

# 46<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT DEMOCRATS BYLAWS

## ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the 46th District Democrats.

## ARTICLE II – POLICY

**Section 1:** This organization shall function continuously and shall operate under the applicable Bylaws and Rules of the King County Democratic Central Committee (KCDCC) and the State and National Democratic Parties.

**Section 2:** The purpose of the organization shall be to promote citizen participation in the Democratic Party, advance the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats’ platform, and support and work for the election of Democratic candidates and candidates for nonpartisan office who demonstrably espouse the principles contained in that platform.

## ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1:** All official Democratic Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) registered to vote in the 46th District shall be members of the organization.

**Section 2:** Any other resident of the 46th Legislative District who declares himself or herself to be a Democrat may become a voting member upon presentation of a membership application at a district meeting or postal mailing of a signed application to the district mailing address as printed in the newsletter. Those who were not members in the preceding calendar year shall be eligible to vote 21 days after receipt of their membership application.

**Section 3:**

- a. Dues apply for the calendar year from January through December.
- b. Categories of membership shall include:
  - (1) Individual membership,
  - (2) Family or couple membership,
  - (3) Low income/student membership.
  - (4) “4600” Club or other high-donor membership
- c. No person, who declares themselves to be a Democrat and otherwise meets the requirements for membership shall be denied participation in Party activities due to failure to pay a cost, fee, or poll tax, per DNC and WSDCC Charters and full participation policies.
- d. Annual membership dues at various levels to ensure the execution of activities related to the mission of the organization and the solvency of the district shall be asked of all members in a financial position such as they are able to contribute.
- e. Dues levels shall be reviewed on an annual basis by the District Executive Board. If, upon such review, the District Executive Board believes a dues adjustment should be made, a motion to that effect shall be made to the membership at the next regular membership meeting, following notice as required by Article V of these Bylaws. Any change in membership dues, and the effective date of such dues, shall be voted on by the membership.

**Section 4:** A member in good standing shall be any elected or appointed Precinct Committee Officer or any resident of the 46<sup>th</sup> Legislative District who has a current membership application on file. Membership is renewed annually.

**Section 5:** An out-of-district member is any individual or family who pays the 46<sup>th</sup> LD dues, but does not live in the district. These members shall receive the newsletter and notices of any special meetings, events, fundraisers and gatherings. These members shall not have voting rights.

## ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

### **Section 1:** Regular Meetings:

- a. The regular monthly meeting shall be held on the third Thursday of each month, except for the month of December, and a summer month chosen to complement the election calendar in place that year. The District Executive Board may change the date and place for a particular regular monthly meeting, so long as all members are notified at or before the regular monthly meeting preceding the monthly meeting to be changed.
- b. Physical notice of the time, place and purpose of each regular meeting shall be sent to each member no later than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. Members may opt in for comprehensive electronic notice in which they will receive regular meeting notices via e-mail as provided in Article V, section 2.

### **Section 2:** Biennial Reorganization: A reorganization meeting for the District shall be held following each biennial general election, and shall be conducted in accordance with procedures prescribed by state law, the Washington State Democratic Party, and the KCDCC. Requirements for biennial reorganization notice are included in the aforementioned state laws and procedures.

### **Section 3:** Special Meetings:

- a. A special meeting for official PCOs may be called by 25% of the official PCOs, or by the Chair.
- b. A special meeting for PCOs or all members may be called by 25% of the membership, 25% of the PCOs, or by the Chair.
- c. Under state law, a special meeting for official PCOs may be called to participate in the process to fill vacancies in certain public offices by the District chair, the KCDCC chair or the WSDCC chair, in instances in which they are empowered and called upon to do so under state law.
- d. Physical notice of the time, place and purpose of any special meeting shall be sent to each member no later than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting.

### **Section 4:** Emergencies Affecting Meeting Locations:

- a. In the event that a meeting must be cancelled or moved on short notice due to inclement weather, loss of location venue by any cause, union strike at location venue, or any other legitimate reason which causes the location to be practically, ethically, or constructively unusable, comprehensive electronic notice as defined in Article V of these Bylaws shall be immediately disseminated, and all reasonable efforts shall be made to post clear and significant signage at all entrances to the original location stating that the meeting has been moved, and to where, or that the meeting has been cancelled and why.
- b. In the event the meeting is moved, no policy matters, endorsements, or officer vacancy elections shall be held in the first scheduled half hour of the meeting to allow members time to travel to the new meeting location.

### **Section 5:** Notice: PCOs and/or members' notice of any meeting called under any section of this Article shall be in compliance with the appropriate sections of Article V, Meeting Notice.

### **Section 6:** A quorum shall be declared by the Chair to exist at any regular or special meeting of the membership when 40 voting members or 10% of the voting membership, whichever is less, is present. Once a quorum has been established for a duly called meeting, it may not be questioned until action on the items indicated in the written notice has been taken.

## ARTICLE V - MEETING NOTICE AND NOTICE RESPONSIBILITIES

### **Section 1.** Unless otherwise indicated, any required “notice” under these Bylaws or other policies and procedures of the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats is governed by this Article.

**Section 2.** Items to be included in any applicable official meeting notice:

- a. Any election to fill a vacancy in any elected officer position of the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats' organization shall be announced at the immediately preceding District meeting. Notice thereof, and of any proposed amendment to these Bylaws, any proposed dues changes, any endorsement of a candidate or ballot issue, or – except as provided in Article XV, Sec. 5 -- any donation or contribution of funds in support of any candidate, ballot issue or group, shall be included in the meeting notice sent to each member no less than 10 days prior to the meeting at which such business is to be transacted.
- b. The deadline for inclusion of items in the monthly District Newsletter shall be included within the preceding month's newsletter.

**Section 3:** Comprehensive Electronic Notice

- a. Unless otherwise indicated, Comprehensive Electronic Notice shall suffice for all notice required under these Bylaws or other policies and procedures. Comprehensive Electronic Notice shall include, at a minimum, dissemination on the same day via all the following methods:
  1. Email;
  2. The District's social media accounts; and
  3. The portion of the home page of the District web site set aside for current notices.
- b. Notice shall be considered given when the last of the three required methods in Section 2,1.a-c is posted or triggered.
- c. Even in cases where Comprehensive Electronic Notice is sufficient, Physical Notice as described below is allowed.

**Section 4:** Physical notice

- a. Where specified, Physical Notice is required. When not specified, Physical Notice is allowed, but not required.
- b. The monthly District Newsletter shall suffice for Physical Notice, even for those individuals who specify they wish to receive it electronically instead of via hard copy.
- c. Postcards or other physical material delivered to individual addresses is an acceptable alternative method for providing Physical Notice.
- d. Where Physical Notice is required, it shall be accompanied by Comprehensive Electronic Notice.
- e. Notice shall be considered given the later of when all the written material is properly deposited in the US Mail or the Comprehensive Electronic Notice is completed as defined in Section 1, sub2 above.
- f. It is permissible for the content of a Physical Notice to refer recipients to electronic resources (i.e. the District web site) for more information. If any Physical Notice includes such a reference, the electronic resource must be publicly accessible the same day as Physical Notice is deposited in the US Mail or the date of notice shall be changed to when the electronic resource is publicly accessible.

**Section 5.** Members and other individuals are responsible for updating District records with their own physical and/or electronic contact information. The District shall implement procedures allowing members and other individuals to easily update their physical and electronic contact information by visiting the District website, submitting the information via mail, or providing the updated information to designated individual(s) at any District meeting.

**Section 6.** In cases where Physical Notice is required, the Executive Board may decide to delay notice until the next regular issue of the monthly District Newsletter. If the Executive Board receives a request to provide Physical Notice sooner than the next regular issue of the monthly District Newsletter, the Executive Board may, with a simple majority vote of the Executive Board, require reimbursement for the costs of Physical Notice in order to complete Physical Notice earlier than the next monthly District Newsletter.

## ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

**Section 1:** Officers of the organization shall include the following, to be elected by majority vote of eligible voters PCOs present at the biennial reorganization meeting – or, to fill a vacancy, at another District meeting – after appropriate notice as required by Article IV of these Bylaws:

- a. Chair (one)
- b. 1st Vice-Chair (one)
- c. Female Representative to the KCDCC Executive Board (one)
- d. Male Representative to the KCDCC Executive Board (one)
- e. Female Alternate to the KCDCC Executive Board (one)
- f. Male Alternate to the KCDCC Executive Board (one)
- g. State Committeewoman (one)
- h. State Committeeman (one)

Any member in good standing may be elected to the foregoing offices, but only elected PCOs or, in the case of an election to fill a vacancy occurring after the biennial re-organization, PCOs appointed after election of the Chair may cast votes for those offices, per State law and the WSDCC Charter and Bylaws

**Section 2:** Additional officers shall include the following, to be elected by majority vote of eligible voters present at the biennial reorganization meeting – or, to fill a vacancy, at another District meeting – after appropriate notice as required by Article IV of these Bylaws:

- a. 2nd Vice-Chairs (two)
- b. Secretary (one)
- c. Treasurer (one)
- d. Sergeant at Arms (one)
- e. District Executive Board Members-at-Large (nine)

Any member in good standing may be elected to the foregoing offices; provided, at least one at-large position shall be filled by a resident from each of Seattle, Kenmore and Lake Forest Park; and if the Chair and Vice Chair are from Seattle, then, at least one Second Vice-Chair position must be filled by a resident of either Lake Forest Park or Kenmore. Rules for conducting the vote shall be adopted that ensure this distribution requirement will be met.

**Section 3:** General provisions:

- a. This organization functions continuously per Article II, therefore, all officers shall serve until the next biennial reorganization meeting or until their successors are duly elected and installed, unless they resign, become ineligible to serve, pass away, or are duly removed from office.
- b. All members of the Executive Board are expected to have routine access to e-mail and the 46<sup>th</sup> district web site, or to arrange for equivalent ability to receive and send e-mail messages expeditiously and to be able to monitor the web site for information. Telephone contact alone does not fulfill this obligation of officers.

**Section 4:** The Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the organization, shall be the official spokesperson for the organization, shall preside over its meetings and supervise the preparation of its newsletter and other public announcements, shall serve as an ex officio member of all district committees, shall assign responsibility for maintaining the records of the District, and shall represent the District on the KCDCC Executive Board, and in any ex officio positions the WSDCC provides for District Chairs. In addition, the Chair shall serve as a deputy treasurer.

**Section 5:** The 1st Vice-Chair shall serve in the absence or incapacitation of the Chair and perform other duties as may be assigned by the Chair. The 1st Vice Chair shall also serve as a deputy treasurer.

**Section 6:** The two 2nd Vice-Chairs shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the Chair.

**Section 7** The Secretary shall take, or cause to be taken, and maintain minutes of District and District Executive Board meetings. A draft of the meeting minutes shall be provided timely to the newsletter chair or other appropriate person for creation and publication of a capsule account of the meeting activities in the next newsletter. The minutes

shall be posted for public inspection. The Secretary shall also assist the Chair in managing the organization's incoming and outgoing correspondence.

**Section 8** The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection, recording, safekeeping and disbursement of the organization's financial resources. The Treasurer shall manage the organization's bank account(s) and prepare appropriate reports to the Public Disclosure Commission. The Treasurer shall make a financial report at each regular District meeting, which shall be included in the minutes. Deputy Treasurers shall serve these duties in the extended absence or incapacitation of the Treasurer.

**Section 9** The Sergeant at Arms shall be responsible for facilitating a welcoming environment at District meetings, including the arranging of tables, chairs and other meeting hall facilities. In the event of an emergency or instruction by the chair, the Sergeant at Arms will take such measures necessary to keep order or lead building evacuation during any district meeting. The Sergeant-at-arms shall also perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the Chair.

**Section 10** The District Executive Board Members-at-Large shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the Chair.

**Section 11** The two Representatives to the KCDCC Executive Board shall represent the District on the KCDCC Executive Board and report back on the business of that organization. The two alternate representatives to the KCDCC executive board shall keep current on KCDCC business and be ready to represent the district to KCDCC in the event the KCDCC representatives cannot attend a meeting. All KCDCC representatives shall also perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the Chair.

**Section 12** The State Committeeman and State Committeewoman shall represent the District on the Washington State Democratic Central Committee (WSDCC) and report back on the business of that committee, and perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the Chair.

**Section 13** Prior to each biennial reorganization meeting, the District Executive Board shall propose procedures for conducting the election of officers at that meeting and shall cause those procedures to be published in the meeting notice per Article V, sent to each member no less than 10 days prior to the meeting. To the extent adopted by the general membership and in compliance with the procedures referred to in Article IV, Section 2, those procedures shall govern the election of officers.

## ARTICLE VII – VOTING

**Section 1:** Official PCOs, properly elected or duly appointed, shall be entitled to vote at all District meetings. In accordance with state law (RCW Chapter 29A.80, Political Parties) and the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington (Article IX, Legislative District Organizations), only elected and appointed PCOs may vote for the offices listed in Article VI, Section 1 of these Bylaws, or to fill legislative vacancies or adopt or amend District Bylaws.

**Section 2:** All members in good standing as provided in Article III shall be entitled to vote for the offices listed in Article VI, Section 2 of these Bylaws, and, subject to Section 1, above, on all other items up for consideration at District meetings except as modified for registered voters in the Districts candidate and ballot measure support rules.

**Section 3:** Proxies shall not be recognized in voting on any District business.

## ARTICLE VIII – VACANCIES IN OFFICE

**Section 1.** General provisions. Whenever a vacancy in an elected office of this organization shall occur, the Chair may appoint a temporary replacement to serve until the next District meeting at which time, after notice as required by Article IV of these Bylaws, a new officer shall be elected under the appropriate rules for the specific office.

**Section 2.** Vacancy in the office of District Chair. Whenever a vacancy in the office of District Chair shall occur, the First Vice Chair shall serve until a new Chair may be elected by the official PCOs in accordance with state law, or until the current term expires, whichever comes first.

## ARTICLE IX– REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

**Section 1:** A District meeting may be called for the purpose of removing any officer, including Chair, upon the written request of 25% of the official PCOs. Physical Notice of this meeting must be sent to all PCOs and officers at least 10 days in advance. At this meeting, the officer (or officers) concerned may be removed by a majority vote of official PCOs attending.

**Section 2:** Elected officers other than the District Chair, 1st Vice Chair, Delegates/Alternates to the KCDCC Executive Board and Delegates to the WSDCC may be removed by the District Chair for failure to perform properly the functions of their office. Unexcused absence from two consecutive District or two consecutive District Executive Board meetings shall be grounds for removal. Physical notice of removal and the grounds therefore shall be given to the officer in writing, to be effective immediately, provided that the decision of the District Chair must be sustained by a majority vote of the membership of the organization present at a regular meeting, following physical notice as required by Article IV of these Bylaws.

## ARTICLE X – PRECINCT COMMITTEE OFFICERS

**Section 1:** Precinct Committee Officers.

- a. Official Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) are those persons who hold the public office of Democratic Precinct Committee Officer representing their precinct in which they are registered to vote.
- b. Elected PCOs are those persons duly elected to represent the Democratic voters of a 46<sup>th</sup> LD precinct as a Precinct Committee Officer via public election under RCW 29A.80.041 and the WSDCC and KCDCC Charters and Bylaws.
- c. Appointed PCOs are those persons properly appointed to represent the Democratic voters of a 46<sup>th</sup> LD precinct as a Precinct Committee Officer via the vacancy appointment process under RCW 29A.80, *et al.* and the WSDCC and KCDCC Charters and Bylaws.
- d. All PCOs are expected to either serve as, or recruit an appropriate person in their precinct to serve as Election Captain.
- e. The 46<sup>th</sup> LD does not use the office of “Acting” PCO, but instead organizes grassroots election activity around Election Captains.

**Section 2:** Election Captains may be appointed to coordinate the grassroots election efforts of one or more vacant precincts.

- a. An Election Captain must live in the District but need not live in the precinct
- b. An Election Captain shall be superseded by appointment of a resident of the precinct as PCO, unless the PCO would prefer they continue as Election Captain.
- c. Election Captains are appointed by the District Chair, and may be voted upon by membership.

**Section 3:** The KCDCC Chair is empowered to appoint only official PCOs approved by the District organization. Within 15 days of such approval the District Chair shall submit the application to the KCDCC Chair, who is expected to take action on the appointments within 31 days of their submittal and to report such action back to the District with a written statement of the reasons for any denied appointment.

**Section 4:** Each application for an appointed PCO position shall be submitted to the District Chair, who shall submit the application organization for action at its next meeting. When more than one application for the same precinct position is submitted in any District meeting, they shall be voted on at the same time.

**Section 5:** Disambiguation: Election Captains are also referred to in some Democratic charter documents as Acting PCOs. “Acting PCO” is a term of art for a Democrat performing the election organizing and field work duties of a PCO for an unrepresented precinct. However, an acting PCO is not an official PCO, and does not enjoy the same rights nor is responsible for all of the same functions as a person officially elected or appointed to the public office of Precinct Committee Officer. Therefore, the 46<sup>th</sup> District chooses to create a separate position of Election Captain which can be bestowed with both rights and responsibilities commensurate with the important work performed.

## **ARTICLE XI – NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Section 1:** The Newsletter Editor shall, at the direction of the Chair, prepare and disseminate District Newsletters and other public announcements with respect to the organization's business, including notification to the membership regarding the time, place and purpose of meetings.

**Section 2:** The Newsletter Editor shall be appointed by and serve at the discretion of the District Chair, provided that such appointment shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the District Executive Board present and voting at a meeting of such Board.

**Section 3:** The Newsletter Editor may be an existing member of the Executive Board, or may be appointed from the general membership. In the latter case, the Newsletter Editor shall be given voting rights and responsibilities on the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE XII – DISTRICT EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Section 1:** All elected officers and the Newsletter Editor shall be voting members of the District Executive Board, which shall be responsible for implementing policies and transacting business approved by the membership.

**Section 2:** Executive Board meetings shall be held at regular intervals at the call of the Chair and shall be announced in the District Newsletter. All such meetings shall be open to the membership. A quorum shall consist of a *simple* majority of the members of the Executive Board.

**Section 3:** The Executive Board shall, as soon as practicable following the biennial reorganization meeting held pursuant to Article IV, Section 2, adopt Operating Policies not inconsistent with these Bylaws. Such Operating Policies shall be published and available for the membership to review and, as from time to time amended, shall remain in effect until they are repealed, amended, or rendered obsolete.

**Section 4:** The Executive Board shall perform such further duties as the facilitation of membership meetings pursuant to Article IV and confirmation of appointments by the Chair pursuant to Article XI, and shall call and propose rules for endorsement meetings pursuant to Article XVI. Additionally, the Executive Board may authorize expenditures pursuant to Article XIII and make endorsement recommendations to the membership pursuant to Article XVI. Subject to Article XVI, Section 5, the membership may from time to time delegate other authority to the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE XIII – EXPENDITURE OF DISTRICT FUNDS**

**Section 1:** Adoption of an annual budget by the District membership shall constitute authorization for payment of expenses provided for therein. The Executive Board may also authorize in advance any reasonable expenditure incident to a fund-raiser event or other program approved by the District membership. Except as provided in Article XV, Sec. 5, all other expenditures must be authorized by a majority vote at a District meeting, following notice as required by Article IV of these Bylaws.

**Section 2:** No expenditure of funds of the 46th District Democratic Organization in excess of \$2500 shall be made except by check signed by two of the following three officers: District Chair, First Vice-Chair or Treasurer.

**Section 3:** The District Chair shall, at least once during his or her term, appoint – subject to confirmation by the District membership -- a Financial Review Committee of at least two non-Executive Board members. The committee shall review the District's financial records for the period since the previous such review and present a report to the membership within 90 days of their confirmation.

#### ARTICLE XIV – COMMITTEES

**Section 1:** There shall be nine standing committees and such additional committees as the Chair may from time to time appoint. The District Chair shall appoint all committee chairs and shall serve as an ex-officio voting member of all committees. All committee members shall serve at the discretion of the District Chair.

**Section 2:** The Program Committee shall be a standing committee responsible for the development of District meeting programs.

**Section 3:** The Legislative Action Committee shall be a standing committee responsible for developing, and assisting the organization with implementation of, action plans to advance key issues consistent with the District platform. The Committee shall, insofar as feasible, coordinate its efforts with related activities of the WSDCC, KCDCC, and other interested organizations.

**Section 4:** The Finance Committee shall be a standing committee with responsibility for developing an annual budget and recommendations for fund raising strategies to support the political and program objectives of the organization.

**Section 5:** The Membership Committee shall be a standing committee with responsibility for facilitating the growth and satisfaction of the membership

**Section 6:** The Platform and Resolutions Committee shall be a standing committee responsible in *even-numbered years* for developing, and proposing for adoption by the membership, a platform representative of 46<sup>th</sup> District Democratic voters' values and views on matters of political relevance. The platform shall have local sections for Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, and Seattle- specific issues in addition to more general issues. Suggested positions highly specific in nature, or on transitory issues, shall be considered proposed Resolutions and treated in accordance with Article XV of these Bylaws.

**Section 7:** The Community Outreach Committee shall be a standing committee responsible for developing and implementing an action plan for linking the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats with neighborhood and community organizations within or affecting North Seattle.

**Section 8:** The Elections Committee shall be a standing committee responsible for developing and implementing a plan for recruitment, training and support of the District's PCOs, and for coordinating the efforts of PCOs, *Election Captains*, and volunteers to support endorsed candidates and ballot measure positions. This may include the establishment and training of Area Coordinators, and the development and/or distribution of campaign literature for elections.

**Section 9:** The Bylaws, Rules and Tally Committee shall be a standing committee responsible for the biannual review of the district Bylaws, the periodic review as needed of any of the Standing Rules library, the organization of consideration of any Operating Policies to be adopted, and the smooth organization and administration of all business at meetings conducted by paper ballot or needing tally clerks for counting a division of the house.

**Section 10.-** The Raymond T. Cole Fund Committee shall be a standing committee responsible for managing and ensuring the integrity of Raymond T. Cole's bequest to the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats. The Cole Fund shall be managed



separately from the Operating Budget in accordance with criteria, developed by the Committee and approved by the District membership, for evaluating and approving grant requests and ensuring their adherence to the values of Raymond T. Cole. These criteria shall be included in the District's Operating Policies.

## **ARTICLE XV – RESOLUTIONS**

**Section 1.** Any proposed resolution must be submitted in writing to the District Chair and referred for review and recommendation by the Platform and Resolutions Committee.

**Section 2.** The proposed resolution shall be published in the Newsletter prior to the regular District meeting at which it is to be considered, unless the Committee withholds the resolution. A description of the proposal in the Newsletter and a link to the full text of the resolution on the District web site also satisfies this requirement.

**Section 3.** The Chair may place time limits and/or limits on the number of turns to speak per each side prior to the commencement of the debate.

**Section 4.** Upon a ruling by the Chair that a proposed resolution needs immediate consideration and could not reasonably have been submitted in time for the prescribed advance review and notice, the resolution may still be considered by the body provided:

- a. A two-thirds majority vote of members present and voting at a duly called meeting agree to immediate consideration of the resolution; AND
- b. The resolution sponsor brings to the meeting copies of the full resolution. The number of copies required is outlined in the District's Standing Resolution and Platform Rules.

## **ARTICLE XVI – SUPPORT OF CANDIDATES AND BALLOT ISSUES**

**Section 1:** The District Chair shall call endorsement meetings to be held to coincide with annual primary and general elections. The District Chair may call meetings under this Article to coincide with other elections or processes related to appointments for vacant positions;

- a. Physical notice of any meeting called under this Article must be provided least 21 days prior to the meeting
- b. Any meeting called under this Article for purposes of the primary and general elections shall be timed so the membership's endorsements may be included in any official Voters' Guide. If no Voters' Guide is to be published, then the meeting shall be held after the filing deadline for the primary election and after the certification of the primary election.
- c. When applicable, the District Chair may call an endorsement meeting to be held prior to a Party nominating convention.

**Section 2:** Proper Use of Terms:

- a. Support for candidates and ballot issues appearing on a public ballot and subject to a vote of all eligible voters shall be called "Endorsements."
- b. Support for candidates subject to an appointment process shall be called "Recommendations".

**Section 3:** The District Executive Board may make suggestions to the membership for endorsements or recommendations. No such suggestions shall be made except upon a two-thirds majority vote of Executive Board members present and voting at a regular meeting of the board.

**Section 4:** The District Executive Board shall propose rules for the purpose of supporting candidates and issues in January of every year and the general membership shall adopt rules no later than at the February General Meeting.

- a. Notice of the rule proposal shall be provided to the membership in the February District Newsletter or within 3 days after the February District Executive Board meeting, at the discretion of the Chair.

- b. Once adopted, changes to these rules can only be made with a two-thirds majority vote of members present and voting.
- c. Once adopted, for any proposed change(s) to these rules that, in the judgment of the District Chair, substantively changes the previously-adopted rules, notice must be provided in proper form to the membership and to each affected candidate or ballot campaign committee 21 days prior to the meeting or the District Chair shall rule any motion proposing such change(s) Out of Order.
- d. Once adopted, for any proposed change(s) to these rules that, in the judgment of the District Chair, substantively provides an advantage to particular candidate(s) or ballot measure(s) or alternately disadvantages particular candidate(s) or ballot measure(s) shall be ruled out of order unless notice of the changes were provided to each affected candidate or ballot campaign committee 21 days prior to the meeting.
- e. If new rules are not adopted under this section, the most recent rules previously passed by the membership shall apply.

**Section 5:** The membership at any meeting may, by a two-thirds majority vote of members present and voting, delegate to the District Executive Board the authority to:

- a. Make a post-primary endorsement in any specified race; and/or
- b. Approve the distribution of funds to any official Democratic Party organization, or to any group in support of any candidate or ballot issue position, in accordance with priorities for such distribution established by the District and in accordance with the provisions of federal, state, and local law.
- c. Any such endorsement or approval of distribution of funds by the Board shall be by a two-thirds majority vote of Board members present and voting at a duly called Executive Board meeting, and shall be exempt from the physical notice provisions of Article IV of these Bylaws and from the expenditure provisions of Article XII of these Bylaws.
- d. Any such action by the Board shall be included in the next monthly District Newsletter.

**Section 6:** No candidate shall be considered for support without:

- a. Declaring his/her past and present party affiliation within the past five years (with the exception of candidates for judicial office), and
- b. Completing and returning to the District Chair, on a date prior to the endorsement meeting designated by the District Chair, any Candidate Questionnaire required by the District. This rule may be waived by a two-thirds majority of eligible endorsement meeting voters. Responses to candidate questionnaires shall be posted on the official District web site within three working days of the deadline set by the District Chair.

**Section 7:** No ballot measure shall be considered for endorsement without:

- a. The District Chair or his/her official designee undertaking all reasonable effort to identify a person or group both in favor of and opposing the ballot measure to appear at the endorsement meeting; and
- b. Providing both Pro and Con persons or groups the opportunity to post a maximum 1,250-word summary of their position on the District web site, due at least 21 days prior to the endorsement meeting.

**Section 8:** Partisan affiliation.

- a. For partisan offices, the 46th District Democrats shall support only those candidates having declared affiliation exclusively with the Democratic Party for a period of at least one year prior to the endorsement meeting.
- b. For nonpartisan offices other than judicial office, the 46th District Democrats shall support only those candidates having (i) declared affiliation only with the Democratic Party, or (ii) publicly indicated nonaffiliation with any political party for a period of at least one year prior to the endorsement meeting.

**Section 9:** No motion for support shall carry and no contribution shall be authorized, at any District meeting, except by a 60% majority vote of eligible members present and voting.

**Section 10:** As used in these Bylaws, the terms “endorsement” or “recommendation” may include adoption of a position specifically opposed to a candidate or ballot issue.

**Section 11:** If any section or portion of a section of this Article conflicts with rules governing the filling of a 46<sup>th</sup> District State Legislature position, the rules governing the filling of the State Legislature position shall govern.

**Section 12:** Duration of Endorsement or Recommendation:

- a. The duration of any endorsement shall end with the final election for the ballot measure or candidate. Endorsements made for a primary carry through to the general election.
- b. Recommendations shall not carry past the conclusion of the appointment process. Candidates recommended for an appointment may not consider the recommendation as support for any subsequent electoral process, even for the identical office and seat as filled by the appointment.
- c. An endorsement or recommendation may be terminated under the District’s reconsideration rules.

## **ARTICLE XVII – AMENDMENT AND SUSPENSION OF BY-LAWS**

**Section 1:** These Bylaws shall function continuously.

**Section 2:** These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of official PCOs present and voting at a duly called bi-annual reorganization meeting or during the first two regular meetings thereafter, in accordance with WSDCC and KCDCC rules, after physical notice as required by Article IV of these Bylaws. At subsequent dates, a two-thirds majority vote of official PCOs gathered at a district meeting after physical notice has been provided shall be required for an amendment so approved to take effect.

**Section 3:** These Bylaws may be suspended only for the purpose of waiving the requirement of advance written submission of proposed resolutions as set forth in Article XIV of these Bylaws, and in waiving the requirement for candidate questionnaires to be submitted prior to the candidate being considered for endorsement, as set forth in Article XVI. In either of these cases, such suspension must be supported by a two-thirds majority vote of members at a duly called meeting.

## **ARTICLE XVIII – RULES OF ORDER**

In any situation not expressly covered by state law, the rules of higher Party authority or these Bylaws, the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, newly revised, shall control – except to the extent those Rules are inconsistent with any Standing Rules adopted pursuant to Article XII of these Bylaws and approved in the manner prescribed by Section 2 of Article XVII thereof.

*As Adopted with Amendments: February 1985; November 1986; February 1987; June 1992; March 1993; July 1993; April 1995; January 2000; June 2002; November 2002; April 2003; April 2005; April 2007; January 2009; April 2009; May 2009; January 2011; March 2011; February 2012; February 2013.*