

# BY-LAWS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE

## ARTICLE I Meetings

1. The District of Columbia Democratic State Committee (formerly the Democratic Central Committee of the District of Columbia) DCDSC shall hold regular meetings on the first Thursday of the month in which meetings are scheduled during the year.
2. The Chairperson may cancel any regular meeting if any of the following conditions exist:
  - a. There is no business requiring a meeting,
  - b. No quorum will be possible for a meeting,
  - c. Another meeting of the Committee will be held within forty (40) days of the date on which the regular meeting would have been held.
3. Written notice that states the place, day and hour of any meeting of the State Committee shall be delivered to each member personally, by mail or electronically through e-mails or text message in accordance with the provisions in Article V, Section A.3.a of the Constitution.
  - a. If mailed, the notice of a meeting shall be deemed delivered when deposited in the US mail and addressed to the member's address as it appears on the official record.
  - b. If transmitted electronically, the notice of meeting shall be deemed delivered when sent to the contact address provided by the member.
4. One-third (1/3) of the actual members present and voting at a regular or special meeting shall constitute a quorum.
5. One-third (1/3) of the actual membership of the Executive Committee present and voting at an Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.
6. Conduct of all meetings of the DCDSC shall be governed by Rules of Order.
7. Votes shall be by voice in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and By-laws, with result determined by the Chair.
  - a. If a State Committee member calls for a "division of the house," the Chair will take a standing vote on the issue.
  - b. If one-third (1/3) of the members present and voting demand a roll call vote, the Chair shall cause the Recording Secretary to call the roll of members in rotating alphabetical and ward order. The names of those voting "Yes," "No," or "Present" shall be recorded. The above provision shall not be used in elections.

## ARTICLE II A. Filing of Vacancies

1. Upon resignation of any member from any position on the State Committee, the Chair shall within thirty (30) days of notice, send a copy of the resignation with a copy of the acceptance of said action to the Board of Elections and Ethics of the District of Columbia.

2. Vacancies of At-Large or Add-On Representatives State Committee members shall be filled by a majority vote of the State Committee at a regular meeting provided notice that the vacancy will be filled, has been given no less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting at which such action shall take place.
3. Vacancies of Ward Representative State Committee members shall be filled by an election within the Ward democratic Committee within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs and proper notice has been given by the Ward Democratic Committee to the affected Ward membership.
4. Vacancies of Affiliated Democratic Organization Representative State Committee members shall be filled within the membership of the Affiliated Democratic Organization within (30) days after the vacancy occurs and proper notice has been given by the Affiliated Democratic Organization to its membership.
5. Upon the filling of a vacancy in accordance with these by-laws, the Chair shall notify the Board of Elections and Ethics of the District of Columbia the name and address of the persons so elected. The submission of an updated annual roster of the elected members of the District of Columbia Democratic State Committee shall be in order.

#### **B. Removal of State Committee Members**

1. Pursuant to Article III, F. of the Constitution shall follow the procedures listed in this section.
  - a. A petition for removal must be presented to the Chair of the State Committee for such action.
    - 1) If it is for a Ward representative member, it must contain at least ten percent (10%) signatures of registered Democrats in the Ward in which said member resides.
    - 2) If it is for an At-large Representative member, it must contain at least ten percent (10%) signatures of registered Democrats in the District of Columbia.
    - 3) If it is for an Ex-Officio Representative member, it must contain at least forty percent (40%) of the members of the State Committee.
  - b. The petition for removal must cite the grounds for disqualification and removal.
  - c. Within fifteen (15) days after receipt of any petition for removal, the chair shall refer said petition to the Party Organization and Functions Committee for review, investigation and recommendation.
  - d. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of petition for removal, the party organization and Function Committee shall hold a hearing on said petition affording the member an opportunity to confront the petitioners, present evidence to rebut the grounds for removal and cross examine any witness testifying against said member. The said member against whom a petition for removal is filed may be represented by legal counsel.
  - e. Within fifteen (15) days after the hearing, the Party Organization and Function Committee shall make a recommendation for action on the petition to the Executive Committee of the State Committee.

f. The Executive Committee shall act upon the decision presented by the Party organization and Function Committee and shall notify the member in writing of such decision.

- 1) In the event there is a decision for disciplinary action, the proposed action shall be implemented unless the member files a request within ten (10) days to have the membership of the State Committee review the proposed action at a regular or special meeting.
- 2) In the event of such a request, the membership of the State Committee shall vote affirmatively or negatively on the proposed action. The decision of the State Committee shall be final.

### **ARTICLE III Annual Meeting**

The National Committeeman and National Committeewoman shall alternate in calling the first meeting of the State Committee after the Primary election at which they and the Ward and At-large State Committee Representatives are elected.

### **ARTICLE IV Election of Officers**

1. Election of officers shall be elected by a majority vote of State Committee members present and voting at the annual meeting pursuant to Article V, A. of the Constitution.
2. Voting of officers shall be by open ballot.

### **ARTICLE V Committees**

1. The Standing Committee Chairpersons and members of the standing committees shall be appointed by the Chair of the State Committee with approval of the Executive Committee of the State Committee.
2. Ad hoc Committees shall be appointed as needed by the Chair of the State Committee with the approval of the Executive Committee of the State Committee

### **ARTICLE VI Endorsements**

1. The State Committee shall vote to endorse candidates for the offices of Congressional Delegate, Mayor, Chairman and At-Large Members of the DC Council, Statehood Senators and Representative, National Committeeman, National Committeewoman, Alternate National Committeeman and Alternate National Committeewoman.
2. Voting shall be by open ballot.

3. Prior to the meeting to consider endorsement, a candidates' forum will be sponsored by the State Committee with those candidates who have filled their Statement of Candidacy and campaign committee with the DC Office of Campaign Finance.
  - a. The candidate who receives sixty percent (60%) of the votes cast will be the official candidate of the DCDSC and will be eligible for financial and in-kind contributions from the DCDSC and will be placed on the ballot without filing petitions.
  - b. The candidate who receives twenty-five percent (25%) of the votes cast will be placed on the ballot without filing petitions.
4. When voting for endorsement, a vote for "no endorsement" will equally count as a vote for a candidate.
5. Chartered Ward Democratic Organizations and Affiliated Democratic Organizations shall not be bound by the provisions of this Article.

#### **ARTICLE VII Amendments**

1. These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the State Committee upon proper notice of an amendment.
2. No amendment may be adopted unless thirty (30) days notice containing the text of the proposed amendments has been given. However, amendments to proposed amendments shall be considered debatable.
3. No amendment to a proposed amendment may be adopted unless there has been seven (7) days notice containing the text of the amended amendment.

*These By-laws of 02/28/02 contain amendments adopted on 11/02/95, 05/02/99, 10/28/12, 5/10/13 and 6/18/14.*