

CONSTITUTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE I: Organization

The District of Columbia Democratic Party shall consist of persons who are registered as Democrats in the District of Columbia. The District of Columbia Democratic Party shall be the recognized by the Democratic National Committee.

ARTICLE II: Purpose

- A. The governing body of the District of Columbia Democratic Party shall be known as the District of Columbia Democratic State Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “State Committee”).
- B. It shall be the responsibility of the State Committee to conduct the affairs of the Democratic Party in the District of Columbia, such as:
 - 1. Programs of voter registration and education;
 - 2. Assist in the election of candidates for President and Vice President of the United States and candidates for national and local office; and
 - 3. Undertake any other activities necessary to achieve the purposes of the Democratic Party in accordance with the By-Laws of the State Committee.
- C. The State Committee shall have the power to charter ward organizations and other groups seeking to operate as official organizations of the Democratic Party of the District of Columbia. Should a conflict exist between the chartered organization’s ratified Constitution and/or By-Laws and the Constitution and/or By-Laws of the State Committee, the State Committee shall have the authority to approve or reject the Constitution and/or By-Laws of any such group. All amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws of chartered organizations must be submitted to the State Committee for review.
- D. Candidates
 - 1. The State Committee shall establish and maintain rules of eligibility for candidates seeking the Democratic nomination for public or party office in the District of Columbia primary election.
 - 2. The State Committee shall have the authority to endorse candidates in a manner as determined in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE III: Membership

- A. The State Committee shall consist of eighty-one (82) members as follows:
 - 1. Twelve (12) members at-large (six men and six women) elected citywide by the Democratic electors of the District of Columbia.
 - 2. Thirty-two (32) ward members, four to be elected from each ward (two men and two women) by the Democratic electors of their respective wards.

3. The National Committeeman, the National Committeewoman, the Alternate National Committeeman and the Alternate National Committeewoman elected citywide by the Democratic electors of the District of Columbia;
4. The Chairperson of each recognized Democratic Ward Committee;
5. Twelve (12) additional members (six men and six women) who shall be ex-officio members of the State Committee with full rights of participation, including the right to vote. Such ex-officio members shall be elected by the State Committee for a term of two (2) years. Such election shall occur at the regularly scheduled meeting following the Annual Meeting;
6. Four representatives, two male and two female, of the District of Columbia Young Democrats who shall serve as ex-officio members with full rights of participation, including the right to vote;
7. Two representatives, one male and one female, of the College Democrats who shall be elected by its membership to serve as ex-officio members with full rights of participation, including the right to vote;
8. Two representatives from the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club who shall be elected by its membership with full rights of participation, including the right to vote, and two representatives from the D.C. Federation of Democratic Women elected by its membership with full rights of participation, including the right to vote; and
9. Two representatives elected from an Asian and Pacific Islander caucus of Democrats administered by the State Committee with full rights of participation, including the right to vote, and two representatives elected from a Hispanic/Latino caucus of Democrats administered by the State Committee with full rights of participation, including the right to vote. *

B. State Committee members in Article III, Sections A. 1-4, shall be elected in the Democratic Primary to be held in November of each presidential election year under the District of Columbia Election Laws.

C. To be eligible for membership on the State Committee, a person must be registered as a Democrat in the District of Columbia and must maintain a legal domicile/residence within the District of Columbia.

D. A position on the State Committee shall be declared vacant if any of the following occurs:

1. A member changes his/her registration from the Democratic Party;
2. A member removes his/her legal domicile/residence from the Ward in which elected;
3. A member changes his/her residence from the Ward in which elected;
4. A member becomes a candidate for public office in a general election in opposition to the officially designated candidate of the Democratic Party of the District of Columbia;
5. A member resigns; or
6. A member is removed in accordance with Article II, Section A.3 of the By-Laws of the State Committee. The office shall be declared vacant and filled as provided in the By-Laws of the State Committee.

E. All members of the State Committee except for those listed in Article III, Sections A. 4, 5, 6, and 7 shall hold office for four (4) years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

- F. Resignations from membership on the State Committee shall be made in writing to the Chairperson who shall forward a copy to the Chairperson of the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics. Persons deemed to have resigned pursuant to paragraph C. of this Article shall be considered to have resigned when notice of the disqualifying condition has been certified to the Chairperson by the Board of Elections and Ethics as provided for in the By-Laws of the State Committee.
- G. Members may be removed by petition in accordance with Article II, Section A.3 of the By-Laws.
- H. All vacancies occurring on the State Committee shall be filled as provided for in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV: Officers

- A. The Officers of the State Committee shall be a Chairperson, A Vice-Chairperson, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer. The officers of the State Committee shall be elected from among the members of the State Committee as provided in the By-Laws of the State Committee, each of whom shall serve a term of two (2) years unless reelected as provided in the By-Laws of the State Committee.
- B. It shall be the duty of the Chairperson to make certain that the business of the State Committee is conducted according to law and the State Committee Constitution and By-Laws. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the State Committee and the Executive Committee and shall prepare each year a State of the District of Columbia Democratic Party report to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the State Committee.
- C. It shall be the duty of the Vice Chairperson to act for the Chairperson in the absence or incapacity of the Chairperson.
- D. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep record of the meetings of the State Committee and the Executive Committee and to maintain the records of the Democratic Party of the District of Columbia in a safe and in an orderly manner.
- E. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to maintain the correspondence of the State Committee and a record thereof, including all notices to members of the State Committee.
- F. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to maintain the funds of the State Committee in a financial institution and in a prudent manner and to keep an account thereof and report regularly thereon to the State Committee.

ARTICLE V: Meetings

- A. Meetings
 - 1. Annual
 - a. There shall be an Annual Meeting of the State Committee at which business as provided for in the By-Laws shall be conducted. The Annual Meeting shall be held during the first week of October of each year.

2. Other Meetings

- a. The State Committee shall hold regular meetings at a time to be established in the By-Laws, provided that there shall be no fewer than four (4) regular meetings per year, including the Annual Meeting.
- b. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairperson, or if the Chairperson refuses or fails to call a meeting within fifteen (15) days after a written request to do so signed by one-fifth (1/5) of the members of the State Committee, by the National Committeeman and the National Committeewoman.

3. Meeting Notices and Quorum

- a. Notice as set forth in the By-Laws shall be given of all meetings of the State Committee, provided that no less than seven (7) days notice shall be given for any regular meeting and no less than forty-eight (48) hours notice for any special meeting.
- b. One-third (1/3) of the actual membership shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business, and the State Committee shall act by majority vote of those present and voting, unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution or By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI: Committees

A. Committees

1. There shall be an Executive Committee, which shall consist of the Officers, the National Committeeman, the National Committeewoman, the Alternate National Committeeman, the Alternate National Committeewoman, the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees, the Chair of the Ward Chairs, and the President of the Young Democrats of the District of Columbia. It shall conduct the business of the State Committee between regular meetings and shall report actions taken to the State Committee at the next regular meeting.
2. The Standing Committees shall be:
 - a. Constitution and By-Laws
 - b. Finance
 - c. Party Organization and Function
 - d. Statehood
 - e. Voter Education and Affirmative Action
 - f. Issues
3. There shall be such other Committees as deemed necessary.
4. Members of the Committees shall be appointed as provided for in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII: Elections

- A. There shall be a Democratic Party Primary Election in the year of the meeting of the National Convention of the Democratic Party of the United States.

B. At each Primary Election there shall be elected the members of the State Committee as set forth in Article II of this Constitution.

C. National Committeemen and Committeewomen

1. In each such Primary Election there shall be elected the Democratic National Committeeman, National Committee woman, Alternate National Committeeman, and Alternate National Committeewoman. It shall be the duty of the Democratic National Committeeman and Committeewoman to attend all the meetings of the Democratic National Committee.
2. To be eligible for election to the Office, a candidate must be a registered Democrat in the District of Columbia and a resident for the ninety (90) days preceding his or her election.
3. In the event the office of National Committeeman or Committeewoman shall become vacant, the office shall be filled by the respective Alternates.

D. Delegates to the Democratic National Convention

1. In each year of a Democratic National Convention, the State Committee shall be responsible for plans and rules governing the election of Delegates and Alternate Delegate to the Democratic National Convention.
2. Delegates and Alternate Delegates must be Democrats registered in the District of Columbia and residents of the District of Columbia for the ninety (90) day period preceding their election.
3. The election of Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall be governed by the District of Columbia Election Laws, the official delegate selection rules of the Democratic Party of the United States and the Delegate Selection Plan adopted by the State Committee.
4. The State Committee shall meet prior to the Democratic National Convention to certify Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Democratic National Convention.
5. The Delegates who represent the District of Columbia Democratic Party at all conventions and conferences of the National Democratic Party shall be officials of the District of Columbia Democratic Party.

ARTICLE VIII: Amendments

- A. **This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the State Committee members present and voting** upon proper notice of the meeting set for the adoption of the proposed amendment.
- B. A proposed amendment must be submitted in writing to the members of the State Committee at least thirty (30) days before the meeting at which it will be considered. Amendments to the proposed amendment must be submitted in writing to the members no later than seven (7) days prior to the expiration of the thirty (30) day period. All such amendments shall be considered at the meeting set for the consideration of the proposed amendment.

***As amended by DCDCS at 6-3-04 meeting.**