

HELL'S KITCHEN DEMOCRATS INTERIM CONSTITUTION

This document shall, upon approval by the Hell's Kitchen Democrats membership, by majority voice vote, at its April 2017 meeting, be the interim constitution of the Hell's Kitchen Democrats (hereinafter referred to as the Organization" organization") until a new constitution is ratified. The Executive Committee (Article IV) shall appoint a special constitutional committee in September, 2017. The constitution committee shall draft a proposed new constitution and present it to the organization at its October full meeting. The organization will discuss revisions and recommendations at its November meeting and the constitution committee shall present a revised proposal for the organization to vote to ratify at its December meeting.

Article I: Name

The name of the organization shall be the Hell's Kitchen Democrats.

Article II: Mission Statement

Hell's Kitchen Democrats is an open, diverse, and inclusive political home and Democratic club for Hell's Kitchen Democrats to become informed, stay connected, and be empowered to take action. The primary geographic area of the organization is Part B of the 75th Assembly District and any postal ZIP code area that overlaps any portion of that Part. We advocate for progressive issues and to elect strong Democratic candidates to public and party office and working to influence social and economic polices at the local, state, and federal levels.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: Eligibility

Membership in the Hell's Kitchen Democrats is open to any New York City resident who subscribes to the goals and ideas stated in the organization's mission statement. To be eligible to nominate a candidate or vote in any organization election of officers or endorsement of candidates, a member shall not have voted on any such matter in any other Democratic club in the previous six months. To be eligible to vote on any matter, a member shall have paid membership dues for the year in which the vote takes place and have attended two meetings in the last year. To be eligible to hold any office in the organization, a person shall be a member who is eligible to vote in an election for that office.

Section 2 : Dues

Membership dues for the organization shall be \$10 for the year of 2017.

Section 3. Power of the Membership

The membership of the organization shall, by majority vote at membership meetings, and consistent with the mission statement and other provisions of the constitution, determine the policies and work of the organization, elect the officers of the organization, and endorse candidates for public or party office.

Article IV: Leadership

Section 1: Officers

The officers of the organization shall be:

- President – The President will be the head officer of the organization. The President shall preside at organization and Executive Committee meetings

and shall be responsible for executing the decisions, policies and programs of the organization as provided by the membership and the Executive Committee.

- Vice-President – There shall be 3 Vice-Presidents, who shall assist the President in specific aspects of the organization’s work. There shall be a Vice-President for Programming, a Vice-President for Communications, and a Vice-President for Membership. A Vice-President shall preside over organization meetings/activities if the President is unable to do so.
- Secretary – The Secretary shall be responsible for recording notes of each club meeting and providing minutes to the membership and conducting organizations] correspondence and handling communications.
- Treasurer – The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial and monetary transactions of the organization, maintaining the organization’s books of account, preparing and submitting all organization reports and filings required by law, and preparing financial reports to be presented from time to time at organization meetings.
- Members At Large - Members at large will serve as organization leadership in a nonspecific role, working on behalf of the organization’s mission and agenda as necessary and requested by the President and Vice-Presidents. The number of members at large shall be determined from time to time by the organization.
- The Democratic Party female and male district leaders of the organization’s primary geographic area shall be officers of the organization, if they had been the organization’s endorsed candidate for their respective offices.
- Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of all the officers of the organization. The Executive Committee may exercise the power of the membership between meetings of the membership, except for the election of organization officers and the endorsement of candidates for public or party office. However, the Executive Committee may endorse

organization candidates for the Democratic Party offices of judicial convention delegate and county committee member if authorized by the membership.

Section 2: Elections

At a membership meeting for nominating candidates for organization officers, beginning with President, followed by Vice President of Programming, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Membership, Secretary, Treasurer and Members at Large, the floor shall be opened for any eligible member to nominate any other eligible member for that position. That candidate may accept or decline the nomination. This process shall continue until no additional candidates are nominated. Uncontested nominees shall be elected by voice vote of the membership. For contested positions: each nominee shall have 1 minute to speak to the organization; any member may speak for one minute for or against any candidate; the election shall be by secret written ballot, and the candidate with the most votes shall be elected.

Article V: Endorsements

In order to advocate to elect strong Democratic candidates to public and Democratic Party office, during the May 2017 meeting, the organization may endorse candidates for any public or Democratic Party office to be voted on in any part of the primary geographic area, the 2017 Democratic primary or general election. The endorsement process for any position shall be as follows: The floor shall be opened for any eligible member to nominate a candidate for endorsement for that position. That candidate may accept or decline the nomination. This process shall continue until no additional candidates are nominated. Uncontested nominees shall be endorsed by voice vote of the membership. For contested positions: each nominee

shall have 1 minute to speak to the organization; any member may speak for one minute for or against any candidate; the endorsement shall be by secret written ballot, and the candidate with a majority of the votes shall be endorsed. For any contested endorsement, if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, a second ballot shall be conducted, with the candidate who received the fewest votes on the first ballot removed. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast on the second ballot, the organization shall make no endorsement for that position. The organization may consider endorsement of candidates for public or Democratic party office after the May 2017 meeting if there has been a substantial change in the electoral contest since that meeting. The membership may authorize the Executive Committee, instead of the membership, to endorse candidates for the Democratic Party offices of judicial convention delegate and county committee member

Section 1: Elected Public Officials

The organization may endorse candidates for public office, beginning with Mayor, followed by Borough President, Comptroller, Public Advocate, City Council Member, District Attorney and judge of the Civil Court.

Section 2: Democratic Party Officers

The organization may endorse candidates for the Democratic Party position of female district leader male district leader, female state committee member, male state committee member, judicial convention delegate, and county committee member.

Article VI. Organization Funds and Resources

The funds and resources of the organization shall only be used as authorized by the

membership, the Executive Committee, or as required by law. An appropriate officer of the club may authorize the use of club funds or resources consistent with this article.