

Bylaws of
The Democratic Party of Douglas County

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Adopted this 22th day of May, 1999

Signed: Clark Morris _____, Chairperson

Witness: Bill Stroud W.G. Stroud, Secretary

PREAMBLE

Washington State Law (RCW 29.42) and the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington (amended 9/13/95) govern the charter and actions of the legislative districts central committees (LDCC) and county central committees (CCC). The committees' Bylaws are their own basic rules relating principally to each committee as an organization, rather than to the parliamentary procedures that they follow. The Bylaws must be consistent with the principals of the State law and the Party Bylaws.

Article VIII of the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington defining the County Central Committee is attached as Appendix 3.

Bylaws of the
Douglas County Democratic Party

Article I

Name

The name of this organization shall be the Douglas County Democratic Party (DCD).

Article II

Objectives

The objectives of DCD shall be to promote the National and State Democratic Parties; to Establish County Democrats as a Voice in the Community; to Recruit and Support Democratic Candidates for the Public Office; to Publically Support Democrats elected to Public Office; to Define and Vocalize Democratic Issues of Interest to the Public.

Article III

Members

1. The members of the DCD shall be all residents of the Douglas County who declare themselves to be Democrats, including all duly elected or appointed Douglas County Democratic Precinct Officers, members of the DCD Executive Board, and officers of the DCD.
2. Annual dues shall be 20 dollars, payable at the first meeting of the calendar year. The Treasurer will notify the member(s) in writing who are more than two months in arrears.
3. Any member desiring to resign from the DCD shall notify the Secretary in writing, who will inform the Executive Board of the action.

Article IV

Officers

1. The Douglas County Central Committee composed of all elected and appointed precinct committee officers shall be the governing body of the County Democratic Party and shall have the responsibility for conducting party affairs at the County level.
2. The officers of the DCD shall be a chairperson, first vice-chair, second vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, state committeeman and state committee woman. The chair and first vice-chair will be of different genders. These officers plus three PCO's will constitute the Executive Board. They shall perform the duties defined by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the DCD (See Article VIII).
3. Officers will be elected in strict compliance with the Procedures established by the Washington State Democratic Central Committee (see Article X, Appendices, Special Rules of Order).
4. Officers will be elected to serve for two years or until their successors are elected. Their term of office shall begin at the time of the biannual election. There is no limit to the number of terms they may serve.
5. Elections shall be held biannually, no later than the second Saturday of January following a general (or even year) election in accordance with RCW 29.42.030.
6. An officer may be removed from office by majority vote of the governing body for failure to carry out the duties defined by these Bylaws and the parliamentary authority or for conduct prejudicial to the objectives of the DCD.

Article V

Meetings

1. Meetings will be open to all declared Democrats.
2. The regular meetings of the DCD shall be held on the fourth Thursday of each month throughout the year unless otherwise ordered by the Chair or petitioned by three members of the Executive Board.

3. Special meetings such as the biannual election meetings in January (see Article IV) may be called by the Chair or by the Executive Board. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call; at least two weeks notice shall be given.

4. Two-thirds of the County Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI

The Executive Board

1. The officers of the DCD plus three Precinct County Officers (PCO) shall constitute the Executive Board. The Chair shall appoint the three PCO's from the pool of elected and appointed PCO's.

2. The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the DCD between its business meetings, fix the hour and place of the meetings and perform those duties specified by these Bylaws and the parliamentary authority (Article VIII). No action of the Board shall conflict with action taken by the DCD or its governing organization, the State Democratic Party.

3. The Board will meet the fourth Thursday of the month throughout the year.

Article VII

Committees

1. The Executive Board, by two-thirds vote, may establish such committees as are warranted by the business of the DCD. These may be standing or special as necessary.

2. The Chair will appoint a Finance Committee, composed of the Treasurer and three other members of the DCD promptly at the first meeting of each year. This Committee shall prepare a budget for the current year, shall propose fund raising activities and shall audit the Treasurer's accounts at the end of the year. The audit results will be reported at the first meeting of the year, in writing.

3. The Chair shall appoint a Program Committee of three from the Executive Board, whose duty shall be to plan the annual program of the DCD. This committee's report shall be submitted to the DCD for its approval at its regular meeting in May.

Article VIII

Parliamentary Authority

The rules and procedures contained in the current (1990, 9th Edition) edition of "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised" shall govern the DCD in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

Article IX

Amendment of Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the DCD by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.

Article X

Appendices

Appendix 1. Special Rules of Order: "Procedures for the nomination of candidates for filling vacancies in single county legislative districts." Please see attached.

Appendix 2. Standing Rules

a) Receipt and Disbursement of Funds

i. The treasurer shall deposit all funds received by the DCD, and shall disburse the funds of the DCD in accordance with these Bylaws or by resolution of the DCD. The treasurer shall maintain accurate books of account, showing all monies received and spent, as well as all assets and liabilities of the DCD. The treasurer shall maintain a checking account (and savings account, if appropriate) at a financial institution approved by the Executive Committee. No investments shall be made without the prior approval of the Executive Committee.

ii. Bills or other reasonable administrative expenses may be incurred by the chair or Executive Committee and shall be paid by the treasurer upon receipt of proper billing or other invoice. Campaign donations shall require the approval by majority vote of the DCD before payment. Contributions to political campaigns shall be based on the Executive Board recommendations to the DCD.

iii. The members of the DCD may authorize, by resolution at any meeting, the chair or the Executive Committee to expend funds for any specified purpose. In doing so, the members may impose such restrictions or conditions as it sees fit.

iv. The DCD is authorized to expend funds in support of, or opposition to, any candidate for partisan political office. Campaign donations may be made for either the primary or general election, or for special elections. The members may impose restrictions or other conditions which they deem appropriate.

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v. At each regular meeting, or at such other times as are requested by the chair, the treasurer shall give a summary of the financial status of the DCD, showing receipts and expenditures. The treasurer shall be responsible for submitting all necessary reports or statements to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission.

b) Endorsements

i. The DCD shall not make any preprimary or preconvention endorsements of candidates, except for uncontested primary races.

ii. The foregoing does not preclude the DCD from publicly indicating that someone who has declared to be a Democratic candidate, is not recognized by the DCD as a member of the Democratic Party by reasons of his or her conspicuous actions or statements.

iii. Since the purpose of the DCD is to promote the Democratic Party and support democrats who are running for public office, members of the DCD Executive Board shall not publicly campaign for candidates for elective positions that have not filed for the office as a Democrat. The exceptions are for non-partisan positions and those elective offices in which no democrat has filed as a candidate.

Appendix 3.

Democratic Party of State of Washington

Article VIII
County Central Committees

A. The county central committee shall be the governing body of the county Democratic Party and shall have the responsibility for conducting party affairs at the county level. It shall be composed of all elected and appointed precinct committee officers.

- B. In any county central committee only elected precinct committee officers and precinct committee officers appointed after the organization meeting shall vote for county chair, vice chair, state committeewoman, state committeeman, any representative of the county central committee is authorized to send to other party organizations and on the adoption or amendment of bylaws. County central committees may allow other Democrats to participate in all other functions.
- C. Each county central committee shall be organized according to state law, the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington, and other provisions pursuant to the authority of the Charter. Its organizational meeting shall take place in December or January following each state general election held in even-numbered years. At the organizational meeting, the committee shall elect a chair, a vice chair, a state committeewoman, a state committeeman and any representatives it is authorized to send to other party organizations.
- D. The county central committee shall have a minimum of four (4) regular meetings a year unless there are legislative district organizations within the county.
- E. In counties with legislative district organizations, the county central committee may establish a county executive board.

Washington State Democratic Central Committee

PROCEDURES FOR THE NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR FILLING
VACANCIES IN SINGLE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

1. These procedures shall apply to the filling of vacancies for any legislative seat in a district contained in a single county, except that the county central committee of any county containing one or more entire legislative district may adopt a procedure for filling such vacancies to apply to any legislative vacancies occurring after the adoption of such procedure.
2. The county Democratic chair shall call a special caucus of the district precinct committee officers for the purpose of filling legislative district vacancies. The county Democratic Chair, or the Chair's designee, shall preside over all such meetings.
3. Candidates must be registered voters residing in the district where the vacancy exists, and must be otherwise qualified for office.
4. Only duly elected and appointed precinct committee officers are eligible to vote. To be eligible to vote, appointed precinct committee officers must have been appointed by the county chair prior the occurrence of the vacancy. No proxies or absentee ballots are allowed.
5. A declaration of candidacy not to exceed five minutes shall be made from the floor by the candidate and/or someone speaking on his/her behalf. No person ineligible to be appointed may be nominated. When there are no further declarations of candidacy the issue shall come to a vote.
6. Each precinct committee officer shall cast one vote on the ballot provided. By a vote of the caucus, balloting shall be by one of the following methods:
 - A. Separate nominations and elections shall be held for the first, second and third ranked positions. In the event that no person receives a majority on the first ballot, the person receiving the least votes shall be eliminated and another ballot taken. On succeeding ballots the same rule shall apply until one person receives the majority of the votes cast for that position.
 - B. Nominees for the first, second and third ranked positions shall be selected in a single election. After the first ballot the votes shall be tabulated and the ranking of the candidates by vote totals shall be announced. If there are more than three candidates the top three shall be retained and the others stricken from the ballot and another vote taken. Again, each voter shall cast one vote for the

one of the remaining three candidates. Again, votes shall be tabulated, totals announced and a ranking established by the number of votes each candidate receives. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, there shall be a recorded vote between the candidates ranked one and two. The candidate receiving the majority of votes cast in this balloting shall ranked one.

7. The list of nominees shall consist of three names in rank order.
8. Voting on candidates shall be by signed ballot. Ballots not signed or having more than one vote cast will not be counted.
9. The county Democratic Chair shall retain custody of the ballots for three months.
10. The county Democratic Chair shall transmit the candidates' names and their vote totals to the county Central Committee (or Executive Board) for ratification, and subsequent to ratification, to the chair of the county council or board of county commissioners.
11. Notice of the special caucus shall be mailed ten days in advance. The call shall include the purpose of the caucus, the vacancy to be filled, time, place and date of the meeting, and a copy of these procedures. The call shall be mailed by the county Democratic Chair.
12. In all matters not specifically covered herein, Roberts Rules of Order, Revised shall prevail.