and the goal is to livestream them. Further details for those who will be presenting oral comments will be sent to you after receipt of the requisite information and written comments. In-person oral comments will be time limited, depending on how many people express a preference for appearing in person via Zoom. It is possible that oral comments may have to be limited to three minutes, but we will inform you in advance of your time limit.

Please feel free to email us at **KingsDemTaskForce@aol.com** with any inquiries about this process.

**PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM
AARON D. MASLOW, CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE**

The appointment of the Task Force by Democratic County Chair Rodneyse Bichotte was, to my knowledge, the first undertaking in a long time by a county political party organization in New York City to thoroughly review its governing structure.

Rather than attempting to amend the Rules hastily, appointing a Task Force to hear and report out a recommendation for the party's consideration was a salutary means of approaching the topic of representation on the County Committee, which impacts not only nonbinary individuals but also males and females, the goal being to obtain input from academic experts, political activists, gender activists, and Democratic Party members. Our recommendation will not be the final word. Whatever recommendation we release will have to be voted upon by the party as a Rules amendment. I do hope, however, that with the Task Force's having expended much time, effort, and deliberation, our recommendation will be given earnest consideration.

We welcome your participation in the process by providing us with your input.

Please email us your name and contact information — even if you decline to present public comments — so that we may keep you abreast of activities of the Task Force and send you a copy of our final report containing our recommendation to the Kings County Democratic Party. Please see the next page.

Dear Democrat:

Please read carefully the enclosed Request and Invitation for Public Comments from our party's Task Force on Gender Discrimination and Representation. The party will be undergoing a restructuring of how its County Committee will be comprised, and you need to be informed!

We want to keep in touch with you and keep you posted on the Task Force's progress. Email to **KingsDemTaskForce@aol.com** the following: your Assembly District (if known), name, address, email address, and tel. / cell phone number.



INFORMATION FORM

Help us keep in touch with you! Write your name and address if not shown.

Write your email address and telephone or cell phone number legibly.

Clip this out and return by mail to the Kings County Democratic Task Force on Gender Discrimination and Representation.

Email Address _____

Telephone / Cell Phone _____

Or cut out the Information Form to the left and mail it to:

Aaron D. Maslow, Chair
Kings County Democratic Task Force
1761 Stuart Street
Brooklyn, NY 11229-2631

[Suggestion: You can cut out the above and paste it on the envelope instead of writing it out!]

