

17th Legislative District Democrats

Bylaws

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17th Legislative District Democrats

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17th Legislative District Democrats BYLAWS

PREAMBLE

Pursuant to the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States, the Charter of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington, we do hereby organize as a body politic, with all rights and privileges granted under those documents, ***Adopt.***

ARTICLE 1: Name

1.1 The name of this organization shall be: 17th Legislative District Democrats, herein noted as “The 17th.”

ARTICLE 2: Purpose

2.1 The purpose of the 17th Legislative District Democrats is to:

- (a) Promote the election of Democrats in local, county, state, and national elections.
- (b) Promote citizen participation in the Democratic Party.
- (c) Foster and promote the principles and policies of the Democratic Party.

ARTICLE 3: Membership

3.1 Active membership in the 17th shall be open to the following:

- (a) All Democratic Precinct Committee Officers in the 17th.
- (b) All dues-paying members who are registered voters residing within the 17th Legislative District professing Democratic status.
- (c) All dues-paying residents in the 17th Legislative District between the ages of 15 and-18 professing Democratic status.

ARTICLE 4: Notice

4.1 Notice of any election, removal of officer or committee chair, proposed amendment to the bylaws, or endorsement/recommendation of a candidate or a ballot issue or other critical items such as Code of Conduct, shall be given to members in writing with Due Notice.

4.2 Notice of amendment(s) to bylaws must be presented to the Executive Board 15 days prior to the next regular meeting; If approved by the Executive Board, the secretary shall transmit the proposed amendment(s) to all members 10 days prior to the next general meeting.

4.3 For purposes of written member notification, the preferred communication within the 17th shall proceed from the following order:

4.3.1 E-Mail shall be the primary preferred method of written communication.

4.3.2 Conventional mail (USPS) shall be the method, when protocol dictates written communication, and the recipient lacks access to e-mail.

ARTICLE 5: Executive Organizational Structure

5.1 The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers of the 17th and up to two (2) At-Large Members of the 17th Legislative District.

5.1.2 Appointment of Chairs of standing committees and at-large Board members shall be made by the Chair subject to approval by the Executive Committee and the 17th LD body.

5.1.3 All Appointments to standing committees, open positions and other positions on the Executive Committee that are not elected by the membership shall be made taking into consideration fairness, equality and diversity of the appointees as in their home Legislative District, gender, race and other diversity factors.

5.2 Elected Legislative District Officer shall hold office for two (2) years, or if filling an unexpired term, until the next reorganizational meeting.

The duties described below include but are not limited to the following:

5.3 Chair

(a) Presides at all 17th General Meetings and Executive Board meetings.

(b) Coordinates activities of this organization.

(c) Prepares, with the Executive Board, a strategic plan for the ensuing term of office.

(d) Chair and vice-chair shall be of opposite gender, based on self-identification.

5.4 Vice-Chair

(a) Presides at all meetings in the absence of by the Chair.

(b) Performs all duties assigned by the Chair.

(c) Succeeds to the Chair position if a vacancy occurs in that office, until an election of new chair can be held.

5.5 Secretary

(a) Records minutes of general and Executive Board meetings.

(b) Provides sign-in sheets for members and guests at all meetings.

(c) Processes all incoming and outgoing mail as directed by the Chair.

(d) Works with the Treasurer and PCO Coordinator, to maintain a current membership roster.

(e) Maintains files that shall include: minutes of meetings, reports of officers and committees, correspondence, and all other records that pertain to the 17th.

5.6 Treasurer

(a) Maintains an accurate account of all receipts and disbursements. Receives and disburses all funds.

(b) Presents a current financial report at all regular meetings.

(c) Creates an Annual Budget with the Executive Board approved by vote of the Body.

(d) Submits annually the financial records for audit.

(e) Meets all requirements as stipulated by law with the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission.

(f) All disbursements must be directed by the approved Budget or the vote of the Body.

5.7 State Committee Persons (2)

- (a) Must be of opposite gender, based on self-identification.
- (b) Member of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee.
- (c) Represents the 17th interests at all State Central Committee meetings. If unable to attend, they shall appoint a proxy to take their place.
- (d) Provide reports on State Central Committee meetings at the next general LD meeting.

ARTICLE 6: Voting – Election

6.1 Reorganization Meeting Within forty-five days after the statewide general election in even-numbered years, the LD chair shall call a December meeting of all elected precinct committee officers for the purpose of electing a legislative district chair.

6.2-Only individuals who are professed Democrats in the 17th may be elected to office and serve:

6.3 Voter Eligibility: In Reorganization newly Elected Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) will vote for Chair, Vice Chair, State Committee People. Members of the Executive Board, newly Elected PCOs and members whose dues are current may vote for Secretary and Treasurer.

6.4 Election shall be by majority vote of eligible voting members present.

6.5. All vacancies in elected officer positions occurring between the biennial reorganization meetings, shall be filled by the same Process/Rules as the Reorganization meeting. The Chair may appoint officer(s) pro tem to serve until an election can be held.

ARTICLE 7: VOTING – Other than Election of Officers

7.1 Voting shall be done by a simple majority vote of the general membership present in instances such as:

- Removal of officers or committee chairs,
- Endorsement/recommendation of candidates or ballot issues,
- Other critical issues, such as Code of Conduct violation.

General Membership includes all PCOs, Elected Officers, and dues paying members in good standing.

7.2 Voting on Bylaws changes requires a 2/3 supermajority by the membership for passage.

ARTICLE 8: Officer Removal

8.1 Any PCO-elected officer Chair, Vice-Chair, State Committee Person, Secretary and Treasurer may be removed from office for failure to discharge the duties of their office to the satisfaction of the membership. Following are the procedural requirements for such dismissal.

(a) Prior to any formal dismissal proceedings, the officer in question may be allowed to resign their position. If they choose not to resign then the process outlined in B-D below will apply.

(b) The charges for removal must be in writing and signed by at least five (5) elected PCOs.

(c) The officer so charged and the membership at-large must receive formal notice of the charges at least ten (10) days before the meeting at which the charges are to be addressed. The officer charged shall have the opportunity to address the membership.

(d) In order for such dismissal, a 2/3 of eligible voters in attendance and must cast ballots in favor of removal.

8.2 All Elected, Appointed, Acting PCOs and Current Dues Paying Members are eligible to vote.

ARTICLE 9: Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs)

9.1 PCO Definitions:

(a) Acting: Temporary or interim in nature as typified by a person residing in one precinct and acting as PCO for another. Must live in the District but need not live in the precinct, shall have voting rights as provided in these Bylaws, and shall be superseded by appointment of a resident in the precinct.

(b)Appointed: One who resides in their own precinct, who has been appointed to their position but was not elected during a general election.

(c) Elected: One who resides in their own precinct, has proceeded through the entire process and has been elected to their position through the primary or general ballot process.

9.2 Election/Appointment:

9.2.1 Volunteers for Acting PCOs shall be presented. Then they may be confirmed by the majority of members present. Such confirmation shall be accomplished when a majority of the present membership vote for said confirmation.

9.2.2 Acting and Appointed PCOs obtain County voting eligibility by vote of the Clark County Democratic Central Committee.

ARTICLE 10: Committees

10.1 Committees may be created at the discretion of the Chair.

10.2 Committee chairs shall be appointed by the Chair, confirmed by the Executive board, and presented to the body.

10.3 Suggestions for standing committees are:

PCO Coordinator,
Endorsement/Recommendation of candidates or Ballot issues
Nominating – prior to officer elections,
Speakers – meeting topics, etc.
Social Media (Comm Tech)

ARTICLE 11: Support of Candidates and Ballot Issues

11.1 The 17th shall actively support the endorsed candidates and ballot issues of the Democratic Party in national, State, and local elections.

11.2 The Candidate Endorsement/Recommendation Committee shall review the candidate field and present preferences for approval by the body.

11.3 The 17th will 'Endorse' only declared Democrats. The 17th will 'Recommend' selected candidates from political affiliations other than Democrat for both partisan and non-partisan races.

11.4 Any allocation of funds by the 17th to an endorsed candidate or ballot measure shall be approved by a simple majority vote of members present and voting. This is contingent on the true availability of such funds in that they are not previously allocated by the budget.

ARTICLE 12: Meetings & Quorum

12.1 The 17th must conduct a minimum of four (4) meetings per year. Current practice provides for a meeting once per month. Routine date and time are established in a Policy.

12.2 Additional (special) meetings as necessary may be called at the discretion of the Chair or by written request to the Chair by ten (10) members. The Chair shall provide due notice of the date, time, and location of the meeting. This notice shall specify the purpose for which the special meeting is called, and no other business shall be transacted, or other action taken at any special meeting.

12.3 For regularly scheduled meetings or special meetings where proper notice has been given, attending membership shall constitute a quorum of the 17th. A simple majority of voting officers (~~4~~) shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Board.

12.4 All meetings shall begin with our flag salute.

12.5 Virtual Meetings: The 17LD, 17LD Executive Board, and any standing or special committees may hold virtual meetings provided:

12.5.1 Proper notice has been given for the meeting.

12.5.2 The meeting is conducted in such a way that all members participating can hear each other at the same time.

12.5.3 Rules have been adopted to specify the equipment required to participate, as well as methods for seeking recognition, obtaining the floor, determining the presence of a quorum, and taking and verifying votes.

ARTICLE 13: Parliamentary Procedures

13.1 Rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall be the parliamentary guide for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by these Bylaws or State statutes.

ARTICLE 14: Policies and Statutes: Policies are *standing rules* that govern the organization and may include meeting times, code of conduct, etc.

14.1 The 17th shall have the powers stated herein and not specifically denied it the Bylaws of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee and Washington State law.

14.2 The policies shall be developed by or presented to the Executive Board. These policies must be approved by a majority of the Executive Board and submitted to the Membership for passage by simple majority vote.

14.3 The policies of this organization shall Follow, but not be limited to, the general policies of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee.

14.4 Applicable State Statutes include:

- (a) 29A.80.010 Rule-Making authority
- (b) 29A.80.011 Authority- Generally
- (c) 29A.80.041 Precinct committee officer, eligibility
- (d) 29A.80.051 Precinct committee officer- Election- Term
- E 29A.80.061 Legislative district- Election- Term

ARTICLE 15: AMENDMENTS

15.1 These Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members present of a quorum and voting at any regular meeting providing that Due Notice of the

meeting is given, and the amendments have been previously and properly distributed for consideration.

15.2 These Bylaws shall continue until amended or appended.