

5th District Democrats

(Adopted January 21, 2015)

Preamble

This organization is established to promote the philosophy of the Democratic Party, to support its candidates, to educate the residents of the 5th Legislative District about the ideals, goals and activities of the Democratic Party, and to extend opportunities to participate in the Party to all Democrats in the District.

Article I: Name

The name of this organization is the 5th District Democrats.

Article II: Policies

Section 1: This organization operates under the applicable bylaws and rules of the King County Democratic Central Committee (KCDCC), the Washington State Democratic Central Committee (WSDCC), the Democratic National Committee (DNC), and the laws of Washington State.

Section 2: It is the policy of this organization to contribute to the growth, development and influence of the Democratic Party and to increase Party responsibility by guaranteeing maximum participation, equal representation and equal treatment for all.

Section 3: This organization supports the National, Washington State, King County and 5th LD platforms of the Democratic Party and those Democratic Party nominees who, by their records and their reputations, are in general agreement with that platform.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: The membership of this organization consists of

(A) All elected, appointed, and acting 5th District Democratic Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) and
(B) District residents who are at least fourteen (14) years of age who declare themselves to be Democrats and pay dues to this organization.

(C) Other individuals who express an interest in the 5th Legislative District, declare themselves to be Democrats, and pay dues to this organization.

Section 2: PCOs are not required to pay membership dues but are encouraged to do so. Dues or some other form of prior association from those who are not PCOs must be established ten (10) days prior to gaining voting privileges. All members are accorded equal privileges except as provided for in these bylaws.

Section 3: Dues are established by the organization at the second meeting after the District biennial reorganization meeting and must include provisions to ensure that no one is denied the right to fully participate in the organization because of inability to pay dues.

Article IV: Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs)

Section 1: KCDCC rules and bylaws govern the appointment of PCOs.

Section 2: An appointed PCO supersedes an acting PCO, who may or may not reside in the precinct. A primary task of each acting PCO is to recruit a precinct resident to file for PCO.

Section 3: Applications for acting and appointed PCOs are considered at regular District meetings. A prospective PCO must be in attendance at the meeting where his/her application is acted upon.

Section 4: Applications for acting and appointed PCOs are voted on one at a time. When only one person applies for PCO in a precinct, a voice vote is taken unless there is a request for a written ballot. Every application for PCO presented to the organization at a regular membership meeting must be approved or denied at that meeting and cannot be tabled or postponed.

Section 5: Approval of any person to the position of acting or appointed PCO requires a majority of those present and eligible to vote. The District Chair is responsible for sending all recommendations to the County Party in a timely manner.

Section 6: By a two-thirds (2/3) vote at a regular meeting, the organization may temporarily delegate to the Executive Board the power to recommend to the County Party acting and appointed PCOs in the following month, provided the procedures of this Article are otherwise followed. Delegation of this power is appropriate in a situation of heightened activity and impending deadlines (as for caucuses).

Section 7: Any member who is a resident of the district is eligible to be nominated, elected, and serve in any elected officer position (although some positions may be subject to age and gender limitations). The electors for district officers who are delegates to other Democratic organizations by virtue of their position shall be the elected and appointed PCOs serving in their precinct of residence. The electors for all other officer positions shall be all district members who reside in the district.

Section 8: Only elected and appointed PCOs serving in their precinct of residence may select candidates for appointment to a Democratic elected office.

Section 9: A PCO is considered to have resigned from the position upon:

- (A) Written resignation directed to the organization,
- (B) Termination of registration to vote in the precinct which he/she represents,
- (C) Written or public declaration of disaffiliation with the Democratic Party or affiliation with another political party, or
- (D) Any other manner declared by Washington State statutes.

Section 10: The Chair must announce all PCO resignations at the next Executive Board and membership meeting and publish such resignations to the membership.

Article V: Officers and Duties

Section 1: The officers of this organization are: Chair, First Vice-Chair, Second Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, two (2) Delegates (one male and one female) and two (2) Alternate Delegates (one male and one female) to the KCDCC executive board, two (2) Delegates (one male and one female) to WSDCC, and one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate delegate to the King County Young Democrats and Washington State Young Democrats. Their term of office is from one reorganization meeting to the subsequent reorganization meeting. This is normally two (2) years, but may be one year when a special reorganization meeting is necessary due to redistricting.

Section 2: Additional officers may be elected by the membership from time to time to fill posts suggested or required by applicable rules and laws.

Section 3: The Chair is the executive officer of the organization. The Chair presides at all meetings, appoints all committees, designates members to perform such duties deemed necessary, and performs all duties customarily carried out by the executive officer of an organization. The Chair is also a voting representative of the District to the KCDCC executive board and to the State Chairs Organization.

Section 4: The First Vice-Chair serves in the absence or incapacity of the Chair, acts as a third Alternate Delegate or an alternate to the Chair at the KCDCC executive board, and performs other duties as directed by the Chair. The First Vice-Chair does not automatically succeed the Chair if that office becomes vacant. The First Vice-Chair is also a voting representative of the District to the State Chairs Organization.

Section 5: The Second Vice-Chair serves in the absence or incapacity of the First Vice-Chair and performs other duties as directed by the Chair. However, the Second Vice-Chair does not automatically succeed the First Vice-Chair if that office becomes vacant.

Section 6: The Secretary records the minutes of District membership and executive board meetings and prepares a summary for distribution to the membership, and performs other duties as directed by the Chair.

Section 7: The Treasurer is responsible for the safekeeping of the organization's funds, prepares checks for disbursement of funds, makes monthly reports (oral or written) to the members, submits an annual report, and performs all functions normally attendant on the office, including strict adherence to the requirements of the Public Disclosure Commission.

Section 8: Delegates and Alternates to the KCDCC executive board represent the District organization at each meeting of the King County Central Committee Executive Board and report back to the membership. One (1) man and one (1) woman serve as Delegates, and one (1) man and one (1) woman serve as Alternate Delegates from the District organization. An Alternate Delegate is seated in the absence of a Delegate or in the absence of the District Chair if the First Vice-Chair is unable to attend.

Section 9: Delegates to WSDCC represent the District organization at each meeting of the State Central Committee and report back to the membership. One (1) man and one (1) woman serve as Delegates from the District organization.

Section 10: Delegates and Alternates to the King County Young Democrats and Washington State Young Democrats represent the District organization at meetings and functions of those organizations and report back to the membership.

Article VI: Removal of Officers

Section 1: Officers may be removed for serious cause.

Section 2: On written request of twenty percent (20%) of the electors for an office, a special meeting may be called for the purpose of removing an officer.

Section 3: Notice of such meeting shall be published to the membership at least 14 days in advance of the meeting and shall include a statement of the grounds for removal. A rebuttal to the grounds for removal shall be included with the notice, if the officer chooses to respond.

Section 4: The quorum for a meeting to remove an officer shall be 40% of the electors for that office.

Section 5: A two-thirds (2/3) vote is required to remove an officer.

Article VII: Executive Board

Section 1: The District Executive Board is composed of all elected District officers, District organization members who are also officers of the National, Washington State or King County Democratic organizations, and the chairs of all standing committees. Standing committee chairs are appointed by the District Chair as needed, with the approval of the Executive Board and a majority of those members present and voting at a regular membership meeting.

Section 2: An individual may fulfill multiple Executive Board positions, but each individual is entitled to just one vote.

Section 3: The Executive Board meets on a regular basis for the purpose of planning the activities and administering the policies of the organization. Meetings are called by the Chair or at the request of fifty percent (50%) of the Executive Board members.

Section 4: The Executive Board is responsible for the preparation of an annual budget. Approval of the budget requires a simple majority of those present and voting at a regular membership meeting.

Section 5: A majority of the Executive Board constitutes a quorum at its meetings.

Section 6: Notice of regular Executive Board meetings is published to the membership. These meetings are open to all members.

Section 7: Any form of electronic meeting is acceptable provided that each participant is able to hear and speak directly to all other meeting participants.

Section 8: The Executive Board may adopt procedures for taking votes by email or other forms of electronic communication.

Article VIII: Standing Committees

Section 1: Standing Committees may be established from time to time in response to recognized needs, either by motion of the general membership or by the District Chair.

Section 2: Standing Committee Chairs are appointed by the District Chair, with the approval of the Executive Board and a majority of those members present and voting at a regular membership meeting.

Section 3: The existence and function of Standing Committees is flexible, depending on both recognized needs and availability of members with the requisite time and skills. Examples of possible Standing Committees include: Endorsements, Communications, Fund Raising, Legislative Action, PCO Support, Affirmative Action and Outreach, Membership, Platform and Resolutions, Rules, and Credentials.

Section 4: In the absence of a Standing Committee Chair, the District Chair may appoint any member to be responsible for any of the functions that would normally be part of that role.

Section 5: Standing Committees are encouraged to propose standing rules pertaining to their function.

Article IX: Membership Meetings

Section 1: Meetings of the organization will be held monthly at a regular time and place, unless changed by the Executive Board. These meetings are open to the public.

Section 2: A quorum consists of at least ten (10) members.

Section 3: In all matters not covered by these bylaws or other adopted rules, meetings will conform to the latest revision of Robert's Rules of Order.

Article X: Endorsements

Section 1: The organization may make endorsements of candidates or take positions on ballot proposals within the applicable rules of KCDCC, WSDCC, and DNC.

Section 2: The organization will adopt standing rules on Endorsements. Such rules may include provisions for delegating temporary authority to the Executive Board to make endorsements when timeliness is a concern.

Article XI: Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to these bylaws must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the PCOs serving in their precinct of residence in attendance at a regular meeting of this organization. Notice that bylaw changes are on the meeting agenda must be published to the membership at least 10 days prior to the meeting.