

# CONSTITUTION OF THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

## ARTICLE I

Name:

The name of the Club shall be: BROADWAY DEMOCRATIC CLUB.

## ARTICLE II

Goals and Purposes:

This Club is established in response to the conviction that the United States, New York State and New York City are obligated to use their resources and powers –

- To insure their citizens an adequate standard of living;
- To guarantee them employment;
- To assure decent housing for everyone;
- To provide adequate health care for everyone;
- To effect a more equitable distribution of wealth;
- To regulate the power of business corporations, public utilities and other institutions;
- To equalize opportunity for everyone regardless of race, creed, gender, sexual orientation or age;
- To encourage an American foreign policy which promotes the right of people throughout the world to govern themselves;
- To provide a complete education for everyone;
- To protect the benefits of our natural and cultural environment;

and that, despite shortcomings, the Democratic Party is potentially the best vehicle for achieving these necessary social and economic changes;

and that to this end, this Club is committed –

- to providing assistance to people in obtaining services they need through increasing the access to and accountability of elected and appointed officials;
- to encouraging the participation of its members and other concerned persons in formulating new priorities and policies for our society;
- to involving everyone in the community, including those who may not have previously participated in the political process, in finding solutions to community problems;
- to endorsing candidates for Party and public office who are dedicated to furthering the principles, priorities and policies of this Club;

- to securing the adoption of such policies and priorities by the Democratic Party and by the State and Federal Governments;
- to working closely with elected officials on issues and problems of concern to the community;
- to continuing reform of the Democratic Party toward adherence to democratic processes and the elimination of abuses of political power;
- to cooperating with like-minded organizations in achieving common goals.

## ARTICLE III

### Membership:

#### Section 1 – Qualifications

Any person who subscribes to and desires to further the goals and purposes of the Club, as set forth in Article II, shall be eligible for membership. Only persons who are enrolled Democrats and registered to vote from an address in the Club’s area, as described in Article XV, shall be eligible to become “Voting Members.”

#### Section 2 – Classes and Privileges

(a) Voting Members shall be eligible to vote on any business before the Club. Any eligible person shall become a Voting Member upon payment of annual dues, as set forth in Section 3 of this Article.

(b) Supporting Members shall not be eligible to vote on any matter before the Club or to serve as a Club Officer or Club Steering Committee Member. However, they are eligible to serve as members of Club committees. Any person not eligible to be a Voting Member may become a Supporting Member upon payment of annual dues as set forth in Section 3 of this Article.

#### Section 3 – Dues

Dues shall be set at such other amount as the Club may determine by vote at a meeting called, in part, for that purpose. The Club may, by vote, create classes of Voting Members entitled to a reduction in dues.

#### Section 4 – Expulsion

The expulsion of any member for conduct inimical to the best interests of the Club, or contrary to the purposes of the Club, as set forth in Article II, may be proposed by a petition enumerating the reasons therefore, signed by at least 5 (five) members of the Steering Committee or twenty-five Voting Members of the Club, and presented to the Secretary. The Secretary shall present such petition to the Steering Committee at its next meeting. At that meeting the petition may (a) be dismissed by a majority of the full membership of the Steering Committee or (b) be tabled until a subsequent meeting of the Steering Committee to be held not less than two weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall give the member in question at least ten days

notice of the time and place of such meeting, the charges against him or her, and his or her right to make a statement, in person or in writing, to such a meeting. At such meeting, a vote of at least two-thirds of the full membership of the Steering Committee shall be required for expulsion. If the Steering Committee votes to expel a member, the decision may be appealed by said member, or by any other member, to the full Club membership at the next meeting of the Club, upon notice by the appellant member to the Secretary or the President. If such appeal is made, the expulsion by the Steering Committee shall be inoperative unless ratified by at least two-thirds of the Club members present and voting.

## ARTICLE IV

### Meetings:

#### Section 1 – Annual Meetings

The annual meetings of the Club shall be held on the third Thursday in January. The purpose of the meeting shall be the election of Club officers and members of the Steering Committee, together with other such business as may properly come before such meeting.

#### Section 2 – Other Meetings

Meetings of the Club other than the annual meetings shall be on the second Thursday of every month except July and August. The scheduled meeting date may be changed by the Steering Committee for valid cause, given sufficient written notice.

#### Section 3 – Emergency Meetings

Emergency meetings of the Club may be called at any time by the President or by the Steering Committee, and shall be called by the President upon the written request of 20 percent of the Club's voting members.

#### Section 4 – Notice

All members shall be given at least 5 days and not more than 14 days written notice of all meetings.

#### Section 5 – Quorum

25 percent of the voting members or 25 voting members, whichever is less, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Club business.

#### Section 6 – Voting

Each voting member who shall have paid his or her annual dues for that calendar year, and who shall have attended at least one of the nine previous meetings of the Club, shall be eligible to vote on all business that may come

before the Club at an annual, monthly or emergency meeting. Each voting member shall be entitled to one vote, to be cast in person or by proxy, except that each proxy vote shall be cast according to the following rules:

- a voting member who expects to be absent from a meeting may cast a proxy vote at that meeting for himself or herself only;
- the proxy must be signed by the giver, or otherwise identified as bona fide;
- the proxy giver must designate the name of the proxy carrier, who must be a voting member of the Club;
- the proxy carrier may carry only one proxy.

#### Section 7 -- Agenda

The President, with the Secretary, shall prepare an agenda for each meeting which shall consist of all items of business directed to be placed thereon by the President or the Steering Committee and such additional items of business as 20 members or 15% of the voting membership, whichever is less, shall request by written petition submitted to the Secretary at least 7 days before the meeting. Items of business not on the agenda may not be considered at a meeting without the consent of two-thirds of the voting members present.

### ARTICLE V

#### Officers:

##### Section 1 – Titles

The officers of the Club shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

##### Section 2 – Term of Office and Eligibility

The Club's officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Club each year and shall serve until and through the next year's annual meeting and until a successor shall have been elected and shall have qualified. No person may be elected to the same Club office for more than two consecutive full terms, and in any case may not serve in the same Club office for more than 2 years, 6 months, nor be elected to a term that would result in so serving. No person may be elected to more than four full terms in any combination of offices within a six year period.

##### Section 3 – Membership ex-officio on the Steering Committee

The officers shall be members ex-officio of the Steering Committee with full powers.

##### Section 4 – Duties

- a. The President shall be the chief administrative officer of the Club. He or she shall preside over all meeting of the Club and of the Steering

- Committee. He or she shall submit a report to the membership, at each meeting of the Club, on the condition and activities of the Club, and he or she shall perform such other duties as the Steering Committee shall from time to time direct.
- b. The Vice-President shall, at the direction of the President, supervise the activities of the standing committees and special committees of the Club, and shall perform such other duties as the President or the Steering Committee shall, from time to time, direct. In the event of temporary absence of the President, the Vice-President shall serve as acting President.
  - c. The Secretary shall be responsible for the preparation and safekeeping of the membership rolls, attendance rolls and the minutes of all proceedings of the Club, and of such other records as he or she, or the President, or the Steering Committee may deem advisable, and shall be responsible for notifying the membership of Club meetings. The Secretary shall be responsible for making the membership rolls accessible to members or others pursuant to Article XI.
  - d. The Treasurer shall have custody of all Club funds, which shall be deposited in a bank or banks designated by the Steering Committee. The Treasurer shall make disbursements of Club funds only pursuant to policies set by the Steering Committee or the Club. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the maintenance of the Club's books of account, showing all receipts and disbursements, and of such other books of account as the Steering Committee may direct, which books shall be open to the inspection of any voting member of the Club upon reasonable notice. The Treasurer shall prepare and submit all financial reports required by law. The Treasurer shall render an account of the financial condition of the Club at each meeting of the Steering Committee and at the meetings of the membership.

#### Section 5 – Vacancies

If any Club office shall become vacant, the Steering Committee shall select a person to fill such vacancy on an acting basis. The Club membership, at its next regular meeting, shall then select a person to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

#### Section 6 – Removal

Any officer of the Club or member of the Steering Committee may be removed by a vote of a majority of the members present and voting at a regular meeting of the Club, provided that no such vote may take place unless the notice of said meeting included a notice that such a vote was to occur. The removal of any officer or member of the Steering Committee may be proposed by a petition submitted to the Secretary and signed by at least 5 members of the Steering Committee or 25 percent of the voting members of the Club. The Secretary shall then include the vote on the removal of said officer or member of the Steering Committee on the agenda

of the first possible regular meeting of the Club to vote for such removal. Only voting members of the Club will be eligible to vote on the question of removal.

## ARTICLE VI

The Steering Committee:

### Section 1 – Number

The Steering Committee shall consist of 12 persons plus the Club officers.

### Section 2 – Term of Office

Members of the Steering Committee shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Club, and shall serve until the next annual meeting of the Club, or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified.

### Section 3 – Qualifications

Any voting member of the Club who is not a Democratic District Leader, member of the Democratic State Committee or elected public official shall be eligible to serve as a member of the Steering Committee.

### Section 4 – Functions

The Steering Committee shall be the governing body of the Club, shall direct and supervise the policies, management and procedures of the Club, and pursuant to these functions may make such rules and regulations not inconsistent with law or this Constitution as it may deem necessary and proper.

### Section 5 – Meetings

The Steering Committee shall meet on the call of the President within 14 days following the annual meeting and thereafter shall meet on a specific day once every month on such dates as it may determine at its first meeting following the annual meeting. Special meetings may be called at any time on at least 24 hours notice given by the President, or in his or her temporary absence by the Vice President, and shall be called by the President upon the written petition of 5 or more members of the Steering Committee.

### Section 6 – Quorums and Voting

A majority of the members of the Steering Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Every member of the Steering Committee shall be entitled to one vote on all questions, which shall be cast in person and, except as elsewhere provided in this Constitution, all questions shall be decided by a majority of those present and voting.

### Section 7 – Vacancies

If any vacancy in the Steering Committee shall occur, the Club membership, at its next regular meeting, shall select a person to serve, the remainder of the unexpired term.

## ARTICLE VII

Election of Officers and Members of the Steering Committee:

### Section 1 – Time

The officers and members of the Steering Committee shall be elected at the annual meeting.

### Section 2 – Nominations

The Secretary shall, at least four weeks prior to the annual meeting, notify members that nominations for Club office and Steering Committee membership are open. All persons nominated who have consented to such nomination in time for inclusion shall be listed on the notice of the Club's annual meeting. In addition, those nominated who consent prior to or at the annual meeting but after notice is mailed shall be eligible for election. Further, any Club member nominated at the annual meeting who consents at such meeting shall be eligible for election. Finally, all defeated candidates for office shall be eligible to be voted upon for membership on the Steering Committee.

### Section 3 – Voting Procedure

(a) Voting shall be by secret written ballot.

(b) Officers - Each member entitled to vote shall have one vote and a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. If no nominee receives a majority on the first ballot, additional ballots shall be had between the nominees having the two highest numbers of votes until one such nominee obtains a majority. The election of Club President shall occur first, followed by the election of officers in the order they are named in Article V, Section 1 hereof.

(c) Steering Committee - There shall be a single ballot for members of the Steering Committee. Each member entitled to vote shall have one vote for up to 12 positions on the Steering Committee, and the 12 nominees who receive the highest number of votes cast shall be elected. If there is a tie for the 12th position, a run-off shall be held at the same meeting.

## ARTICLE VIII

Endorsement of Candidates for Public and Party Office in Primary Elections:

## Section 1 -- Voting Procedure

- a. The Club may endorse candidates for public or party office. Endorsement of candidates for election for public or party office where such office is to be voted upon in a forthcoming primary elections in the Club's area, or in a larger political subdivision which includes all or part of the Club's area shall take place, if not scheduled earlier at the last regular Club meeting that occurs prior to the first date on which designating petitions for said office can be signed.
- b. Voting for endorsement shall be conducted by the method of Instant Runoff Voting. Each voting member shall cast one ballot. A ballot shall consist of a list of the candidates known to be running, as well as "No Endorsement", for each office. If there are only two candidates running for an office, the candidate with a majority of votes shall receive the club's endorsement. If there are more than two candidates running for an office, the voting member shall indicate preferential ranking by numbers - 1 for first preference, 2 for second preference, 3 for third preference. No more than three choices shall be such marked, though a member may choose to rank fewer than three candidates. A count of first place votes shall then be conducted. If a single candidate has received a majority of votes, that candidate shall be deemed to have won the vote, and shall be endorsed by the club. Otherwise, whichever candidate (other than No Endorsement) has the fewest total votes shall be eliminated, and their votes shall be redistributed to the next choice down the list. In the case where no further choices are listed on a ballot, that vote shall then be distributed to No Endorsement. After each redistribution, if a single candidate has a majority of votes, that candidate shall be endorsed. If the process reduces to a single candidate, and that candidate does not have more votes than No Endorsement, no endorsement shall be given by the club.
- c. In cases where the office being sought by candidates seeking Club endorsement represents only part of the Club's area, at least ten votes must be cast by members living in the district represented, and the candidate must win the vote among those members living in said district, as well as the vote of the full club, pursuant to the procedure outlined in the previous paragraph, to be considered endorsed by the Club.
- d. The provisions of this section shall not apply to candidates for election as members of the democratic County Committee.

## Section 2 – Endorsement of Candidates in General Elections

All duly nominated candidates of the Democratic Party shall be deemed to have received the endorsement of the Club unless 50 percent of the voting members, present and voting at a meeting at which this question is on the agenda, shall determine not to endorse such candidate or candidates. In such

case, another candidate may receive endorsement of the Club if a resolution to that effect carries by a two-thirds vote.

### Section 3 – Primary Election Designating Petitions

The Club is authorized to circulate primary designating petitions for:

- (a) Any candidate endorsed by the Club pursuant to Section 1 of this Article
- (b) any candidate for membership on the Democratic County Committee of New York County
- (c) Any candidate for election to Democratic Party Office or for Democratic nomination for public office where such office is to be voted upon in a political subdivision which includes election districts within the Club's area, if the club has not voted on endorsement for such office.

## ARTICLE IX

### Committees

#### Section 1 – Audit Committee

There shall be an Audit Committee which shall examine and audit the books of account of the Club within 30 days following the election and qualification of a new Treasurer and at such other times as the President or the Steering Committee shall direct. A report shall be submitted to the Steering Committee at the first meeting following any such audit.

#### Section 2 – Other Committees

The President or the Steering Committee may from time to time create such other committees as may be deemed necessary.

#### Section 3 – Committee Chairs and Members

Chairs of all committees shall be appointed by the President, with the consent of the Steering Committee, and may be removed at any time by the President. Members of all committees shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the respective chairs.

## ARTICLE X

### Use of Club Name

No person, whether a member of the Club or otherwise, shall use the name of the Club in any way which may indicate official sanction by the Club of any statement or action or which may indicate support by the Club of any candidate for any office without prior authorization by the Steering Committee or by the membership of the Club.

## ARTICLE XI

### Accessibility to Membership Records

Any candidate for public office or Democratic Party office, or any candidate for Club office or for Club Steering Committee, or a representative designated by such person in writing, shall have reasonable and timely access to the membership list of the Club, upon payment to the Secretary of the cost to the Club of reproduction of the membership roll. Any voting member shall have similar reasonable access to the membership list of the Club for Club-related business. Such list shall contain the names and addresses of members, but shall not include the phone number, fax number or e-mail address of any member unless expressly requested by such member.

## ARTICLE XII

### Notices

All notices required by this Constitution shall be deemed given when mailed or e-mailed.

## ARTICLE XIII

### Parliamentary Procedure

Parliamentary procedure shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order (Revised) in the absence of any contrary provisions in this Constitution.

## ARTICLE XIV

### Patronage

#### Section 1 -- District Leaders and State Committee Members

The Club shall not endorse any person for Democratic District Leader or for State Democratic Committee unless such person has pledged not to accept a patronage appointment for himself or herself while serving in such capacity.

#### Section 2 – Club Officers and Members of Steering Committee

No person shall be eligible for election or to serve as a Club officer if such person holds a patronage appointment.

#### Section 3 – Family Members

District Leaders, State Committee members, and Club officers, an immediate family member of whom has accepted a patronage appointment, shall inform the President and the Secretary of the Club of such fact, so that they may in turn inform the Club membership.

#### Section 4 – Definition of Patronage

For the purposes of this Article, a patronage appointment shall be any discretionary appointment, terminable at the discretion of the appointing authority, made in any arm of government, or made in any political campaign, to perform for meaningful compensation, any service or job, or shall be any court appointment made on the basis of a political recommendation.

## ARTICLE XV

### Membership in Other Political Clubs

No member of the Club shall be permitted to become a voting member of the Club who is a member of another local district political club and who has voted or who intends to vote on any matter before such club in the same calendar year.

## ARTICLE XVI

### Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Steering Committee, or by written petition signed by 20 voting members or by 15 percent of the voting membership, whichever is less, and presented to the Secretary. To become effective, any amendment so proposed must be approved and adopted thereafter by 60 percent of the voting members present at two consecutive meetings of the Club which shall be a least one week apart. The substance of of the change to be effected by such proposed amendment or amendments must be included in the notice of each of the aforesaid consecutive meetings, and the notice of the second meeting shall further state that final action will be taken upon amendment or amendments to this Constitution.

## ARTICLE XVII

### Club Area

Broadway Democrats is the official Democratic organization in the 69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, Part C. For purposes of voting eligibility, the Club's area shall be the 69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, plus the five blocks formerly in the 69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District that were moved to the 67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District in the Redistricting Plan effective January 1, 2003, plus the block in the 70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District bounded by Tiemann Place, Broadway, West 125<sup>th</sup> St., and Riverside Drive. (The Club Area is shown on the map(s) annexed hereto and made a part hereof.)