

RULES OF THE NEW YORK STATE COMMITTEE OF THE WOMEN'S EQUALITY PARTY

ARTICLE I

ESTABLISHMENT OF RULES

The Women's Equality Party having attained party status as that term is defined under the New York State Election Law at the General Election held on November 4, 2014 does hereby adopt the following rules:

1. **NAME.** The name of this party shall be WOMEN'S EQUALITY PARTY.
2. **SYMBOL.** The symbol for the Women's Equality Party shall be:



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3. **JURISDICTION.** The jurisdiction of the Women's Equality Party shall be the State of New York.

4. **PURPOSE.** Women work hard to support themselves and their families and make up 54% of the electorate in New York State. When women thrive, all of society thrives. The Women's Equality Party (WEP) works to ensure that the voices of women will be heard at all political levels. The WEP supports candidates and policies that end barriers to equality, eliminate discrimination, safeguard reproductive health, and protect women from violence.

ARTICLE II

INTERIM COMMITTEE

1. **Interim Committee.** Until a State Committee is elected by the enrolled voters of the Women's Equality Party in accordance with these Rules and the provisions of the Election Law, an Interim Committee consisting of no fewer than three (3) and no more than seven (7) individuals shall exercise all of the powers of the State Committee as set forth herein and by applicable law. The names and residence/post office addresses of the Interim Committee are set forth on Exhibit A attached hereto. The members of the Interim Committee shall serve until their successors are duly elected as provided herein and by statute. The unit of representation for

each Interim Committee member shall be the State of New York. Each Member of the Interim Committee shall cast one vote on all matters coming before the Interim Committee. Each Interim Committee member shall be a registered voter residing within the State of New York and after the first Tuesday following the General Election held in Calendar Year 2015 shall be an enrolled member of the Women's Equality Party. Except as expressly provided in this Article II the Interim Committee shall comply with all of the rules and adhere to all of the procedures set forth herein for the governance of the State Committee. The Interim Committee shall have Officers which shall act for the full Interim Committee when it is not in session or stands in recess. Such Officers, shall serve as the Executive Committee, and shall have the same powers and prerogatives and shall comply with all rules relating to the State Executive Committee as set forth herein.

2. **Officers.** The Officers of the Interim Committee shall be a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, and such other Officers as the Interim Committee shall from time to time deem appropriate. The initial Officers of the Interim Committee shall be elected by majority vote of those supporters of the Women's Equality Party who file the within Rules. Thereafter the Officers of the Interim Committee shall be elected by the Interim Committee. After the first Tuesday following the General Election in Calendar Year 2015 each officer shall be an enrolled member of the Women's Equality Party. The names and residence/post office addresses of such Officers shall be filed with the Board of Elections.

3. **Vacancies.** The initial members of the Interim Committee and the initial Officers of the Interim Committee shall be elected by a majority of the supporters of the Women's Equality Party who file the within Rules. Thereafter, vacancies in any such positions shall be filled by the Interim Committee.

4. **Procedural and Organizational Matters.** The Interim Committee and the Officers, serving as the Executive Committee of the Interim Committee, shall be governed by the within Rules, as set forth for the governance of the State Committee and State Executive Committee in Articles IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX (Sections 5 only), X (Section 12 only), XI, XII, and XIV below.

5. **Nominations through the General Election in Calendar Year 2015.** All nominations, authorizations, substitutions, and filling of vacancies of a candidate for election for any public office in any election prior to and including the General Election in calendar year 2015 shall be made by the Interim Committee and if the Interim Committee is not in session or stands in recess such nominations, authorizations, substitutions and filling of vacancies shall be made by the Executive Committee of the Interim Committee.

7. **Nominations After the General Election in Calendar Year 2015.** After the General Election in calendar year 2015 and until the State Committee is elected and organized as provided below and by law, the Interim Committee shall exercise all powers conferred by Article X of these Rules on the State Committee and if the Interim Committee is not in ses-

sion or stands in recess such powers shall be exercised by the Executive Committee of the Interim Committee.

ARTICLE III

STATE COMMITTEE

1. **Elected State Committee.** The Interim Committee shall take all action required by law to conduct an election of State Committee Members at the Fall Primary Election to be held in calendar year 2016. The unit of representation at such Fall 2016 Primary Election and all state committee elections thereafter shall be the Senate District. One (1) State Committee members shall be elected from each Senate District in New York State.

2. **Term.** Commencing with the State Committee elected in calendar year 2016 and thereafter all State Committee members shall serve a term of two (2) years or until their successors are duly elected as provided herein and by statute. State Committee elections shall be held subsequently at the Fall primary election biennially in even numbered years

3. **Qualifications for Membership.** Each member of the State Committee shall be an enrolled member of the Women's Equality Party residing within the Unit of representation from which such member is elected except as may be permitted pursuant to EL § 2102(3) in years when district lines are altered or adjusted.

4. **Officers.** The Officers of the State Committee shall be a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer and such other Officers as the State Committee from time to time deems appropriate. Each officer shall be an enrolled member of the Women's Equality Party residing within New York State. The names and residence/post office addresses of such Officers shall be filed with the Board of Elections as required by law.

5. **Executive Committee.** The State Committee shall elect a State Executive Committee which shall act for the full State Committee when it is not in session or stands in recess. The State Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of the State Committee plus six (6) additional members. Such additional members of the State Executive Committee may but need not be members of the State Committee. The Officers of the State Committee shall fill the said additional officer positions on the State Executive Committee. Each member of the State Executive Committee shall be an enrolled member of the Women's Equality Party residing within New York State. In addition to its other duties, the State Executive Committee shall in any county where no County Committee has been elected and organized pursuant to the Election Law, exercise and discharge, within such county, all of the powers, functions and duties of the County Committee or the County Executive Committee, including, but not limited to, the issuance of nominations, authorizations, substitutions and filling of vacancies with respect of public officers.

6. **Prohibitions.** No member or officer of the State Committee or State Executive Committee shall receive any remuneration (excluding expenses) for his/her service in that capacity.

7. **Removal.** Except as otherwise may be provided by law, a member or officer of the State Committee or the State Executive Committee may be removed by such Committee if they are no longer eligible for service, for disloyalty to the party, or corruption in office after notice and a hearing upon written charges, to be heard by such committee or a sub-committee appointed for that purpose, which shall report its finding to the full committee.

8. **Committees.** The State Committee or State Executive Committee may create such committees as are deemed necessary or desirable.

ARTICLE IV

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The State Committee shall, within fifteen days after its election, meet and organize by the election of Officers and adoption of rules and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting. Such meeting shall be held at the time and place set forth in the notice of meeting which meeting shall be called by the Secretary of, in the first instance, the Interim Committee, and then subsequently by the outgoing duly elected State Committee.

ARTICLE V

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Notice of the time and place of the organizational meeting shall be served by mailing a notice of meeting to each member post marked not less than five days before such meeting. Such notice shall be directed to the address of each member as it appears on the records of the New York State (or any County or City) Board of Elections unless a member has notified the Secretary in writing of a different address at which notice should be provided.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

Meetings of the State Committee other than the organizational meeting shall be held (i) upon the call of the Chair, or in the case of vacancy in the office of the Chair, on the call of the First Vice Chair or (ii) upon the call of a majority of the Executive Committee in which case such committee shall designate a member of the Executive Committee to issue such call. Upon written petition of one-third (33 1/3%) or more of the members of the State Committee, filed jointly or separately in the office of the Chair seeking for a meeting of the State Committee, it shall be the duty of the Chair within 10 days after receipt of said petition to issue a call for the meeting of the State Committee to be held in New York State, the date of such meeting to be not

later than 20 days, or earlier than 10 days from the issuance of the call. In the event that the Chair shall fail to call such meeting within 10 days after the filing of such petition, the same shall be called by the First Vice Chair or the Secretary. The agenda of any meeting called by petition shall be limited to items expressly and specifically set forth in the subject petition and no other matters shall be considered at such meeting. Meetings of the State Executive Committee may be held in person or by telephone, at the discretion of the Chair. Any member of the State Executive Committee unable to participate in person at a meeting may participate by telephone. A meeting of the State Executive Committee may be called by the Chair or any three members thereof on not less than 24-hours notice by telephone or email or three days written notice if such notice is mailed. Any telephone meeting of the State Executive Committee or telephone participation in a meeting by any member thereof shall be by "conference telephone" wherein each member shall be able to hear and participate at the same time as the other members.

ARTICLE VII

NOTICE OF MEETINGS OF THE STATE COMMITTEE

Notice of the time and place of every meeting other than the organizational meeting shall be served by mailing or faxing or emailing or texting a notice to each member post marked or sent not less than five days before such a meeting. Such notice shall be directed to the address of each member as it appears on the records of the New York State (or any County or City) Board of Elections unless a member has notified the Secretary in writing of a different address at which notice should be provided.

ARTICLE VIII

QUORUM REQUIREMENTS

At all meetings of members of the State Committee, or the State Executive Committee, there shall be present in person or with reference to the State Committee but not the State Executive Committee represented by proxy, at least a majority of the members in order to constitute a quorum. For purposes of determining whether a quorum is present the Officers of the Committee shall be considered members of the Committee. If a Quorum is not present, the members present shall adjourn the meeting to some future time, not more than 30 days later. With respect to the State Executive Committee only, participation by telephone shall constitute being present at the meeting.

ARTICLE IX

VOTING

Section 1. State Committee Meetings. Except as expressly provided in Section 2 and Section 3 of this Article IX, on all votes each member of the State Committee shall cast one (1) vote.

Section 2. Election of Officers and Members of State Executive Committee. On all votes pertaining to the election of the Offices of the State Committee and members of the State Executive Committee each member of the State Committee shall cast the whole number of votes cast for Governor from the Unit of representation as described in Article III which he or she represents, on the line or column of the Women's Equality Party in the last preceding general election for Governor (hereinafter the "weighted vote").

Section 3. Nominations for statewide office. On all votes pertaining to the nomination, substitution or authorization of a candidate for state wide office, or any other office which may properly be considered by all or any part of (see Article X, Sections 4, 5 and 7 below) the State Committee, each member of the State Committee shall cast the whole number of votes cast for Governor from the Unit of representation as described in Article III which he or she represents, on the line or column of the Women's Equality Party in the last preceding general election for Governor.

Section 4. Executive Committee Meeting. In all Executive Committee Meetings each member of the Executive Committee shall cast one (1) vote.

Section 5. Proxies. Voting by proxy at any meeting of the State Committee shall be valid. Proxies shall be in writing and revocable at the pleasure of the person executing the same. On any question, motion, nomination, substitution, authorization or election, a majority vote shall carry such question, motion, nomination, substitution, authorization or election. Only another member of the State Committee may hold the proxy of an absent member. No person may hold more than six proxies.

ARTICLE X

NOMINATIONS FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

1. The nomination and authorization of candidates for any office to be filled by the voters of the entire state shall be made by the State Committee. Substitution of such candidates shall be made by the State Executive Committee.

2. The nomination and authorization of candidates for President and Vice President of the United States and for the office of elector of President and Vice President of the United States shall be made by the State Committee. Substitution of such candidates shall be made by the State Executive Committee.

3. Nominations for the office of Justice of the Supreme Court shall be made by the Women's Equality Party Judicial District Convention(s) which convention(s) shall be constituted by the election of delegates and alternate delegates from each Assembly District contained in whole or in part in the subject judicial district as follows:

- a. Each Assembly District or part of an Assembly District contained within the subject Judicial District shall elect one delegate and one alternate delegate and one additional delegate and one additional alternate delegate for every 250 votes or major fraction thereof cast on the Women's Equality Party line or column in the last preceding general election for Governor.
- b. Each delegate and each alternate delegate to any Judicial District convention shall (i) be an enrolled member of the Women's Equality Party, and (ii) reside within the Judicial District from which such delegate or alternate delegate is elected.
- c. The State Executive Committee shall fix the time and place of meeting of judicial district conventions and shall issue the call for any such convention.

4. The nomination of a candidate for election to fill a vacancy in an elective office required to be filled at the next general election, occurring after seven days before the last day for circulating designating petitions or after the holding of the meeting or convention to nominate or designate candidates for such elective office shall be made by the State Executive Committee provided, however, that if such elective office shall fall within a County with a Women's Equality Party County Committee elected and organized pursuant to the Election Law, and if the rules of said County Committee make provision for the filling of said vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with that provision; and provided further that if such elective office shall fall within more than one county, the vacancy shall be filled by the vote of the State Committee members representing Senate District wholly or partly within the district where the vacancy has arisen. In filling such vacancy each such State Committee member shall cast the whole number of votes cast for Governor from that portion of the Senate District he or she represents that is within the district where the vacancy has arisen, on the line or column of the Women's Equality Party in the last preceding general election for Governor.

5. Nominations for public office to be filled at a special election shall be made by the State Executive Committee provided, however, that if such elective office shall fall within a County with a Women's Equality Party County Committee elected and organized pursuant to the Election Law, and if the rules of said County Committee make provision for the filling of said vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with that provision; and provided further that if said elective office shall fall within more than one county, the vacancy shall be filled by the vote of the State Committee members representing Senate Districts wholly or partly within the district where the vacancy has arisen. In filling such vacancy each such State Committee member shall cast the whole number of votes cast for Governor from that portion of the Senate District he or she represents that is within the district where the vacancy has arisen, on the line or column of the Women's Equality Party in the last preceding general election for Governor.

6. Vacancies in nomination made at a Judicial District Convention, or by the State Committee, or by the State Executive Committee, or by any other Committee or entity pursuant to these rules or by statute shall be filled by a committee, appointed by such Convention or State Committee or State Executive Committee or other committee or entity to nominate candidates, to fill vacancies in nominations made by such Convention or State Committee or State Executive Committee or other committee or entity, provided however, that in the event that such committee to fill vacancies is not appointed or fails to act, the State Executive Committee may fill such vacancies.

7. In all cases where the Election Law allows a vacancy in nomination to be filled by such committee as the rules of the party may provide, or in any other case of a vacancy in nomination or designation, said vacancy shall be filled by the State Executive Committee provided, however, that if such elective office shall fall within a county with a Women's Equality Party County Committee elected and organized pursuant to Election Law, and if the rules of said County Committee make provision for the filling of said vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with that provision and provided further that if such elective office shall fall within more than one county, the vacancy shall be filled by the vote of the State Committee members representing Senate Districts wholly or partly within the district where the vacancy has arisen. In filling such vacancy each such State Committee member shall cast the whole number of votes cast for Governor from that portion of the Senate District he or she represents that is within the district where the vacancy has arisen, on the line or column of the Women's Equality Party in the last preceding general election for Governor. In the event of any vacancy in a nomination or designation not provided for above, said vacancy shall be filled by the State Executive Committee.

8. Except to the extent otherwise provided herein and by law with respect to certain offices to be filled by all the voters of the City of New York, the State Executive Committee shall authorize the designation, nomination or substitution of a person as a candidate for any office who is not enrolled as a member of the Women's Equality Party provided, however, that if such person shall be a candidate for an elective office which falls within a county with a Women's Equality Party County Committee elected and organized pursuant to Election Law, and if the rules of said County Committee make provision for the authorization of said candidacy, the candidacy shall be authorized in accordance with that provision; and provided further that if such person shall be a candidate for an office which falls within more than one county, any authorizations for such candidacy shall be made by the vote of the State Committee members representing Senate Districts wholly or partly within the district for which the authorization is sought. On any vote regarding such authorization each State Committee member shall cast the whole number of votes cast for Governor from that portion of the Senate District he or she represents that is within the district where the authorization is sought on the line or column of the Women's Equality Party in the last preceding general election for Governor. Authorization of the designation, nomination or substitution of any person as a candidate for Mayor, Comptroller or Public Advocate of the City of New York shall be made at a joint meeting or joint meetings of the Executive Committees of the County Committees of each of the five counties of the City of New York. At such joint meeting every vote taken shall be by each county executive committee casting the total

number of votes equal to the vote cast in such County for the candidate of the Women's Equality Party for Governor in the last preceding gubernatorial election. The Chair of each county executive committee, in his or her discretion, shall apportion the vote for such county equally among the members of the subject executive committee. In the event of any omission, or error or failure to elect or organize a Women's Equality Party County Committee or County Executive Committee in any County in the City of New York, the State Executive Committee may authorize the nomination of a person who is not enrolled as a member of the Women's Equality Party for the public offices of Mayor, Comptroller and Public Advocate of the City of New York.

9. An authorization provided for herein shall be signified by the filing of a certificate, signed and acknowledged by the presiding officer and the secretary of the meeting at which such authorization was given, authorizing such designation, nomination or substitution with the officer or board with whom or with which such designation or substitution is required to be filed.

10. Prior to the Women's Equality Party organizing on a State and County level following the election of party Officers at the Fall 2016 Primary Election the Interim Committee shall have the authority to do all things conferred by this Article X on the State Committee and the Officers of the Interim serving as the Executive Committee shall have the authority to do all things conferred by this Article X on the State Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XI

VACANCIES IN STATE COMMITTEE

In case of the death, declination, disqualification removal, from the district or removal from office of a member of the State Committee, or the failure to elect a member of the State Committee, the vacancy created thereby shall be filled by the remaining members of the State Committee by the selection of an enrolled voter of the party qualified for election from the unit of representation in which such vacancy occurred, except as may otherwise be provided by law.

ARTICLE XII

ADDITIONAL RULES

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern in all meetings of the State Committee and Executive Committee insofar as they are applicable and not inconsistent with these rules.

ARTICLE XIII

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

No County Committee shall be recognized unless elected, organized and constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Election Law. Each county Chair must be elected by a legally constituted county committee pursuant to the Election Law. The State Executive Com-

mittee will be available to consult with the various County Committees and provide model rules for consideration. The State Executive Committee may appoint an Interim County Chair, who shall serve at the pleasure of the State Executive Committee until a County Chair is elected by a legally constituted County Committee.

ARTICLE XIV

EXCLUSIVITY

These Rules shall be the exclusive rules of the Women's Equality Party. No other Rules shall be effective unless approved in writing by the State Committee. No other Interim Committee, Officers or Executive Committee of the Interim Committee, or State Committee, or Executive Committee of the State Committee, shall have any right or authority to act in furtherance of or in the name of the Women's Equality Party. No other persons shall have any right or authority to act in furtherance of on the name of the Women's Equality Party.

ARTICLE XV

AMENDMENT

These Rules may be amended, changed or repealed at any meeting of the State Committee, by a majority vote of the members of such committee present at a meeting at which there is a quorum, provided, however, that a copy of the proposed amendment or amendments shall be sent with the notice of the meeting at which such amendment is to be proposed. Such notice shall be given as provided in ARTICLE VII above.

Amendments to these rules may be proposed by the State Executive Committee or by one-third (33 1/3%) or more of the duly elected members of the State Committee. Such proposed amendment(s) shall be filed with the Secretary of the State Committee who shall be required to call a special meeting of the State Committee within fifteen days after the receipt thereof, setting forth the purpose or purposes of such meeting and giving the notice required in the preceding section. Such proposed amendments may also be filed with the Secretary not less than fifteen days before any fixed or regular meeting of the State Committee. In such case, the Secretary shall mail a copy of the proposed amendment to each of the members of the State Committee, together with the notice of the meeting and such amendments shall come before such fixed or regular meeting for consideration and action.

New Rules may be adopted or amendments to these rules may be made as of course and without the notice required in the proceeding paragraphs of this Article XV, at the organizational meeting of the State Committee.

These Rules may not be amended, changed or repealed by the Interim Committee or the Executive Committee of the Interim Committee, or any other entity or individual purporting to act in furtherance of or in the name of the Women's Equality Party.

EXHIBIT A

Interim Committee Members

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Residence/Post Office address</u> |
|---------------------|--|
| Cecilia Tkaczyk | 154 Barton Hill Road, Delanson, NY 12053 |
| Rynn (Hannah) Reed | 354 Marcus Garvey Blvd. Apt #2, Brooklyn, NY 11221 |
| Mohini Sharma | 18 Davis Street, Binghamton, NY |
| Virginia Scholomiti | 631 Larry Hill Road, Delanson, NY 12053 |
| Joy Black | 922 West Shore Road, Delanson, NY 12053 |
| Sandra McGarraugh | 126 Braman Corners Road, Delanson, NY 12053 |

EXHIBIT B

INITIAL OFFICERS OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE (MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE)

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Address</u> | <u>Position</u> |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|
| Cecilia Tkaczyk | 154 Barton Hill Road, Delanson, NY 12053 | Chair |
| Rynn (Hannah) Rheed | 354 Marcus Garvey Blvd. Apt #2 Brooklyn, NY 11221 | Vice-Chair |
| Mohini Shwarma | 18 Davis Street, Binghamton, NY 13905 | Treasurer |
| Virginia Scholomiti | 631 Larry Hill Road, Delanson, NY 12053 | Secretary |

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION OF RULES

of the

STATE COMMITTEE

of the

WOMEN'S EQUALITY PARTY

The undersigned being the Chair and Secretary respectively of the Interim Committee of the Women's Equality Party hereby certify that the attached "Rules of the New York State Committee of the Women's Equality Party" were duly adopted by a majority of supporters of the Women's Equality Party who filed the within Rules, said persons constituting the Interim Committee of the Women's Equality Party at a meeting at which a quorum was present held on August 26, 2015 in the County of Schenectady, Town of Duanesburg and State of New York.

Dated:

Cecilia F. Skaggs

, Chair

Dated:

Virginia Schwab

, Secretary

STATE OF NEW YORK)

) ss. :

COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

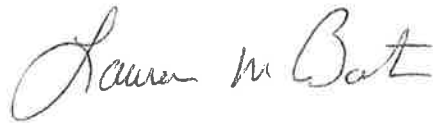
On the day 28 of August 2015 before me personally came Cecilia F Tkaczyk to me known and known to me to be the individual described in and who executed the foregoing Certificate of Adoption of Rules and who acknowledged to me that s/he executed the same and who being by me duly sworn did depose and say that the matters therein stated are true to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Dated: August 28, 2015

STATE OF NEW YORK)

) ss. :

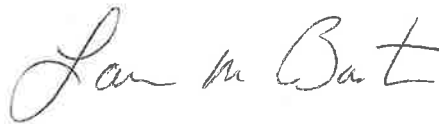
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)



LAUREN M. BARTON
Notary Public, State of New York
Qualified in Schoharie County
Reg. No. 019A6076724
Commission Expires July 1, 2018

On the 28 day of August 2015 before me personally came Virginia Schlemmer to me known and known to me to be the individual described in and who executed the foregoing Certificate of Adoption of Rules who acknowledged to me that s/he executed the same and who being by me duly sworn did depose and say that the matters therein stated are true to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Dated: August 28, 2015



LAUREN M. BARTON
Notary Public, State of New York
Qualified in Schoharie County
Reg. No. 019A6076724
Commission Expires July 1, 2018