

**23<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT  
DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

**BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE I. NAME**

This organization shall be known as the 23rd Legislative District Democratic Central Committee, hereinafter referred to as the "23rd Central Committee".

**ARTICLE II. MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of this organization shall be:

- A. To express the Democratic Party's basic principles of inclusion and diversity by welcoming all 23rd Legislative District citizens who share Democratic values in organizational activities.
- B. To contribute to the development and advancement of the ideas and principles that constitute the core values of the Democratic Party.
- C. To promote such actions as to ensure that all levels of government function for the common good of both its current citizens and future generations.
- D. To build and maintain an effective local Democratic organization for the purpose of:
  1. Recruiting, supporting, and electing candidates to office who reflect the values and positions of the 23rd Central Committee;
  2. Promoting positions on issues of public policy that are consistent with the values and positions of the 23rd Central Committee;
  3. Maximizing the Democratic vote in all elections.

**ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. MEMBERS OF THE 23RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE.**

Membership in this organization is open to all Democrats and is granted upon receipt of dues with the following exceptions:

- A. Membership is granted to the Chair of the County Democratic Central Committee of those counties having precincts within the 23rd Legislative District, and
- B. The Executive Board of the 23rd Central Committee may grant full membership with reduced dues to any person who requests a reduction by majority vote (50%+1).

**Section 2. DUES.**

Annual dues of the 23rd Legislative District shall be set by the Executive Board.

**Section 3. VOTING PRIVILEGES.**

All members shall have full voting privileges on matters coming before the body with the following exceptions as per Statutes of the State of Washington and these Bylaws:

- A. Only elected Precinct Committee Officers may vote to elect or remove officers.
- B. Only Resident Precinct Committee Officers may vote to recommend appointments to fill vacancies for public office.

**ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS****Section 1. ELIGIBILITY.**

Any member in good standing of the 23rd Central Committee shall be eligible to hold any office, provided the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are of opposite gender.

**Section 2. ELECTED OFFICERS.**

The elected officers of this organization, who shall be elected at each organizational meeting, shall consist of the following:

- A. Chairperson
- B. Vice Chairperson
- C. Treasurer
- D. State Committeeman
- E. State Committeewoman

**Section 3. APPOINTED OFFICERS.**

Appointed officers shall consist of the following:

- A. A Secretary shall be appointed by the Chairperson, and such Assistant Secretaries may be appointed by the Chairperson as necessary to conduct the business of the organization.
- B. A Sergeant-at-Arms may be appointed by the Chairperson.
- C. A Parliamentarian may be appointed by the Chairperson to advise on procedural issues and assist the Chairperson as requested.

**Section 4. TERMS OF OFFICE.**

The officers of this organization shall serve terms of office as follows:

- A. Elected officers shall serve two year terms beginning immediately with the organizational meeting at which they are elected and ending at the following organizational meeting upon election of their successors, with the following exceptions:
  - 1. An officer elected for whatever reason in the interim of organizational meetings shall serve until the following organizational meeting and the

- election of their successors;
  - 2. Resignation; and
  - 3. Removal from office by the membership.
- B. Appointed officers shall serve terms concurrent with the Chairperson who appointed them or until such time as they are discharged from their duties by the appointing Chairperson.
- C. Appointed officers serve at the pleasure of the Chairperson and may be dismissed by the Chairperson.

### **Section 5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

Any member of the 23rd Central Committee may nominate another member for office. Election of officers shall be by one of the following methods:

- A. Regular election of officers shall:
- 1. Occur at each biennial organizational meeting;
  - 2. Be conducted by signed paper ballot except that when there is only one nominee for an office the election may be by voice vote; and
  - 3. Require a simple majority (50% +1) of members present and voting for election.
- B. Special election of officers shall be conducted in the same manner as regular elections with the following exceptions:
- 1. They shall occur at the next regular meeting of the organization following a vacancy in office, provided that the members have received official notice at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting, or
  - 2. In the event that an officer is removed from office by the membership, an election will be held immediately to replace the removed officer.

### **Section 6. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.**

Removal of an officer from office or a member at large from the Executive Board may be accomplished by the following methods:

- A. Any officer may resign from office by submitting a written resignation which shall become effective upon approval by the Executive Board.
- B. Any officer shall be removed from office for failure to discharge the duties of the office to the satisfaction of the membership, provided:
- 1. The charges for removal are in writing and signed by at least five (5) elected Precinct Committee Officers.
  - 2. The officer so charged and the membership-at-large received written notice of the charges at least seven (7) days before the meeting at which the charges are to be addressed.
  - 3. The officer charged has the opportunity to address the membership.
  - 4. Two-thirds of the members present and voting cast ballots in favor of removal.

- C. Section 6 and Section 5. B. of this article apply to persons elected to the positions of Executive Board member at large in addition to the enumerated elected officers.

## **ARTICLE V. DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **Section 1. CHAIRPERSON.**

The Chairperson shall:

- A. Serve as the chief administrative officer and official spokesperson of this organization.
- B. Preside at all meetings of the 23rd Central Committee, as well as those of the Executive Board.
- C. Appoint all standing and special committees and serve as ex officio member thereof.
- D. Appoint the Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Parliamentarian as necessary.
- E. Recommend appointment of precinct committee officers to fill vacancies to the Chairperson of any County Democratic Central Committee of those counties having precincts within the 23rd Legislative District
- F. Sign checks on the treasury when the Treasurer is not available.
- G. Advise and assist Democratic candidates for national, state and county offices within the 23rd Legislative District.
- H. Maintain a complete up-to-date mailing list of all precinct committee officers and members of the 23rd Central Committee.
- I. Perform all other duties pertaining to the office of Chairperson.

### **Section 2. VICE CHAIRPERSON.**

The Vice Chairperson shall:

- A. Assist the Chairperson in discharging the duties of that office.
- B. Perform the duties of the Chairperson in the absence or inability of that officer to act.
- C. Assume the office of Chairperson in case of a vacancy in that office until the vacancy is filled.

### **Section 3. SECRETARY.**

The Secretary shall:

- A. Send notices of and keep record of all meetings of the 23rd Central Committee, as well as of the Executive Board.
- B. Keep a roll of the 23rd Central Committee members and a copy of the formal reports of its officers and committees.
- C. Keep minutes of the 23rd Central Committee and Executive Board meetings.

**Section 4. TREASURER.**

The Treasurer shall:

- A. Receive all moneys of the 23rd Central Committee, issuing receipts for moneys received, keeping an accurate record of, and paying out same by check signed by himself/herself or the Chairperson, as authorized by the approved budget.
- B. Make a complete financial report at any time upon the request of the Chairperson or upon the request of the Executive Board.
- C. Keep records and file all reports required for compliance with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).
- D. Serve as chairperson of the budget committee which shall prepare a two-year budget for submission to the Central Committee for adoption. The 23rd Central Committee may authorize additional expenditures by majority vote. The Executive Board and Executive Committee may reallocate funds within the budget.
- E. Furnish the Chairperson with a list of those persons who have paid their dues and are members in good standing of the 23rd Central Committee, including the date that dues were received and the date the membership will lapse.
- F. The books of the Treasurer shall be audited after each general election, by an Auditing Committee of at least three members, or at any time by action of the Executive Board.

**Section 5. STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT COMMITTEEMAN AND STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT COMMITTEEWOMAN.**

The State Committeeman and State Committeewoman shall:

- A. Act as liaison officers between the State Democratic Party and the 23rd Legislative District Democrats.
- B. Attend all meetings of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee and report on those proceedings to the Central Committee.
- C. At the discretion of the Executive board, forfeit his/her elected office for failure to attend two (2) consecutive meetings of the State Central Committee without being excused by the Chairperson and giving his/her proxy to another member to represent the 23 Legislative District.

**Section 6. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS.**

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall:

- A. Perform the ordinary duties of the office as requested by the Chairperson.
- B. Ensure that all members voting at regular and special meetings are members in good standing of the 23rd Central Committee

**Section 7. ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.**

Assistant Secretaries, if any, shall perform their duties under the direction of the Chairperson.

**ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS****Section 1. ATTENDANCE.**

Meetings of the 23rd Central Committee are open to all Democrats, the public, and the press.

**Section 2. REGULAR MEETINGS.**

Regular meetings of this organization shall be held at least quarterly during each year. Written notices for all such meetings shall be sent to each member at least seven (7) days in advance of each meeting.

**Section 3. BIENNIAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS.**

The biennial organization meeting shall be held after the State general election in even-numbered years as specified by State Law and State Party Rules. Notice of such meeting shall be mailed to each Precinct Committee Officer at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting.

**Section 4. BIENNIAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING PROCEDURES.**

The organizational meeting shall be called to order by the first enumerated of the following officers present: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, or Treasurer, who shall appoint a secretary pro-tem and preside until the election of a Chairperson.

**Section 5. ACCEPTANCE OF BY-LAWS.**

The first order of business following the election of officers at biennial organizational meetings shall be the acceptance of bylaws. The 23rd Central Committee shall operate under the old bylaws until this task is accomplished by a majority vote (50% + 1) on any of the following actions:

- A. Approval of the current bylaws.
- B. Amendment of the current bylaws followed by approval.
- C. Adoption of new bylaws.

**Section 6. SPECIAL MEETINGS.**

Special meetings of the Central Committee may be called by the Chairperson, or in the Chairperson's absence or incapacity by the Vice Chairperson, or by any other officer in the absence of the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson, the Executive Board, or any ten (10) elected Precinct Committee Officers, provided:

- A. The call is delivered in writing,
- B. The call states the reason for the special meeting, and
- C. The call has been mailed to all voting members at least ten (10) days before the meeting is to take place.

**Section 7. ABSENTEE AND PROXY BALLOTS.**

Absentee or proxy ballots are prohibited.

**Section 8. MEETING QUORUM.**

Twenty (20) percent of the members of the 23rd Central Committee or Twenty (20) percent of Precinct Committee Officers shall constitute a quorum at any regular meeting of the 23rd Central Committee.

**Section 9. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY.**

Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall be the parliamentary authority of all matters of procedure not specifically covered by these by-laws.

**ARTICLE VII. EXECUTIVE BOARD****Section 1. MEMBERSHIP.**

The following members shall constitute the Executive Board:

- A. The elected officers listed in ARTICLE V.
- B. A secretary appointed by the Chairperson.
- C. Eight members, who shall be elected by majority vote (50% +1) of the 23rd Central Committee at the first regular meeting subsequent to the biennial organizational meeting. The following restrictions shall apply:
  1. At least one member shall be elected from within the geographic boundaries of the four school districts within the 23rd Legislative District; and
  2. No more than five of the members elected shall be of the same gender.
- D. The County Chairperson of those counties having precincts included in the 23rd Legislative District shall be an ex-officio member.

**Section 2. EXECUTIVE BOARD FUNCTION.**

The Executive Board shall:

- A. Conduct the business of the 23rd Central Committee during the intervals between regular meetings.
- B. Make recommendations to the 23rd Central Committee upon matters of concern to the membership.
- C. Perform such specific functions and duties as are authorized or required in the by-laws or by resolution of the 23rd Central Committee.
- D. Meet at the call of the Chairperson with five (5) of the members present to constitute a quorum.

**Section 3. LIMITATIONS.**

The Executive Board cannot negate any action taken by the 23rd Central Committee.

**Section 4. EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIR AND SUCCESSION.**

The Chairperson of the 23rd Central Committee shall be the Chairperson of the

Executive Board, and in that officer's absence the succession shall fall as enumerated in Article VI, Section 4.

## **ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

The elected officers shall constitute the Executive Committee, which shall assume all duties of the Executive Board between meetings of that body, except that the subordinate body cannot overturn any action taken by its superior. The Executive Committee may reallocate funds within the budget.

### **Section 2. SPECIAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES.**

All Committees shall be created by the Chairperson of the 23rd Central Committee, either by the Chair's authorization or by direction of the 23rd Central Committee with the following exceptions:

- A. Those Committees dictated by State or National Democratic Party Rules, and
- B. Those Committees required by the Bylaws of the 23rd Central Committee.

### **Section 3. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.**

All committees must have at least three members appointed by the Chairperson except those whose membership must be selected in accordance with State and National Democratic Party Rules.

### **Section 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

Chairpersons of standing committees shall present plans of how their assigned task is to be accomplished to the Executive Board. Progress reports on Committee work shall be made as requested by the Chairperson of the 23rd Central Committee.

### **Section 4. COMMITTEE EXPENDITURES.**

No committee shall incur any expenditure involving this organization unless authorized.

### **Section 5. CONTINUITY OF RECORDS.**

Retiring Committee Chairs must relinquish all books, records, and supplies upon retirement.

## **ARTICLE IX. ENDORSEMENTS, APPROVAL AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **Section 1. ENDORSEMENTS AND APPROVAL OF CANDIDATES.**

The 23rd Central Committee may take the following actions with respect to support for candidates seeking elected office:

- A. Endorsement and full support by the body. Endorsement shall:
  - 1. Be limited to one candidate per office in each primary or general election;
  - 2. Require a 75% majority of the members present and voting;

3. Take precedence over any other action for a particular office; and
  4. Be the sole action that shall be taken for an elected position in which it is bestowed.
- B. Approval, allowing candidates access to mailing lists and other assistance as the Executive Board feels is prudent. Approval requires a simple majority (50%+1) of the members present and voting and may be granted to more than one candidate per elected position.
- C. Non-endorsement with no official support from the 23rd Central Committee.
- D. No action.

### **Section 2. ENDORSEMENT OF OTHER BALLOT MEASURES.**

The 23rd Central Committee, upon a 75% majority of those present and voting, may take the following actions with respect to support for levy proposals, initiatives, or other ballot measures in which there are no candidates:

- A. Endorsement and support for the measure,
- B. Opposition and support against the measure

### **Section 3. PROCEDURE FOR SEEKING ENDORSEMENT OR APPROVAL.**

Candidates or Election Committees seeking assistance from the 23rd Central Committee shall contact the Chairperson, who shall present the request to the Executive Board and may request the candidate to:

- A. Submit a written application to the Executive Board.
- B. Appear in person before the Executive Board.

### **Section 4. EXECUTIVE BOARD RESPONSIBILITY.**

The Executive Board shall act as a screening committee for candidates seeking support from the 23rd Central Committee. Upon receipt of a request from the Chairperson and such information as the Board deems sufficient, the Board shall make a recommendation to the 23rd Central Committee regarding candidates or other ballot measures.

### **Section 5. APPOINTMENTS TO PUBLIC OFFICE.**

When the 23rd Central Committee is required to present recommendations to fill a vacancy in public office, such recommendation shall be made in accordance with the Statutes of the State of Washington and Washington State Democratic Party Rules, however, the body as a whole may make recommendations to Resident Precinct Committee Officers.

## **ARTICLE X. DISTRICT CONVENTION**

The District Convention shall be held and conducted on the call of the Chair in even numbered years in conformity with State and National Democratic Party rules.

**ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

**Section 1. AMENDMENT PROCEDURES.**

These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds majority of the membership present, provided:

- A. Written notice of such proposed action was included in the notice of the meeting, or
- B. The proposed action was presented at the previous regular meeting.

**ARTICLE XII. AUTHORITY OF BYLAWS**

**Section 1. REPLACEMENT CLAUSE.**

These by-laws supersede and replace any previous by-laws passed by the 23rd Legislative District Democratic Central Committee.

**Section 2. CONFLICTS OF AUTHORITY.**

Where these by-laws conflict with the Statutes or Regulations of the State of Washington or the bylaws or rules of State or Federal Democratic Party Organizations the higher authority shall take precedence.

**ARTICLE XIII. HISTORY OF BYLAWS**

These bylaws were adopted on January 5th, 1997, and have been amended as recorded below:

March 9, 1997

January 3, 1999

February 11, 2001

December 12, 2004

December 10, 2006