

## BYLAWS

### THE DOUGHERTY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

**PREAMBLE:** The **Dougherty County Democratic Committee (DOCODC)** aspires to be an effective grassroots political organization and is open to all residents of Dougherty County who publicly declare that they believe in the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party.

**ARTICLE I:** The County is Dougherty.

**Section A:** Creation and Purpose.

An organization known as the Dougherty County Democratic Committee, hereafter referred to as “DOCODC”, shall have responsibility for and jurisdiction over Party affairs in Dougherty County.

**Section B:** Duties. The duties of the DOCODC are to promote development of Party organization and activities; seek and encourage qualified candidates for public office; support Democratic nominees; perform such election functions as are required by law; maintain appropriate records; promote and add logistical support to the State Affirmative Action Program; raise funds for the above purposes; and perform such other duties as may be required by the State Democratic Party. The DOCODC shall remain neutral in all instances during primary and primary run-off elections where two or more candidates are vying for the same office are Democrats, if these candidates have demonstrated their allegiance to the principals of the Democratic Party.

**Section C:** Governance. The DOCODC shall be governed by these bylaws and by the bylaws of the Georgia State Democratic Party, in particular Article VII of the State Party bylaws, “County Committees.” Where the DOCODC and State Party bylaws are in conflict, the State Party bylaws shall prevail.

**Section D:** Composition.

1. The Dougherty County Democratic DOCODC shall be organized by County Districts. Each single member district shall be allocated six (6) elective slots, numbered one (1) through (6). In the event any multimember district exists within Dougherty County it will be allocated a number of slots equivalent to its representation in the county. Each member of the DOCODC, either elected or otherwise appointed, shall be a member of the applicable County District in which he or she resides.

## 2. Election of the DOCODC.

- a. In a gubernatorial election year all even-number seats within each district of the DOCODC shall be open for election. Election shall be by hand; the same procedure and rules as those for other county elected officials shall prevail, except that the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected without the necessity of a runoff. Notice shall be given as provided by law or by Democratic Party regulation.
- b. In national presidential election years all odd-numbered Seats within each district of the DOCODC shall be open for election. Election shall be the membership (which may coincide with the state convention) of party members of each respective district within 45 days after the General Election at a time and place called for that purpose. Notice shall be given as provided by law or by DOCODC of at least 10 days.
- c. Terms of DOCODC members elected by hand ballot or caucus shall be 4 years, unless there is an intervening General Reapportionment. County DOCODC members elected by voting shall take office on the **first day of first month following their election.**
- d. In the event of an intervening General Reapportionment, all DOCODC members who are members by virtue of holding a county seat will have their terms end on the first day of the first month following the next General Election. New members to fill the expired seats will be elected by the body as in (b) above, except that (i) in gubernatorial election years, even seats will be elected for four year terms and odd for four year terms (ii) in presidential election years, even seats will be elected for four year terms and odd seats for four year terms.
- e. The Chairman of the DOCODC shall be empowered to ask the Georgia State Democratic Party for relief from (d) above. Should this relief be granted, all current members of the DOCODC shall serve out the terms to which they were originally elected.
- f. The Chairman of the Dougherty County Democratic but non-quorum members of the DOCODC and shall serve until their successors are elected, appointed, or their positions abolished. All Democratic Party nominees for any office, chosen in the most recent Democratic Primary, who are residents of Dougherty County shall also be voting but non-quorum members of the DOCODC.
- g. In addition to DOCODC Members elected to District Seats, the DOCODC shall be authorized to approve the addition of voting members who reside in the said district of the County, for a term expiring at the next election for members of the DOCODC, in order to insure that the composition of the County DOCODC by race and gender shall reasonably reflect the population of the County.

h. Persons filling vacant DOCODC seats or offices shall fill out the complete term of the person vacating the seat, except where (d) above applies. Any office vacated by a member will allow an appointment by the chairman from the membership.

### 3. Organization of the DOCODC

- a. Within four (4) weeks after the newly elected members take office, every even numbered calendar year, the members of the DOCODC shall meet within the county and proceed to organize the DOCODC. The date, time and location for such a meeting shall be fixed by the Chair. If the new Chair does not set the time, date and location for such a meeting within (1) week after newly elected members take office, the District chair will contact the Chair of the DOCODC as a reminder to set a meeting date and if after 7 days a meeting has not been set, the Chair of the Congressional District will set the meeting date. DOCODC Chair may call a meeting with at least ten (10) days written notice to other members of the DOCODC. The County DOCODC shall elect from among its members a Chair, First and Second Chairs, and Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive Committee shall meet the 2nd Thursday of the month and these meetings may be virtual. The regular business meeting shall be the 3rd Thursday Of each month and all business will be conducted during this meeting unless a call meeting is conducted. A call meeting is designated only for the purpose of conducting the said business of the call meeting.
- b. Immediately following the organizational meeting of the County DOCODC or within ten (10) days thereafter, members of each county district, either or otherwise holding membership on the DOCODC, shall meet and elect from its membership District stakeholder. The meeting will be called by the retiring Chair, if available. The congressional district chair may also call the meeting. Upon the failure of any of the Districts to meet, the Chair of the DOCODC will call the meeting. Each District will provide for alternate members, not to exceed one-half (1/2) of its elected membership. Alternates shall be allowed to vote in the absence of members of the respective county district and may count towards a quorum.

## Section D. Officers.

### 1. Election of Officers.

- a. Officers other than Past Chair shall be elected from among the membership of the DOCODC in even calendar year. All Officers shall then be members of the DOCODC by virtue of their Office at least until the term of that Office shall end or the Office is vacated. All Officers shall count toward a quorum. At least one Vice-Chair shall be of the opposite gender of the Chair.

b. Any person receiving a majority of votes for election to any office shall be elected to that office. Should no candidate for a position receive a majority of votes, there shall be a runoff between the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

c. All retiring officers shall deliver to their respective successors within (10) days after the election of the latter, all records, monies, and other materials pertaining to the DOCODC.

## 2. Term of Office of Officers

Officers shall take office on January 1 following their election and shall hold office for (2) years.

## 3. Officers and their Duties

a. The Chair shall preside over all meetings of the DOCODC and the DOCODC Officers, call special meetings of the DOCODC Officers, perform all acts and duties usually performed by an executive and presiding officer, act as an ex-officio member of all regular and special DOCODCs, execute all duties and responsibilities as may be prescribed by the Charter or bylaws or by the DOCODC Officers, and jointly with the Secretary have legal authority to sign all written contracts and obligations of the DOCODC. The Chair shall also preside over the Executive DOCODC and Special Events sponsored by the County Party, and serve as chief spokesman of the Dougherty County Democratic Party. The Chair may sign checks with the Treasurer. Official statements as to the activities of the DOCODC or its Standing DOCODC's committees shall be made by the Chair or the first Vice-Chair in the event of the Chair's absence, illness or disability, or at their respective direction by the Congressional District Chair. The following DOCODCs committees shall report to the Chair: Policy and Legislative, Party Organization and Development, Candidate Development, Budget and Fundraising.

b. **The First Vice-Chair** shall coordinate and supervise the activities of such DOCODCs as shall be assigned by the Chair, perform any duties assigned by the DOCODC Officers and in the absence, disability, or resignation of the Chair perform the duties of the Chairperson. The First Vice-Chair shall be charged with the primary responsibility for the organization and development of the DOCODC. The following subDOCODCs committees shall report to the First Vice-Chair: Bylaws and Awards, Audit and Election Procedures. **The Second Vice-Chair** shall coordinate and supervise the activities of such DOCODCs committees as assigned by the Chair, perform any duties assigned by the DOCODC Officer and in the absence or disability of the Chair or First Vice-Chair, perform the duties of the Chair. The Second Vice Chair shall be

charged with primary responsibility for the Party's role in the holding of elections, with the proviso that the Chair may assume some or all of that role as the Chair deems fit. The following DOCODCs committees shall report to the Second Vice-Chair: Voter Registration, and Campaign Research..

- c. The Secretary shall keep a complete record of all meetings of the DOCODC. The minutes are to be prepared and sent to the Chair within 7 days after any meeting is held via email. The secretary shall have general charge and supervision of the books and records of the DOCODC, serve all notices required by the Charter and Bylaws of the DOCODC and shall make a full report of all matters and business pertaining to the office to the members at each general membership meeting, countersign with the Chair all written contracts and obligations of the DOCODC, perform other such duties as may be required by the DOCODC and upon the taking of office by a successor turn over all books and other property belonging to the DOCODC that may be in his/her possession. The Secretary is responsible for turning all candidate forms and fees to the Board of Elections, and posting candidate information at the Courthouse and Board of Elections for Dougherty County offices (i.e. School Board, County Commission.) If the Secretary is unable to turn in candidate forms, the Chair will assign a member of the DOCODC to turn in the candidate forms. The Secretary shall handle correspondence for the Party and shall maintain a roster of DOCODC members including addresses and where possible, phone numbers and email.

f. The Treasurer shall have general supervision and custody of all DOCODC funds and securities, be responsible for the collection of all accounts receivable, be responsible for the payment of all debts after authorization by the DOCODC Chair, maintain and adequate, modern set of books showing necessary information to the account for receipt and disposition of all fund and have the accounts audited at least once a year as determined by the DOCODC. The Treasurer is authorized to issue checks by his/her signature in conjunction with the Chair. The only other persons with check signing authority shall be the Chair, who is authorized to issue checks against the Party.

- g. The Past Chair may serve on any committees and acts as a resource for the incoming chair and the DOCODC. The Past Chair may serve as the chair of designated committees.

The Past Chair shall perform any duties assigned by the DOCODC Chair Officer.

#### 4. Voluntary Removal of Officers

- a. When an officer of the party declares their candidacy for a partisan office, they are deemed to have voluntarily resigned their position as an officer.

- b. The actions in (a) above will be reviewed at the next Executive DOCODC meeting, at which time the officer can be reinstated if they decide not to run for a partisan office.
- c. Failure of an officer to comply with the directions of the Executive Committee or extend a resignation or 3 unexcused meeting absences without notification.

### **Section E. Members.**

1. Members of the DOCODC shall be defined to be those persons who were duly elected to the DOCODC in accordance with the Constitution, Charter, and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Georgia and the Bylaws of the Dougherty County Democratic Committee, those persons appointed to fill vacancies in DOCODC posts as otherwise provided for in these bylaws, and any other person who may be specially elected or duly appointed in accordance with any other provisions thereof.
2. Duties of Members.
  - a. Members shall come to monthly meetings on a regular basis.
  - b. Members shall support democratic candidates in **ALL ELECTION CYCLES**.
  - c. Each Officer Member shall be a member of the Executive DOCODC of their county and help organize that county into an effective grassroots organization.
3. Removal and Replacement of Absent Members including Officers
  - a. Members who have three consecutive unexcused absences from regularly scheduled meetings of the DOCODC shall have his/her seat declared provisionally vacant by the Chair at the third such meeting.
  - b. The Secretary shall send a written notice to the absent Member that his/her seat has been vacated because of absences. The notice shall state that the absent member may elect to be subjected to a formal removal procedure by responding to the Secretary in writing that that is his/her desire. The notice shall also state that the Member may be reinstated automatically by simply attending the remainder of regularly scheduled meetings of the DOCODC for that year.
  - c. Within (10) days of the meeting at which the seat of the absent Member was declared vacant, the members of the District to which the Member belonged will hold a caucus and nominate a new Member who is a resident of Dougherty County and that District.

- d. Should there be no response from the absent Member to the Secretary and he/she is again absent from the next meeting of the DOCODC, the DOCODC shall vote on the nomination at a meeting for his/her replacement. Should the nomination be rejected by the DOCODC, or should no nomination have been made, the DOCODC shall proceed to elect a replacement Member by nomination from the floor, provided the replacement is a resident of Dougherty County and the District of the absent Member. Should the absent Member be an Officer, the DOCODC shall proceed to elect a replacement Officer from among the Members of the DOCODC.

4. Removal of Members including Officers for Cause.

- a. Cause sufficient to permit removal of Members shall be defined as follows:

- (1) Failure to perform the designated duties of office.
- (2) Malfeasance in office, which is defined as willful and intentional unprofessional misconduct by the person to be removed in the performance of duties with the DOCODC.
- (3) Misfeasance in office, which is defined as the performance in the course of duties with the DOCODC of a lawful action in an illegal or improper manner and need not involve intentional or willful misconduct. Conduct may be considered misfeasance without involving a misdemeanor or felony under state or federal law.
- (4) Public disclaimer of a member's affiliation with the Democratic Party of Georgia or the Dougherty County Democratic Committee.
- (5) Violation of or failure to comply with duly adopted provisions of Charter and Bylaws, if done by the person to be removed, with intention to commit said violation.
- (6) Other such grounds may be added or deleted from time to time by amendment of these Bylaws.

- b. Any person to be removed under the above provision must receive in writing from DOCODC of three (3) persons appointed by the Chair notice of the reasons alleged for the person's removal. Should the person be removed by the Chair the

DOCODC shall be appointed by a majority of the remaining Officers. Said DOCODC shall not submit said charges to such a person unless by a majority vote of its members present and voting at a duly held meeting, such majority to favor submission of the charges to the said person.

- c. The person to be removed shall have the right to be informed of all persons who will be witnesses against him/her and who will testify in support of the charges, at least ten (10) days before a hearing on said charges before the full DOCODC.
- d. The person to be removed shall have the right to counsel and to present all witnesses, documents, and arguments in support of his/her position. The DOCODC which has tendered the charges may likewise have counsel and present all witnesses, documents, and arguments in support of its position.
- e. Members of said DOCODC may vote on the charges at the time of voting by the full DOCODC.
- f. Removal is accomplished when at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the DOCODC support removal, provided forty percent (40%) of the Members are present and voting.
- g. No hearing before the DOCODC shall be held before thirty (30) days from the time charges have been received by the person to be removed.

5. Replacement of Members and Officers other than those removed for absence.

- a. Should a Member's seat or an Office become vacant due to death or resignation, that seat or Office shall be declared vacant by the Chair at the next meeting of the DOCODC, and the vacancy shall be filled at the next scheduled meeting of the DOCODC following the meeting at which the announcement is made.
- b. Should a Member's seat or Office become vacant due to removal for cause, the vacancy shall be filled at the next scheduled meeting of the DOCODC after the meeting at which the removal was accomplished.
- c. Within ten (10) days after the DOCODC meeting at which a Member's seat becomes vacant by announcement or removal, the members of the District to which the Member belonged will hold a meeting and nominate a new Member who is a resident of Dougherty County and that District. At the meeting specified in (a) or (b) above, the DOCODC shall vote on the nomination for his/her replacement. Should the nomination be rejected by the DOCODC, or should no nomination have been made, the DOCODC shall proceed to elect a replacement Member by nomination from the floor, provided the replacement is a resident of Dougherty County and the District of the vacant Member seat. Should an Office be vacant, the DOCODC Chair shall proceed to appoint a replacement Officer from among the Members of the DOCODC to complete the unexpired term.



#### 6. Terms of replacement Members and Officers.

Replacements for Officers and Members shall fill out the terms of those Officers and Members they replace.

### **Section F. Affiliate Organizations.**

The DOCODC may recognize and allow affiliation of such organizations the DOCODC deems appropriate as provided for in the State Party charter and bylaws.

### Section G. Time and Place of Meetings.

1. Regular meetings of the DOCODC shall be held on the third Thursday of each month at Northwest Library at 6pm or as previously determined by the DOCODC or the Executive DOCODC.
2. In all meetings of the DOCODC, reports and resolutions and motions shall be submitted in writing and filed in the chapters reports.
3. Special meetings may be called by the Chair, provided notice is dispatched at least ten (10) days in advance of said special meetings to all members of the DOCODC.

### **Section H. Consultants.**

The Chair shall have the authority to hire and fire persons who work for the DOCODC, provided that any such decision in this regard may be overridden by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Executive DOCODC present and voting at a regular or specially called meeting. Any contractor who is terminated by the Executive Committee may appear before the body of DOCODC in a proceeding to contest any decision terminating his/her contract. Any such proceeding shall be informal and shall be conducted pursuant to such procedures as the Executive DOCODC may wish to apply. Anything in these bylaws to the contrary notwithstanding, any contractor of the DOCODC may be terminated with or without cause pursuant to this procedure.

### Section I. Quorum.

A quorum shall consist of 6 members of the DOCODC. The requirement of the quorum may be waived by the Chair if announced at the previous meeting or announced in writing mailed to the DOCODC members at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

## **ARTICLE II: Executive DOCODC.**

### **Section A. Members of the Executive DOCODC.**

The Executive DOCODC shall be composed of the DOCODC Officers which are the Chair,

First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary and the ex officio Chair.

**Section B. Duties of the Executive DOCODC.**

It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Executive DOCODC to be the long-range planning body of the Dougherty County Democratic Committee, and to carry out such activities as shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Initiate and recommend operating policies of the DOCODC.
2. Review the recommendations of all Standing DOCODCs committees for consideration by the DOCODC.
3. Assist the Chair in the preparation of the agenda DOCODC meetings.
4. Authorize the expenditure of any funds up to the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) which was not an expenditure in the budget adopted by the DOCODC. Any expenditure greater than five hundred (\$500.00) which is not in the adopted budget must be approved by the DOCODC in the budget adopted by the DOCODC.
5. Oversee and supervise the expenditure of funds according to the budget adopted by DOCODC.

**Article III. Standing Subcommittees DOCODC**

**Section A. Designated Standing Subcommittees**

The DOCODC shall maintain the following Standing Subcommittees, members and chairs of which shall be designated by the Chair of the County Committee: Policy and Legislative, Party Organization and Development, Communications, Candidate Development and Speakers, Voter Registration, Campaign Research, Election Procedures, Audit, Fundraising, Budget and Finance, Special Events, By-Laws, Awards, Affirmative Action, and any other subcommittee deemed necessary by the Democratic Party of Georgia.

**Section B. Membership of the Standing Subcommittees**

The original membership of Standing Subcommittees shall be constituted from the membership

of the DOCODC. The Chair of the County Committee may appoint any person who is a member of the County Committee as an additional member of a Standing Subcommittee.

### Section C. Functions of the Standing Committee

1. **Audit.** The Audit Subcommittee shall consist of not less than three (3) persons who shall be charged with the responsibility of inspecting the books and records of the DOCOCO. Members of this Subcommittee shall be appointed by the Chair and ratified by the DOCODC. The Subcommittee shall report its findings to the full Committee.
2. **Budget and Finance.** The Budget and Finance Subcommittee shall assist and consult with the Chair in the preparation of an annual budget. The Subcommittee shall assist the Chair in presenting the annual budget to the Executive Committee for approval in January of each year in addition to the plan or plans for financing said budget. After the adoption of the budget by the DOCODC, the Budget and Finance Subcommittee shall pursue such course of action as may be necessary and proper for the raising of sufficient funds to support the DOCODC.
3. **By-Laws.** The By-Laws Subcommittee shall review and recommend to the Executive Committee and the DOCODC such actions or revisions to the By-Laws, Rules, and Constitution of The DOCODC as are deemed necessary.
4. **Campaign Research.** The Campaign Research Subcommittee shall analyze election returns, monitor opposition candidates, officeholders, and parties, compile a record of the performance of the officeholders, and in other appropriate ways gather and analyze information of value to nominees and officeholders.
5. **Candidate Development and Speakers.** The Candidate Development and Speakers Subcommittee shall seek out qualified people to run for public office on the Democratic ticket. The Subcommittee shall hold candidate seminars to discuss campaign techniques, work with candidates in the area of issue development, and line up speaking engagements that will make the candidates better known in their respective areas.
6. **Communications.** The Communications Subcommittee shall prepare for release to the news media promptly after each meeting of the DOCODC a statement of actions taken. The Chair of this Subcommittee shall also be responsible for newsletter preparation and distribution, press and media relations, and promotion of special events. All information must be approved by the Chair prior to any releases.
7. **Election Procedures.** The Election Procedures Subcommittee shall report to the DOCODC on all matters incidental to the holding of elections and shall work with the Democratic members of the Election Board to see that Democrats are represented in the conduct of elections at each precinct.
8. **Party Organization and Development.** The Party Organization and Development

Subcommittee shall be responsible for the development of an extensive and effective grassroots organization. The Subcommittee shall work closely with all Chair and organizations to encourage effective coverage of Dougherty County by the Party and shall encourage Democrats throughout the County to join the DODODC.

9. Policy and Legislative. The Policy and Legislative Subcommittee shall be responsible for recommending and developing the overall public policy of the DOCODC that align with the Democratic Party of Georgia. These positions must be submitted to the Executive Committee and then presented to the full County Committee for consideration and approval. Following adoption of policy positions by the County Committee, members of the Policy and Legislative Subcommittee may serve as the “action arm” of the Party to promote adoption of Party positions by appropriate governmental bodies. An additional function shall be to aid, when and where possible, elected Dougherty Democratic officials when they request assistance.
10. Special Events. The Special events Subcommittee shall organize and execute such fund-raising events as are scheduled and shall be in charge of arranging town hall meetings and other such issue-oriented events. All fundraising events must be approved by the Chair and the DOCODC. The Chair will appoint a chairman for the fundraising committee.
11. Voter Registration. The Voter Registration Subcommittee shall encourage all Democrats to register and vote. The Subcommittee shall conduct voter registration drives and shall review precinct boundaries and make recommendations as needed to assure convenient and speedy voting.
12. Awards. The Awards Subcommittee shall consist of six (6) members, three (3) being recipients of special awards from the DOCODC and one (1) representative each from the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners, Board of Education and the City Council. The function of the Subcommittee is to select those persons to be singled out for special recognition by the Dougherty DOCODC at a Banquet to be held at least biennially, or at any other time deemed appropriate by the Awards Subcommittee. The criteria and process of selection for the awards shall be subject to final approval by the County Committee.
13. Affirmative Action. The Affirmative Action Subcommittee shall perform those functions determined by DOCODC and the bylaws of the Georgia Democratic Party. The Subcommittee will report to whichever DOCODC Chair and Executive Committee.

## Article IV. Rules and Procedures

Section A. Unless Otherwise specified by these rules, *Roberts Rules of Order Revised 12 (latest edition)* shall govern the conduct of meetings of the DODODC, the Executive Committee, and the Standing Subcommittees.

Section B. A Parliamentarian, to be named by the Chair of his/her designee, shall be present at all meetings of the DOCODC and be prepared to rule on all questions concerning procedures and points of order.

Section C. Except in the case of Section D below, any resolution or substantive motion which any member of the DOCODC may desire to present to the full Committee must first be submitted to the appropriate Standing Subcommittee for consideration as hereinafter provided. If any such resolution or motion is made by a member at any regularly scheduled or specially scheduled meeting of the Committee that has not been submitted to a Standing Subcommittee, and the Chair rules at the time of its submission that it is of a substantial nature or involves a substantive issue worthy of further study and consideration, the Chair shall refer said motion or resolution to the proper Subcommittee for a report and recommendation to the next regular meeting of the DOCODC. However, the ruling by the Chair for a referral may be overruled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members then present and voting. Otherwise, no resolution or motion other than one governed by Section D below shall be debated or voted upon except after it has been presented in writing by a Standing Subcommittee to either the DOCODC Chair or Secretary. Any such motion or resolution shall be presented to the Executive Committee at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the regularly scheduled or specially scheduled meeting of the Committee at which said resolution or motion is to be presented. Within said fourteen (14) days, the Executive Committee shall discuss and act upon all motions and resolutions presented to it and shall (a) recommend passage as it is; (b) recommend passage subject to amendment; (c) recommend against passage; or (d) adopt a position of no recommendation. Resolutions and motions shall be heard by DOCODC under the following conditions: (a) the sponsor shall have complied with the above provisions; (b) they are properly moved and seconded; and (c) discussion is limited to a total of five (5) minutes for proponents and five (5) minutes for opponents to said motion or resolution. This limitation of debate may be waived by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the DOCODC members then presented and voted..

Section D. A resolution of DOCODC endorsement for a candidate in a nonpartisan election shall first be presented to the Executive Committee, and after approval by the Executive Committee, the endorsement resolution may be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full DOCODC.

Section E. All proposed changes to existing bylaws of the DOCODC shall be voted upon and approved by the DOCODC after consideration by the Executive Committee. The effectiveness of changes to the bylaws shall be upon adoption by the DOCODC, except that any changes in the number of duties of the elected officers of the DOCODC shall not become effective until the officers affected by said bylaw changes shall have served out the terms to the offices to which they were elected.

Section F. All proposed changes to the method of election of DOCODC members shall be made in the same manner that other changes in the DOCODC bylaws are made, except that such changes may be made only in odd number years unless necessitated by Georgia State Democratic Party rules.

SECTION G. Regulations for County Committee approved contributions to candidates.

1. Any contributions to a candidate for public office shall be accompanied by a cover letter which shall state in substance, "This contribution is made on the express condition that, after election, you remain a member of the Democratic Party. Your acceptance and/or use of this contribution is your personal acknowledgement and contract that should you win election yet at any time prior to the end of your term change parties or leave the Democratic Party, you will repay these amounts and any costs, including attorney's fees, associated with seeking such repayment."
2. The DOCODC shall seek reimbursement of any contribution, whether real or in-kind, made to a candidate who qualifies for office as a Democrat and, after qualification, switches to another party.

## **Article V. County Annual Meeting**

Section A. Within Presidential election years, after the Democratic Party Primary, the DOCODC may hold a county convention, the time and place to be called by the Chair or upon such notice as may be required by law or by Democratic Party regulation.

Section B. The Convention shall:

1. Consider any changes in the qualifications for any methods of election to membership on DOCODC;
2. Adopt a party platform;
3. At the discretion of DOCODC hold meetings for the purpose of electing new DOCODC members as provided for herein;
4. Undertake educational activities and workshops as may prove useful to the Democratic Party and its membership;
5. Undertake such other activities which in the discretion of the Chair of the County Committee are appropriate.

Section C. At least (30) days prior to the County Annual Meeting, the Chair shall appoint the following Committees (or designate the corresponding Committees of the County Committee) to plan for the Convention with the following responsibilities:

1. Bylaws Committee-to report to the convention any necessary changes in election of County Committee Membership or other constitutional or bylaw changes;
2. Platform Committee-to report to the convention a draft platform for discussion and adoption;
3. Education and Speaker Committee- to prepare educational forums and workshops and secure speakers for campaign research, candidate development, election procedures, party organization and development, policy and legislative matters, or such subjects as may be appropriate;
4. Arrangements Committee- to secure accommodations and necessary materials; and;
5. Credentials Committee- to report to the body on qualifications for voting therein, running for Committee membership, and any other matter in which credentials may be an issue.

#### Section D.

A County Meeting may also be called by the DOCODC, upon proper notice, at any other time that the DOCODC deems it appropriate.

#### **Article VI. Membership Levels**

The Dougherty County Democratic Committee, through DOCODC, may from time to time establish various membership levels including, but not limited to, contributing General membership, Breakfast Club membership, and corporate membership. The County Committee may establish contribution structures and benefits of the various membership levels.

The DOCODC shall ensure that the DODODC members elected are gender-balanced, and that the manner of race-balanced selection conforms to State and National Party Rules.

#### **Article VIII. Transition**

During the transition of any new officers, any outgoing officers will deliver any and all materials within 5 days of the new beginning term to the newly elected officer. All bylaws and any other applicable exchange of information will be in compliance with the local DOCODC bylaws and the Democratic Party of Georgia prior to the election.

Approved January 18, 2024