

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 (DNC) and as such as the arm of the Democratic national party for the District of Columbia.

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, education and political engagement;
 - 2. Actively participate in the election of candidates for President and Vice President of the United States and candidates for national and local office; and
 - 3. Promote the goals and mission of the Democratic National Committee;
 - 4. Increase Party participation in electoral politics through engagement, training and education; and
 - 5. 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.
- 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 Elected At-Large and Ward Members, Ward Chairs, Add-On Members, Ex-Officio Members, and Constituency Groups Representatives as follows:
 - 1. Twelve (12) **Members At-large** (six men and six women) elected citywide by the Democratic electors of the District of Columbia, such members shall be elected to a term of four (4) years;
 - 2. Thirty-two (32) **Ward Committee Members**, four to be elected from each of the 8 ward (two men and two women) by the Democratic electors of their respective wards, such members shall be elected to a term of four (4) years;

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, such members shall be elected to a term of four (4) years;
4. Each of the recognized **Democratic Ward Committee Chairpersons**, such members shall serve a term of office as stipulated by the bylaws of the ward organizations that are represented;
5. Twelve (12) additional members (six men and six women) who shall be **Add-On Members** of the State Committee with full rights of participation, including the right to vote and hold office. Such members shall be elected by the State Committee for a term of two (2) years. Such election shall occur at the Annual Meeting that will be scheduled within 60 business days of the November General Election, and again within 60 business days of the national Midterm Election;
6. Two representatives from the **Caucus of Democratic Elected Officials** in the District of Columbia to serve as **Ex-officio Members** with full rights of participation, including the right to vote, serving members term of office shall be set by this organization's charter;
7. Four (4) Representatives of the **District of Columbia Young Democrats**, a chapter of the Young Democrats of America, two male and two female, who shall be elected by its membership to serve as **Ex-officio Members** with full rights of participation, including the right to vote, serving members' term of office as set by this organization's charter;
8. Two (2) Representatives of the **District of Columbia College Democrats**, a chapter of the College Democrats of America, one male and one female, who shall be elected by its membership to serve as **Ex-officio Members** with full rights of participation, including the right to vote, serving members term of office as set by this organization's charter;
9. Two (2) representatives from the **Gertrude Stein Democratic Club** who shall be elected by its membership to serve as **Ex-officio Members** with full rights of participation, including the right to vote, serving members term of office as set by this organization's charter;
10. Two (2) representatives from the **D.C. Federation of Democratic Women** elected by its membership to serve as **Ex-officio Members** with full rights of participation, including the right to vote, serving members term of office as set by this organization's charter;
11. Two (2) representatives from the **Asian and Pacific Islander Democratic Caucus** elected by its membership to serve as **Ex-officio Members** with full rights of participation, including the right to vote, serving members term of office as set by this organization's charter;
12. Two (2) representatives from the **Hispanic/Latino Caucus of Democrats** elected by its membership to serve as **Ex-officio Members** with full rights of participation, including the right to vote, serving members term of office shall be set by this organization's charter;
13. The National President of the National Federation of Democratic Women shall serve as an **Ex-officio Member**, through the duration of term of office and or as recognized as an emeritus officer of the national organization, and as long as residency in the District of Columbia is maintained as a registered Democratic voter;

14. The President of the DC Central Labor Council shall serve as an **Ex-officio Member** for the duration of term of office as long as he/she maintains residency in the District of Columbia as a registered Democratic voter;

15. One (1) representative of each of the Democratic constituencies of the District of Columbia Democratic Party, shall serve as the **Constituency Member** with full rights of participation, including the right to vote, for a term of two (2) years beginning when to Constituency Group is certified by the Chairperson of the State Committee:

Black Caucus;

Corporate Business Council;

Ethnic Caucus;

Religious and Faith-based Council;

Rural and the Environment Council;

Seniors Council;

Veterans and Military Families Caucus;

Women's Caucus and

Youth Council (from 17.5 to 27 years old).

The representative of each group shall be a registered Democrat in the District of Columbia, and serve a two (2) year term. Certification of the formation of the Constituency Group shall include not less than 10 DC Democrats of which 3 members shall be members of the District of Columbia Democratic State Committee elected at the ward, at-large or affiliate member level. Within 60 business days of initial establishment, and thereafter annually, each constituency group shall file a copy of its organizational goals, annual plan of activities with the Chairperson of the State Committee.

B. Term of Office

1. The Elected Members and Ex-Officio Members, Sections 1-4 and 6-14, shall serve until the call of the Annual Meeting or the expiration of their term as representatives of their respective organizations.
2. The Add-On Members, Section 5, shall serve for a two year term of office and shall be elected by members of the DCDSC.
3. The Democratic Constituency Groups members, Section 15, shall serve for their stated term until replaced by their respective Constituency Group representative.

C. State Committee members in Article III, Sections A. 1-3, shall be elected to a four-year term of office at the regular District of Columbia Democratic Primary to be held every 4 years beginning in 2014 under the District of Columbia Election Laws.

D. State Committee Members elected in Article III, Sections 1-15

1. 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.
2. Representative must be a member in good standing of the said organization that is granted full participation rights on the DC State Committee, as specified in their organization's charter.

E. 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 to 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.

F. All members of the State Committee except for those listed in Article III, Sections A. 5 and 15 shall hold office for four (4) years or until their successors are elected and qualified.

G. Resignations from membership on the State Committee

1. Resignation from membership on the State Committee shall be made in writing to the Chairperson that shall forward a copy to the Chairperson of the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics.
2. 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 DCBOEE as provided for in the By-Laws of the State Committee.

H. Members may be removed by petition in accordance with Article II, Section A.3 of the By-Laws.

I. 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, Vice-Chairperson, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and 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 until the Annual Meeting 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-Law, including the official signer of all legal documents of the organization. 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. The Chairperson shall serve as a member of the Democratic National Committee and the Association of Democratic State Chairs.

- C. It shall be the duty of the Vice Chairperson to act for the Chairperson in the absence or incapacity of the Chairperson until an election shall be held to fill the vacant position. The Vice Chairperson shall serve as a member of the Democratic National Committee and the Association of Democratic State Chairs.
- D. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to prepare a 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 notices to members and to certify meeting quorums.
- 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.
- G. Officers shall serve until the call of the Annual meeting at the expiration of their term.

ARTICLE V: Meetings

A. Meetings

1. Annual

- a. There shall be an Annual Meeting of the State Committee in the year when the Party Members are elected (even number of years).
- b. The business of the meeting as described in the By-Laws shall include the election of officers.
- c. The meeting shall be held within 60 business days of the regular District of Columbia General Election that is held under the District of Columbia Election Laws.

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

1. There shall be an Executive Committee, which shall consist of the Officers, the National Committeeman and alternate, the National Committeewoman and alternate, the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees, the Chair of the Ward Chairs, and the President of the Young Democrats of the District of Columbia.
 - a. 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.
 - b. The Chairperson shall have the authority to poll the executive committee members as needed for action required in the event that the Executive Committee is not scheduled or unable to meeting in person.
2. The Standing Committees shall be:
 - a. Constitution and By-Laws
 - b. Finance and Fundraising
 - c. Issues and Program
 - d. Party Organization and Function
 - e. Voter Outreach, Training and Education
 - f. Voting Rights and Statehood
3. There shall be such other Committees as deemed necessary. 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 election of Mayor in the District of Columbia.
- 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 Committeeman and Committeewoman
 1. In each such Primary Election there shall be elected the Democratic National Committeeman, National Committeewoman, and Alternate Committeeman, and Alternate Committeewoman. It shall be the duty of the Democratic National Committeeman and Committeewoman as members of the Democratic National Committee, to attend all the meetings of the Democratic National Committee.
 2. The Alternate Committeeman and Alternate Committeewoman shall not hold membership in the Democratic National Committee.
 3. 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.
 4. 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 as specified in the D.C. code, the official delegate selection rules of the Democratic National Committee of the United States and the D.C. Delegate Selection Plan adopted by the State Committee and approved by the DC Board of Elections.
4. The State Committee shall meet prior to the Democratic National Convention to conduct the delegate selection process including the certification of Delegates, Alternates, and Standing Convention Committee Members of the District of Columbia Delegation 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 constitute the official District of Columbia Delegation.

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. #####

Constitution amendments adopted at DCDSC meetings on 6/3/04, 11/3/11, 9/5/12, 3/12/14 and 6/18/14.