



# ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY

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October 17, 2023

Dear New York State Board of Elections,

I am writing to encourage the Board of Elections to amend future template ballot petition forms for District Leader and State Committee Member candidates to provide increased inclusivity, accessibility, and clarity for candidates and voters.

Candidates for District Leader and State Committee Member must, on each form, [note their gender](#) as either male (M), female (F), or non-binary (X) next to their name on their ballot petition. My office fully supports the intent of this rule: promoting greater gender inclusivity in political party leadership while expanding beyond a binary gender choice, which, though initially successful in expanding gender diversity amongst district leaders and state committee members, was excluding many New Yorkers. In line with this critical aim, I ask the Board of Elections to provide an area on the ballot petition template to provide this gender mark explicitly.

One way to accomplish this goal is to add a separate box to include the gender marker (M, F, X) on all ballot petition templates. This minor addition would reduce the chance that individuals seeking to volunteer their time to support their communities as District Leader and State Committee Member are not prevented from being on the ballot due to an accidental omission. Here is an option for how to present this:

Name(s) of Candidate(s)	Gender Marker (if applicable) M=Male, F=Female, X=Nonbinary	Public Office or Party Position (Include district number, if applicable)	Residence Address

I also recommend that the Board of Elections include explicit instructions in the petitioning handbook, for both petitions and cover sheets, to clarify where and when to include the gender marker and for which positions. I hope future petition templates and instructions will include this important information. Thank you for your vital work to administer our elections and support New York’s democratic process.

Sincerely,

Alex Bores  
Assemblymember for the 73rd District