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DOWNTOWN
INDEPENDENT
DEMOCRATS

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**DOWNTOWN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS
CONSTITUTION**

(adopted Jan. 10, 1972, amended Dec. 13, 1984)
(With amendments to February 26, 2001)
(Amended March 22nd, 2004)

ARTICLE I: NAME

SECTION I-1.

The name of the Club shall be: DOWNTOWN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

SECTION II-1.

The purposes of the Club shall be:

- (a) to provide an independent, honest, active, and liberal Democratic organization in the 66th & 64th Assembly Districts, Manhattan;
- (b) to support for public and Party office candidates of ability, integrity, and liberal conviction;
- (c) to work toward making the procedures of the Democratic Party truly democratic;
- (d) to participate actively in the civil affairs of the downtown community and to attempt to further the interests of all its citizens;
- (e) to communicate to elected officials on the Federal, State, and local levels our convictions on important public issues;
- (f) to encourage the participation of all Democrats in the affairs of their Party and to encourage the enrollment in the Democratic Party of persons who subscribe to its principles.

37 ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

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39 SECTION III-1. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

40 Any person 18 years of age or older who subscribes to and desires to further the purposes
41 of this Club shall be eligible for Regular Membership, subject to the payment of dues.

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43 SECTION III-2. DUES

44 Dues for each member shall be \$25.00 per year. Two persons residing in the same
45 household may pay \$40.00 per year for dual membership. Dues for each Student &
46 Elderly members shall be \$15.00 per year. No refund of dues shall be made, nor
47 additional dues assessed, in the middle of a year, except to adjust dues paid by a new
48 member to the January 1 to December 31 membership year. For the purposes of such
49 adjustment, each month of membership shall be assessed at 2 dollars (\$2.00).

50
51 SECTION III-3. HONORARY MEMBERS

52 Honorary Members may be elected by recommendation or the Executive Committee,
53 subject to approval of the general membership. Honorary Members shall have full voice
54 at all Club meetings, but they are not entitled to vote at meetings or to hold Club office.
55 No dues shall be payable by Honorary Members.

56
57 SECTION III-4. MEMBERSHIP IN GOOD STANDING

58 All Members who are not Honorary Members, in order to maintain their membership in
59 good standing, shall pay the annual dues set forth in Section 2 of this Article. Dues shall
60 become payable on January 1 in each year, except for a new Member whose dues shall
61 become payable upon acceptance. All Members who first join this Club on or after
62 October 1 in any year shall be considered fully paid-up Regular Members through and
63 including the next calendar year. A member who has been in good standing in the
64 previous year shall be considered in continuous good standing upon payment of his
65 current dues before April 15. Any Regular Member still in arrears of dues on April 15
66 shall cease to have voting rights until his membership is reinstated by payment of his or
67 her current dues. A member who is no more than one year in arrears in payment of dues
68 may vote immediately upon payment of the dues in arrears; members more than one year
69 in arrears must wait one month to be restored to good standing and eligibility to vote after
70 payment of current dues owed.

71
72 ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

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74 SECTION IV-1. ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS.

75 The Annual Meeting of Members of this Club shall be held during the months of January
76 or February. The purpose of the Annual Meeting shall be election of officers and
77 Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee for the following year, and for the
78 transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

80 SECTION IV-2. OTHER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS.

81 Membership meetings of this Club other than the Annual Meeting may be called at any
82 time by the President or the Executive Committee and shall be called by the President
83 upon the written petition of six members of the Membership in good standing. There
84 shall be a total of at least six membership meetings, including the Annual Meeting,
85 during each year.

86
87 SECTION IV-3 NOTICE.

88 Written notice of the Annual Meeting of Members shall be mailed to all members at least
89 ten (10) days prior to said meeting, and written notice of all other meetings shall be
90 mailed to all members at least Seven (7) days prior to each meeting. Except in cases of
91 emergency, membership meetings shall not be called for a time of day during normal
92 working hours on a business day nor for a place of meeting not in the executive district
93 covered by this Club.

94
95 SECTION IV-4. QUORUM.

96 Twenty per cent (20%) of the members of the Membership in good standing, or 12
97 members, whichever number is lower, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of
98 business.

99
100 SECTION IV-5. VOTING.

101 Except as elsewhere provided in this Constitution, every Member in good standing shall
102 be entitled to one vote and all questions shall be decided by a majority of those Regular
103 Members voting.

104
105 SECTION IV-6. ELIGIBILITY.

106 To be eligible to vote, the Member must have been in good standing for no less than
107 **three** months prior to the vote, if the member lives within the D.I.D. Executive District,
108 and no less than **six** months if the Member lives outside the D.I.D. Executive District. To
109 vote in the Club, the Member may not participate in the voting of any other political club.
110 (amended 2/26/01)

111
112 ARTICLE V: CLUB ELECTIONS

113
114 SECTION V-1. NOMINATIONS.

115 Officers of the Club shall be elected by majority vote of the Members present and voting
116 by secret ballot at the annual meeting of the Club, except that a majority of the Executive
117 Committee may elect to conduct said elections by mail. Any Member, subject to rules of
118 eligibility found in Article VI Section 3, may run for one or more offices, but may serve
119 in only one. The name of a person not present may be placed in nomination only if that
120 person has previously made known a willingness to become a candidate.

121
122 SECTION V-2. BALLOTING.

123 If there is only one candidate for a particular club office, a majority of the Members may
124 ask the Secretary to cast a single ballot for the nominee, and that person shall then be
125 deemed elected. If more than one candidate declares, the secret ballots shall be counted

126 by those members of the retiring Executive Committee who are not candidates for the
127 office or offices being determined by the vote. Once counted, the ballots shall be placed
128 in a sealed envelope and kept by the secretary until after the next regularly scheduled
129 membership meeting. No challenge to the accuracy of the count may be accepted after
130 that next meeting.

131

132 SECTION V-3. MAIL BALLOTING.

133 If a majority of the Executive Committee so decides, Club elections may be conducted by
134 secret mail ballot, provided that this intention is announced in the
membership

135 notification of the annual meeting. Three Members shall be named to a Nominating
136 Committee by a majority of those present and voting at the annual meeting, their
137 selection to be made by secret ballot if more than three persons volunteer.

The

138 Nominating Committee shall receive nominations for the various Club offices, ascertain
139 the willingness of those nominated to run for office, and within one month shall distribute
140 secret ballots to each Member in good standing by mail. Where there is no opposition for
141 an office, the ballot shall offer a space for the voter to write in the name of someone else
142 of his or her own choosing.

143

144 SECTION V-4. LITERATURE ACCOMPANYING BALLOTS.

145 If balloting is done by mail, any candidate for Club office may submit to the Nominating
146 Committee for distribution with the secret ballots a written statement, not to exceed 100
147 words in length, in support of the person's candidacy. Nominees of Club office need not
148 be enrolled in the Democratic Party, but if any nominee is not so enrolled such fact shall
149 be disclosed to the membership in literature accompanying the ballots. Any nominee
150 shall have the right to observe the Nominating Committees count of the ballots.

151

152 SECTION V-5. MAIL BALLOT RESULTS.

153 Promptly after the tabulation of the ballots the Nominating Committee shall communicate
154 the results or the election in person or by telephone to the nominees elected as officers of
155 the Club and by regular mail to the other Members.

156

157 SECTION V-6. VOTING.

158 Whether balloting is by vote in the annual meeting or by mail, each Regular Member
159 shall have one vote for each of the **officers** of ~~President, Vice President, Secretary, and~~
160 ~~Treasurer~~ of the Club, and one vote for each Member-At-Large position of the Executive
161 Committee, regardless of how many nominees there may be for each such office. Votes
162 may not be cumulated for any one office or candidate. Those persons receiving the
163 highest number of votes in the balloting for Members-At-Large of the Executive
164 Committee shall be deemed elected whether the number of vacancies is the Constitutional
165 minimum of three or has been increased by a vote of membership. (Amended 3/22/04)

166

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ARTICLE VI.- OFFICERS

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169 SECTION VI-1. TITLES.

170 The officers of this Club shall be a President, two **Vice Presidents**, Secretary, and
171 Treasurer. In addition, there shall be no less than three Members-at-Large who shall be

172 deemed officers of the Club, and there shall be one Member-at-Large for each 25
173 members of the Club in good standing, or fraction thereof. (Amended 3/22/04)

174
175 SECTION VI-2. TERMS OF OFFICE.

176 All officers shall be elected pursuant to the procedure described in Article V of this
177 Constitution and shall serve until the announcement of the results or the subsequent
178 election conducted pursuant to such procedure.

179
180 SECTION VI-3. QUALIFICATIONS.

181 Any Member in good standing for at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting of
182 Members shall be eligible to hold Club office, provided, however, that no Member shall
183 be eligible to hold more than one of the offices here in before provided in Article VI at
184 any one time.

185
186 SECTION VI-3. OFFICERS

187 (a) **PRESIDENT.**

188 The President shall be the chief administrative officer of this Club and a member
189 of the Executive Committee, and an ex-officio member of all other committees
190 established by the Club. The President shall preside at all meetings of this
191 organization and of the Executive Committee, shall report to the Membership on
192 the activities of the Club, and shall perform such other duties as the Executive
193 Committee may direct. In the conduct of ordinary business during a membership
194 meeting, the President shall vote only in the event of a tie, except that the
195 President may vote in any secret ballot.

196
197 (b) **TWO VICE PRESIDENTS.**

198 In the absence of the President or in the event that the office of President shall
199 become vacant, the Vice President shall preside at meetings of this organization
200 and of the Executive Committee, and shall perform such other duties as the
201 President or the Executive Committee shall assign. In the event of the temporary
202 absence of the President and the Vice President, the Executive Committee shall
203 select one of its members to be Acting President. (Amended 3/22/04)

204
205 (c) **SECRETARY.**

206 The Secretary shall be responsible for the preparation and safekeeping
207 of the minutes **and correspondence** of all proceedings of this Club and of the
208 Executive Committee, and of such other and additional records as the President or
209 Executive Committee may deem advisable. After consultation with the President
210 or the Executive Committee, the Secretary shall prepare and mail notice of all
211 meetings of this Club as may be required by law or by this Constitution. Minutes
212 **and correspondence** prepared by the Secretary shall be open for inspection by
213 any Member in good standing of this Club. (Amended 3/22/04)

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(d) TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds which shall be deposited in a bank or banks designated by the Executive Committee and shall make disbursements only as approved and ratified by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining books of account showing all receipts and disbursements and other such books of account as the Executive Committee may direct. All Club books shall be open to the inspection of any Member In good standing upon ten (10) days notice. The Treasurer shall keep an up-to-date list of all members in good standing, which list shall be determinative of the right of any Member to vote at any meeting of the membership.

(e) MEMBERS-AT-LARGE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Constitution, the Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee shall be deemed officers of the Club as regards their qualifications, election, powers, rights, and duties.

SECTION VI-5. COMPENSATION.

No officer of the Club shall receive any compensation, direct or indirect, for acting in such capacity.

SECTION VI-6. VACANCIES.

If the office of President shall become vacant, the Vice President shall serve as acting President until such time as this organization, at a membership meeting held within 60 days thereafter, shall elect a President to serve the remainder of the unexpired term; provided, however, that if the vacancy shall occur after December 1 the Acting President shall hold office until the next annual meeting. A vacancy in any other office, including Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee, shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term at the next membership meeting.

ARTICLE VII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION VII-1. TERM AND COMPOSITION.

The Executive Committee shall be comprised of all officers of the Club, including at least three (3) additional Members-at-Large. The number of Members-at-Large may be changed by a majority vote at any membership meeting. All officers will be elected for one year with terms commencing on the day the results of the Club election are final. Any Member in good standing of the Club who shall be elected to the office of District Leader shall be automatically a member of the Executive Committee. The two immediate

263 past presidents of the Club, if they remain Members in good standing, shall remain
264 members of the Executive Committee.

265
266 SECTION VII-2. DUTIES.

267 The Executive Committee shall be the managing body of this Club and shall direct and
268 supervise the policies and procedures of this Club and make reasonable rules -and
269 regulations necessary or desirable to its management, subject to the approval or
270 disapproval of the Members by a majority vote at any membership meeting. The
271 Executive Committee shall have authority to decide all issues related to the conduct of
272 election campaigns and the expenditure of money therefor. The Executive Committee
273 shall approve any expenditure greater than \$100, except for routine expenses connected
274 with mailings exclusively to the Club membership.

275
276 SECTION VII-3. MEETINGS.

277 The Executive Committee shall meet regularly, at times and places mutually agreeable to
278 its members, a minimum of four (4) times per year. Prior notice of regular meetings shall
279 not be required. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the
280 President upon the written or oral request of at least three Members of the Executive
281 Committee. Special meetings shall be held upon at least 48 hours verbal notice to all
282 Members of the Committee, except that a shorter notice period shall be permitted in case
283 of emergency. All meetings of the Executive Committee shall be open to all members of
284 the Club and all Regular Members shall have the right to speak, but not to vote, in such
285 meetings. On all questions a majority of the Executive Committee shall be necessary to
286 decide on any matter.

287
288 SECTION VII-4. REMOVAL.

289 The removal of any member of the Executive Committee, including the President, Vice
290 President, Secretary, and Treasurer, for cause may be proposed by petition enumerating
291 the reasons and signed by a majority of the Executive Committee or twelve (12) Regular
292 Members of the Club. The officer in question shall receive at least two weeks notice by
293 certified mail of the time and place of the membership meeting at which the specified
294 charges will be considered. A vote of at least two-thirds of the regular membership
295 present and voting shall be required for removal.

296
297 SECTION VII-5. OTHER COMMITTEES.

298 The Executive Committee, or a majority of those present and voting at a membership
299 meeting, may appoint other committees which shall be subject to the review and control
300 of the Executive Committee and the Club membership.

301
302 SECTION VII-6. QUORUM.

303 One-third of the Executive Committee shall be a quorum for the conduct of all business.
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305 ARTICLE VIII: CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC AND PARTY OFFICE

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307 SECTION VIII-1. ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES IN ELECTIONS.

308 Candidates for any public or party office shall be deemed endorsed by the Club by a
309 majority vote of the general membership or by a procedure, agreed upon by majority
310 vote, made in agreement with other clubs which similarly agree on such procedures. No
311 general membership meeting may vote upon an endorsement of candidates for any public
312 or party office unless a statement that such vote was to be considered was included in the
313 notice of such meeting, provided, however, that three-quarters of the Members present
314 and voting may agree to dispense with such requirement of notice in cases of emergency.
315 All endorsements of candidates for public or party office shall be made by secret written
316 ballot, except (i) when there is no contest, (ii) for minor offices such as county
317 committee, or (iii) pursuant to a procedure approved by the Executive Committee, which
318 will ensure the fair, impartial conduct of the endorsement vote. When endorsements are
319 made at regularly-scheduled membership meetings, votes shall be taken after the
320 candidates for public or party office have been given an opportunity to be heard, and
321 Members of the Club in good standing have been given an opportunity to voice their
322 opinions; excepting that by a majority vote of those Members in Good Standing present
323 and voting, the ballot box may be opened during the course of the meeting so that
324 members who must leave may be allowed to vote.

325

326 SECTION VIII-2. RESCINDING OF ENDORSEMENTS.

327 Any six members of the club in good standing may place a motion to rescind the
328 endorsement of any candidate for public or party office on the agenda of the next regular
329 meeting, and/or may call a special meeting for such purpose which shall be timely called
330 by the president. The motion to rescind shall carry on the vote of a majority Of the
331 members in good standing present and voting. Such procedure may be invoked only once
332 during the course of any election for a public or party office. The endorsement of any
333 candidate for public or party office may be rescinded for a second or subsequent time
334 during the course of an election for that office, on the vote of three-quarters of the
335 members in good standing present and voting at any meeting.

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337

ARTICLE IX: NOTICE

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339 SECTION IX-1.

340 Whenever any notice is required to be given to any person under this Constitution, such
341 notice may be waived in writing under the signature of such person either before or after
342 the event, which required notice period herein provided shall constitute due notice to all
343 persons entitled thereto.

344

345

345 ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

346

347 SECTION X-1.

348 This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership present and
349 voting at any membership meeting, provided that such amendment is proposed in writing
350 and mailed to the membership at least fifteen (15) days but not more than sixty (60) days
351 prior to the meeting. This provision of notification, however, may be waived by
352 unanimous approval of the Members at any Club meeting.

353

354 ARTICLE XI: PROCEDURE

355

356 SECTION XI-1.

357 Except where otherwise provided herein, all procedural questions in this organization
358 shall be determined in accordance with ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER REVISED.

359

360 ARTICLE XII: RATIFICATION

361

362 SECTION XII-1.

363 This Constitution shall go into effect upon its adoption by two-thirds of the members
364 present and voting at any regular membership meeting held after December, 1971, with
365 Amendments going into effect upon their adoption at any similar meeting held after
366 January, 1973.

367

368 Article XIII. PROCEDURE.

369

370 SECTION XIII-1.

371 Except where otherwise provided herein, all procedural questions in this organization
372 shall be determined in accordance with the latest edition of ROBERT'S RULES OF
373 ORDER NEWLY REVISED.