

July 26, 2017

Members of the Kings County Democratic Party County Committee,

In September 2016, New Kings Democrats, Southern Brooklyn Democrats, Prospect Heights Democrats for Reform, and Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats proposed reforms to the Rules for the Government of the Kings County Democratic County Committee to **increase the transparency, accountability, and opportunities for participation in County Committee**. We demand that the Party leadership take steps to make sure that the local Party—which belongs to all of us—is working to reflect the values that voters expect of the Democratic Party.



**First, the Party needs to improve the meetings of the County Committee.** While we celebrate the recent increase in the number of meetings, the value of these meetings is questionable without meaningful opportunities for the membership to participate. This includes democratizing the decisionmaking process by making it easier to propose rules changes and resolutions, and diluting the concentration of power of the proxy vote system to further empower both County Committee members and District Leaders.

**Second, the Party needs to support ethical and independent leaders.** This includes withholding support from any politician who has been convicted of a felony due to corruption or malfeasance related to their public or party office. The Party should encourage full democratic opportunity in elections. The Party should also prohibit District Leaders from simultaneously holding government elected office. The Party should also increase political participation boroughwide. The Party should support new and existing Democratic clubs to by providing basic information on campaign finance compliance.

**Lastly, the Party needs to improve its role in strengthening the Judiciary.** Brooklyn's judges and judicial candidates do not universally reflect the values of our party or of our borough. In order to guarantee both the appearance and the substance of a fair trial in our neighbors' moments of greatest need, 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.

We believe that the Brooklyn Democrats need to reform now for the sake of the borough, city, state and nation. On the reverse, you will find a side-by-side comparison of what was proposed and the recommendations put forth by the Special Rules Committee to the Executive Committee.

Please be in touch with any questions, thoughts, or ideas at **cc@newkingsdemocrats.com**. We want to hear from you, and we look forward to working with you to improve our Party!

In hopes of a better party,

New Kings  
Democrats

Southern Brooklyn  
Democrats

Central Brooklyn  
Independent Democrats

Prospect Heights  
Democrats for Reform

Connect  
with us!





Reform Coalition Proposed Amendment	County Proposed Amendment (summary)
<b><u>Broaden Participation</u></b>	
<p>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."</p>	<p>Resolutions that make it to the Agenda will be on the website before any meeting with New Business. The process for getting on the Agenda now involves submitting it to the Chair 10 days before meeting, and collecting 5 County Committee member signatures from at least 5 of the 7 different Civil Court districts.</p>
<p>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."</p>	<p>The proxy notice will now have a blank space after the Chairperson's name for optional proxy for any other CC member. If it is left blank or the name is not a member of the County Committee, or they don't show, then the Proxy Holder will go back to the Chairperson or their designee.</p>
<p>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."</p>	<p>The Kings County Democratic Party has rejected this amendment.</p>
<b><u>Increase Transparency</u></b>	
<p>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."</p>	<p>Executive Committee Judicial votes may be held in public session only if a majority of the committee votes to do so. However, no member of the Executive Committee may nominate or cast a vote for a judicial endorsement if they are a member of his or her immediate family.</p>
<b><u>Strengthen Ethics</u></b>	
<p>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."</p>	<p>The Kings County Democratic Party supports this amendment.</p>