

Bylaws of the 20th Legislative District Democrats

Article I

Name

This organization shall be known as the 20th Legislative District Democratic Committee.

Article II

Section 1. The objective of this organization shall be to foster, promote, and elect Democratic candidates to legislative positions in the 20th Legislative District and to influence the principles of the Democratic Party to make elected officials responsible to the wishes of the 20th Legislative District Democratic Committee.

Section 2. The methods of obtaining the objectives of the organization shall be:

- a. Gaining full participation of the Precinct Committee Officers and other Democrats in the decision making processes and activities of the Democratic party;
- b. Giving a full measure of support to Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis and Thurston Counties, legislative, congressional, state, and national committees;
- c. Obtaining outstanding candidates for every legislative position at election time;
- d. Ensuring that every legislative position is filled on the Democratic ticket;
- e. Providing support including mentoring and training to potential candidates;
- f. Urging voter registration;
- g. Using our utmost efforts to financially support and physically work for the election of Democrats.

Article III

Policies

Section 1. This organization shall affiliate with and become a part of the Democratic State Central Committee and endeavor in all ways to cooperate with and carry on the work of that organization in the counties of Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis and Thurston.

Section 2. It shall be the policy of this organization in all its endeavors to contribute to the growth and influence of the Democratic Party, to develop leadership, to create party responsibility, and to maintain and promote harmony within the party ranks.

Section 3. This organization shall seek, in all of its operations, the cooperation of the Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Thurston, Congressional, State, and National committees.

Section 4. This organization will actively support the nominees of the Democratic Party; provided the nominees indicate their general agreement with the philosophy of the Democratic Party.

Article IV

Membership

Section 1. All 20th Legislative District Precinct Committee Officers, whether elected, or appointed, shall be voting members of this organization.

Section 2. Any registered voter in the 20th Legislative District, who declares to be a Democrat and who agrees to have his or her name published as a Democrat, shall be a member of this organization. Any other person who declares to be a Democrat may be eligible for non-voting membership in this organization.

Section 3. Members who are not PCOs are allowed to fully participate in the 20th Legislative District Democratic Committee, except for those duties limited to PCOs by state statute or by the charter and bylaws of the Washington State Democratic Party.

Section 4:

- a. The term of membership in the 20th Legislative District runs from January 1 through December 31 of the calendar year.
- b. The membership shall establish the amount of annual dues by the January meeting of each calendar year. Dues will be paid at the time of joining.
- c. New paying members joining after the general election each year will be considered members from the completion of the current year and through the following membership year.

Section 5. The 20th Legislative District Democratic Committee will actively promote diversity in its membership and its officers.

Article V

Officers

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall consist of the following:

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|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Chairperson | 4. Secretary |
| 2. 1st Vice-Chair | 5. Treasurer |
| 3. Past Chair Emeritus | 6. State Committeeman |
| | 7. State Committeewoman |

Votes concerning these offices may only be made by PCOs.

Section 2. Any member shall be eligible to hold office, and if not present at the time of election, must have given his or her consent in writing to serve as an officer.

Section 3. Any vacancy on the Executive Board shall be filled by a majority vote of the PCOs (elected and appointed) at the next general meeting. A special meeting may be called sooner by the Chairperson.

Article VI

Duties of Officers

Section 1. The Chairperson shall direct the affairs of the organization as its administrative officer, including convening and conducting meetings, granting authorization for signatures on checks, and appointing committees. The Chair shall have the discretion to appoint a liaison for each county within the 20th Legislative District.

Section 2. The 1st Vice Chairperson shall preside at all meetings at which the Chairperson shall not be present. The 1st Vice Chairperson shall be responsible for promoting voter registration, helping to recruit election board members, assisting with fundraising, performing such duties as usually pertain to the office, and other duties as assigned.

Section 3. The Past Chair Emeritus shall be eligible to take part in the activities of the Executive Board, and perform such duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson.

Section 4.. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the organization, a roll of its members, a copy of the formal reports of its officers and committees and be responsible for the formal correspondence of the committee, including meeting notices, and maintenance of the membership list.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds in the organization. He or she shall keep a record of receipts, disbursements, and, at the end of each calendar year, he/she shall submit his or her accounts for auditing and shall be responsible for compliance with public disclosure requirements. The Treasurer shall submit written reports at the general meetings.

Section 6. The State Committeeman and the State Committeewoman shall be the liaison officers between the State, Congressional, and 20th Legislative District Democratic Committee.

Article VII

Election of Officers

Section 1. The regular biennial election of the organization shall be held at a meeting following the general election, with ten (10) days' notice to the elected precinct committee officers and all individuals on the 20th Legislative District Democratic membership list. The terms shall be for two (2) years or until their successors are elected. The term of Past Chair Emeritus shall be for two (2) years.

Section 2. The Chairperson shall appoint two election clerks who shall assist the Secretary in receiving and counting the votes. The Secretary shall act as judge at the election.

Section 3. The election of officers and members of the Executive Board shall be by written ballot. The majority of voting members (elected PCOs) attending the meeting shall be required to elect.

Section 4. If the biennial election is not held on the date fixed in Section 1 of this article, a special election may be called immediately at the request of at least ten percent of the membership, such regular elections to be conducted in the manner prescribed above for regular elections.

Article VIII

Executive Board

Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of:

- a. The duly elected officers of the organization.
- b. All 20th Legislative District Democratic State Legislators.
- c. The Board shall also include, as non-voting members, the Chairpersons of all standing committees.

Section 2. The Chairperson of the 20th Legislative District Democratic Committee shall be the Chairperson of the Executive Board.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall formulate policy and provide general direction of the activities and functions of the organization. Expenditures in the support of candidates are subject to final approval of the membership of the organization.

Section 4. The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the Chairperson. The Executive Board meeting shall be open to all members.

Section 5. Notice shall be by telephone at least two (2) days prior to the meeting, or in writing or electronic communication at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

Article IX

Removal of Officers

Section 1. Any officer may be removed by roll call vote on one or more of the following grounds:

- a. Failure to perform duties as prescribed by the articles;
- b. Making public endorsements in the name of the 20th Legislative District Democratic Committee without obtaining prior approval by the general membership or the Executive Board.

Section 2. Procedures for Recall

- a. Any motion to recall an officer must be in writing and must be signed by at least ten (10) 20th Legislative District Democratic Committee members.

- b. A recall motion shall be referred to the Executive Board for review. Notification of a recall motion shall be made to all 20th Legislative District Democratic Precinct Committee Officers and to all individuals on the 20th Legislative District membership list within ten (10) days of referral to the Executive Board. Following notification of the membership the Executive Board shall conduct public hearings regarding the recall motion. At the next meeting of the general membership of the 20th Legislative District Democratic Committee, after the hearings are concluded, or at a specially convened meeting of the general membership, the Executive Board will make its recommendation to the membership.
- c. A two-thirds vote of appointed and elected PCOs is required to recall an officer.
- d. In no case shall a recall motion remain unresolved for more than forty-five (45) days.

Article X

Meetings

Section 1. "Robert's Rules of Order, Revised" shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by these by-laws.

Section 2. The 20th Legislative District Democratic general membership shall meet as decided by a majority vote of the membership either during the reorganization meeting or subsequent meetings.

Section 3. The Chairperson may call special meetings at his or her discretion.

Section 4. A quorum shall consist of at least half of the Executive Board members being present.

Article XI

Revenues and Operating Policies

Section 1. Revenues may be raised as recommended by the Executive Board.

Section 2. Disbursements

Financial contributions to candidates shall be recommended by the Executive Board and approved by a majority vote of the membership.

Article XII

Committees

Section 1. Committees shall be the following: Bylaws, Auditing, Nominating, Campaign Service (whose duties shall include meeting with and/or interviewing all Democratic legislative candidates for the 20th Legislative District), Fundraising, Events, and any other committee deemed necessary by the Chair or the organization.

Section 2. All committee members shall be appointed or removed by the Chairperson, with approval of the Executive Board.

Section 3. Special committees may be appointed by the Chairperson and shall perform such duties as may be defined in their creation.

Section 4. No committee shall incur any expenditure unless authorized to do so by the voting members of the Executive Board.

Section 5. The Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee, consisting of three members at a meeting prior to the reorganization meeting. The Nominating Committee shall submit to the organization electronically the names of one or more candidates for each office. Other nominations shall be allowed from the floor at the regular December meeting. In order to be eligible for nomination, candidates must be members in good standing.

Article XIII

Amendments

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the general membership by a two-thirds vote of those present; provided that the proposed amendment was submitted in writing at a previous meeting and that electronic communication or a written notice of the proposed amendment has been given to the members not less than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Article XIV

Code of Conduct

Section 1. Members should promote a culture of respect, inclusion and equity by: Always remembering to use welcoming and inclusive language and be welcoming, inclusive, friendly and patient. Members should assume good intent on the part of other speakers and participants. Members should be kind, considerate, respectful and professional by treating all individuals with a sense of dignity, respect and worth. Members should make a personal commitment to be nonjudgmental about cultural differences, living conditions and the lifestyles of people with whom I interact. They should avoid profane, racist, other prejudicial, exclusionary, abusive or sexualized language. Members should avoid disruptive behavior. Do not publish photos, videos, and audio of others if they object or ask to be excluded.

Approved and adopted by the 20th Legislative District Democratic Committee on the 3rd of February 2018.