

HK Dems Draft Constitution

Executive Summary

Spurred into action from the 2016 election, the Hell's Kitchen Democrats is a political club serving the residents, workers, and friends of Hell's Kitchen on behalf of progressive principles. The Constitution is supplemented by the club's Bylaws, meant to help implement the rules of the Club.

The Club's purpose is provide an open, inclusive place for the community to organize on behalf of the Democratic Party and Democratic candidates for office. Its power derives from its membership, which has the sole authority over the governance of the club. There is no singular appointing authority within the Club's structure. The club's governing area is the neighborhood of Hell's Kitchen and any Assembly District that overlaps therein.

While anyone with an interest in Democratic politics in Hell's Kitchen can join, the membership is tiered. There are General Members, those who support the club's work and pay membership dues, and there are Voting Members, those who support the club's work, pay membership dues, and are permitted to vote on Club business based on eligibility of the individual, including party registration or "identity."

The Constitution provides for the club to hold at least eight membership meetings per year, which ensures the Club's presence within the community.

The Club is governed by an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is to be made up of the following Officers:

- President
- Vice President
- Director for Communications
- Director for Membership and Public Outreach
- Director for Programing and Events
- Director for Political Affairs
- Treasurer
- Corresponding Secretary
- Recording Secretary

The Executive Committee will also include no less than six Members at Large, and the party officials: District Leaders and State Committee Members, shall serve Ex Officio.

Officers and Members at Large stand for election each year at the Club's Annual Meeting, which takes place in February. The process for nomination of an Officer can come through the Elections Committee and/or nomination from the floor at a membership meeting. The election of Officers is by secret ballot. If the office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall fill the role; if any other office is vacant, the Executive Committee selects a person to fill the role on an acting basis, until the next Officer election is held.

The Constitution also provides for six standing committees, chaired by its respective Director or a Chair appointed by the Executive Committee. They include:

- Membership and Public Outreach
- Communications
- Events and Programming
- Political Affairs
- Fundraising
- Elections

The Club also may endorse Democratic candidates who overlap with the Club Area or in a race in which it declares an interest to do so. Candidates can be nominated for the Club's endorsement and those nominated will be voted on by secret ballot by the Club's Voting Members.

The initial adoption of the Constitution and Bylaws requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of Voting Members at the meeting at which it is presented for adoption. The Constitution also provides for ways to amend the Constitution and the Bylaws.