

Dear County Committee Member,

You recently received a card in the mail announcing the next Kings County Democratic Party County Committee meeting on **Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at 8:00 P.M.** in Founders Hall of St. Francis College, 180-182 Remsen Street (between Clinton and Court Streets) in Brooklyn, New York.

IMPORTANT: This announcement contains a returnable card encouraging you to give your proxy vote to Democratic party boss Frank Seddio. We urge you, DO NOT SIGN AND RETURN HIS CARD! We encourage you to do one of the following alternatives:

1. Attend the meeting in person (preferred), or
2. If you cannot attend the meeting, sign and return ASAP the attached card to designate reform champion Nick Rizzo (Male District Leader, 50th Assembly District) as your proxy. (You can also use the enclosed card but cross Nick's name out and designate someone else, such as another trusted county committee member or your own district leader, as your proxy.)

On the other side of this letter, we've listed several **common sense reforms** that we plan to propose at the County Committee meeting. Please review them. We have drafted these reforms in pursuit of the following goals:

- I. **Broaden Participation** While we celebrate the recent return to the required twice-yearly meetings, the value of these meetings is questionable without meaningful opportunities for the membership to participate. By design, Frank Seddio ends up holding a vast majority of the proxies, erecting nearly insurmountable barriers to democratic reform. This must change. Brooklyn's Democrats should model inclusivity in our politics, and be more open and accessible to those interested in participating. To this end, the Kings County Democratic Party should also provide basic legal and campaign finance information and technical assistance specific to the needs of new and existing political clubs across the borough.
- II. **Increase Transparency** Our judicial selection process is broken. Too many Brooklyn judges and judicial candidates do not reflect the values of our party or our borough, and the judicial selection process should not be a playground for political favor-trading. The appearance and the substance of a fair trial in our neighbors' moments of greatest need is of utmost importance; to this end we propose that the judicial nomination process should be made more visible to the public.
- III. **Strengthen Ethics** Public officials who have misused their office for personal gain, and been convicted of such charges, should not be supported by Party leadership or County Committee.

NOTE: If you have already returned Frank Seddio's or anyone else's proxy card, do not worry. Completing the actions labeled #1 or #2 above will revoke that proxy. If you assign your proxy to Nick Rizzo, you will be giving your support to the reforms described in I, II, and III above.

Questions? We're here to answer them. Please email us at countycommitteereform@gmail.com. We look forward to working with you to help improve the local party!

Yours sincerely,

New Kings Democrats, Prospect Heights Democrats for Reform, and Southern Brooklyn Democrats

Additional signatories in formation. For more information go to:
newkingsdemocrats.com/county_committee_reform

We propose the following amendments to the Rules for the Government of the Kings County Democratic County Committee (“the Rules”) to be voted for approval at the organizational meeting to be held on September 21st, 2016 under Article III, §1 of the Rules. This serves as copy of proposed amendments as required under Article X, §1.

Proposed Amendment	Reason for Amendment
<u>Broaden Participation</u>	
The following provision shall be added to Article X §1: “The County Committee will pay for resolutions to be mailed to the complete membership (as required) as long as 20 County Committee members have signed a petition calling for such resolutions, or allow for distribution via email and posting on the website.”	Providing additional opportunities and methods of proposing resolutions and reforms will make County Committee more democratic and responsive to current-day issues and Brooklynites’ needs.
A new section entitled Article III §5c shall be added: “No one person can hold more proxy votes than the number of County Committee members currently serving in his or her Assembly District.”	This reform will decentralize power, and give individual members of the County Committee more of a voice.
A new section entitled Article V. §14 shall be added the following provision: “To lower the threshold for participation and organization, the Executive Committee should provide basic information for new and existing Democratic clubs seeking advice on legal and campaign finance compliance. Such information shall be available on the Party website as well as in print.”	The Kings County Democratic Party has the expertise and responsibility to make club incorporation and campaign finance laws easy to understand and comply with.
<u>Increase Transparency</u>	
Article V §12 shall be amended to read: “Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be conducted in Public Session, except upon a vote of the majority of the voting members present to proceed in Executive Session, which may be limited to a specific item or items. Proxies may not be used on such a motion unless they specifically so authorize. Executive Committee meetings for the purpose of selecting judicial candidates must be held in Public Session. ”	Executive session of the executive committee, when choosing judicial candidates, must be held in public. Judicial candidates should be chosen based on their strong qualifications, humane values, and judicial temperament, rather than traded as political favors among the elected officials of Brooklyn. To ensure this, the judicial candidate selection process should be transparent and not held behind closed doors of executive session.
<u>Strengthen Ethics</u>	
A new section entitled Article IX §5 shall be added: “The County Committee must withhold financial, organizational, and legal support from any politician or candidate who has been convicted of a felony due to corruption or malfeasance related to their public or party office.”	Public officials who willfully betray the trust of their constituents should not be enabled by the Party.

Proxy and Waiver of Attendance

I hereby designate Nick Rizzo as my proxy to vote and otherwise act on my behalf at the meeting of the Kings County Democratic County Committee for the purpose of organization, adoption of rules and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting, scheduled to be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at 8:00 P.M. in Founders Hall of St. Francis College, 180-182 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY, or any adjournments thereof; and also to appoint a substitute under her for like purpose. I hereby revoke any proxy I may have previously signed designating Frank Seddio as my proxy for the same purpose.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: 9 / / 16

Brooklyn, NY _____

PUT
STAMP
HERE

Nick Rizzo
95 Eagle Street, Apt 2
Brooklyn, NY 11222