

**Bylaws of the
Manatee LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus
(with Amendments 1 through 8 and Loyalty Oath)**

ARTICLE I – CHAPTER NAME

Section 1. Authority. The Florida Democratic Party (hereinafter, “FDP”) has chartered its statewide Caucus for Florida LGBTQ+ Democrats, which has continued under various names since its creation (hereinafter, “state Caucus”). This chapter is chartered by the state Caucus as its Manatee County chapter and is subject to and derives its authority from the state Caucus and the state Caucus’s charter from the FDP.

Section 2. Name. The name of this chapter of the state Caucus – a chapter composed of Manatee County Democrats who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or other sexual orientation or gender non-conforming minority, and their allies (hereinafter, “LGBTQ+”) – shall be the **Manatee LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus** (hereinafter, “the Chapter”, “this chapter”).

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

Section 1. Vision. The vision of the Manatee **LGBTQ+** Democratic Caucus is for Democrats to be elected to effectively lead and serve the nation, state, county, and local communities where every person who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or any other sexual orientation or gender non-conforming minority (hereinafter, “LGBTQ+”) has full equal rights, liberties, freedoms, opportunities, and inclusivity without discrimination and can be open, honest, and safe at home, at work, in the community, and in public.

Section 2. Mission. The mission of the Manatee **LGBTQ+** Democratic Caucus is to promote Democratic Party and LGBTQ+ electoral, civic, and public policy objectives, to make endorsements specific to Manatee County, and to serve as a beacon for and resource on LGBTQ+ issues for members of the Democratic Party and residents of Manatee County.

Section 3. Objectives. This chapter shall engage in activities and actions designed to accomplish the following objectives --

A. Regarding the principle that no natural person shall be deprived of equal rights based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression:

1. Promote the candidacy of Democrats specifically committed to this principle.
2. Educate about, advocate for, and encourage the passage of legislation and other measures to secure such rights.
3. Promote the candidacy of Democrats specifically committed to such legislation and other measures to secure such rights.
4. Foster a spirit of understanding of these and other issues of interest to the extended LGBTQ+ community.

B. Regarding civic, electoral, political, and governmental affairs:

1. Engage in actions designed to stimulate active interest and engagement in civic, political, electoral, and governmental affairs, including outreach to other registered and not-yet registered voters who may share our values.
2. Encourage and facilitate voter registration, voter mobilization, and voter turnout.

C. Regarding Democratic Party officeholders and candidates:

1. Engage with Democratic Party officeholders and candidates regarding issues of

- concern to Manatee County LGBTQ+ Democrats.
- 2. Endorse Democratic Party candidates who demonstrate worthiness of such endorsement.
- 3. Support and elect duly selected nominees of the Democratic Party in national, state, and local campaigns who are not opposed to the equal rights of LGBTQ+ persons.

D. Regarding the Democratic Party:

- 1. Promote goodwill between LGBTQ+ Democrats and the broader Democratic Party.
- 2. Ensure inclusion of LGBTQ+ Democrats throughout and at all levels of the Democratic Party.
- 3. Ensure regular, active participation by this chapter in Democratic Party meetings and events, including, local, regional, and statewide.
- 4. Strengthen and further the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party.
- 5. Provide reasonable and ongoing financial support to this chapter, and to Democratic Party organizations.

E. Regarding the state Caucus:

- 1. Ensure regular, active participation by this chapter in state Caucus meetings and events, including regional and statewide.

F. Regarding LGBTQ+ Democrats:

- 1. Promote civic, electoral, and Democratic Party participation among LGBTQ+ Democrats.
- 2. Help foster a sense of community for LGBTQ+ members of the Democratic Party.

G. Regarding the LGBTQ+ and local communities:

- 1. Promote goodwill between this chapter and the LGBTQ+ community at large, including through participation by this chapter in LGBTQ+ community and other public events.

Section 4. Endorsements Defined. A primary purpose of this chapter shall be to make endorsements, defined as endorsing, certifying, screening, or recommending, in any manner: 1) candidates in elections in which a registered Democrat is a candidate; 2) candidates in elections or selections to Democratic Party bodies, or to any other commission, board or organization; and 3) specific measures, including legislative proposals, constitutional and charter amendments, and ballot initiatives, measures, and similar electorate determinations.

Section 5. Endorsement Rules. In all federal and statewide primaries, elections, or runoffs, the Chapter shall be bound by the state Caucus' endorsement or non-endorsement action; in other non-federal and non-statewide elections with districts or jurisdiction partially or wholly within Manatee County, the Chapter may endorse measures and candidates in elections, primaries, runoffs, or selections, whether partisan or non-partisan in which a registered Democrat is a candidate, subject to the rules of these Bylaws and any approved endorsement policy.

Section 6. Endorsement Candidate-Qualifying Period. No endorsement shall be made prior to the close of the candidate-qualifying period for that election.

Section 7. No PAC Activities. The Chapter shall not provide financial support to endorsed candidates, which may only be made through a separate political action committee (PAC) approved by the state Caucus, duly registered and meeting all federal, state, and other legal requirements, and governed by separate written governance documents.

Section 8. Members' Contributions. Members, Associate Members, and Friends are not restricted from making individual contributions from their own personal funds in support of endorsed candidates.

Section 9. Partisan Requirements. This chapter and Members, Associate Members, and Friends of this chapter shall not under any circumstances support a candidate from another Party, or a candidate without a declared party affiliation over a registered Democrat, including in non-partisan or judicial elections.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership. Democrats registered to vote in Manatee County who subscribe to the Objectives and Purposes of this chapter shall be eligible to be a Member of this chapter; no other residency restriction may be placed upon membership or the privileges of membership in this chapter.

Section 2. New Members. New Members are subject to the 45-Day Rule specified in *Article IX, Elections and Voting*.

Section 3. Associate Membership. Any Democrat, who subscribes to the *Objectives and Purposes* of this chapter and meets all other Member qualifications, but who cannot actively participate or who indicates they can no longer actively participate in meetings of this chapter, shall be an Associate Member, upon payment of dues specified by the Board.

Section 4. Friends of the Chapter. Any Democrat, who subscribes to the *Objectives and Purposes* of this chapter, who is not a Florida resident, or is not eligible to register to vote in Florida, or any other Democrat who subscribes to the *Objectives and Purposes* of this chapter, shall be a Friend of the Chapter (hereinafter, "Friend"), upon payment of dues specified by the Board.

Section 5. Role of Associate Members and Friends. Associate Members and Friends shall pay dues as specified by the Board, may speak at meetings and assist on committees, but may not vote and shall not be counted in determination of a quorum.

Section 6. Resignation in Writing. Members, Associate Members, or Friends desiring to resign from this chapter shall submit their resignations from membership or affiliation in writing to the Secretary.

ARTICLE IV – DUES

Section 1. When Due. Annual dues shall be per the schedule below, payable to the Treasurer by December 31 for the following year or at the time of becoming a new member.

Section 2. Dues and Voting. Dues must be paid and current in order to vote on matters of, or in any election of, this chapter.

Section 3. Dues in Arrears. On January 31 of each year, the Secretary shall notify Members, Associate Members, and Friends who are thirty (30) days in arrears.

Section 4. Inactive Status for Unpaid Dues. Those renewing Members, Associate Members, and Friends whose dues are not paid by March 1 shall be automatically placed in inactive status.

Section 5. Forfeiture of Office. Officers placed in an inactive status for non-payment of dues shall thereby forfeit their office, but the inactive status may be lifted by paying the annual dues for the current year.

Section 6. Involuntary Transfer to Former Member Status. Members in an inactive status for an entire year shall on the following January 1 automatically be placed in former member status.

Section 7. Former Members treated as New Members. Former Members shall be considered new Members for the purposes of voting and other Chapter privileges upon reapplication for and approval of membership in this chapter.

Section 8. Schedule of dues. The schedule of annual dues is as follows, including standard dues and additional categories for reduced dues and for those who wish to provide added financial support to this chapter:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Household</u>
<i>Student/Reduced Dues</i>	\$5	
Standard Dues:		
Member/Friend/Associate Member	\$15	\$25
<i>Booster</i>	\$30	\$50
<i>Sponsor</i>	\$75	\$125
<i>Benefactor</i>	\$150 or over	\$200 or over

Section 9. Prorated Dues. Dues paid between November 1 and December 31, by new Members, Associate Members, and Friends, shall be deemed for the current and ensuing year.

Section 10. Board Adjustment of Member Dues. Dues for any Member may be adjusted by the Board based on need, but in order to maintain a dues-paying relationship may not be fully waived.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

Section 1. Offices. The officers of this chapter shall be a chair, vice-chair for operations, vice-chair for membership and programs, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as deemed necessary by the Membership. Officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws.

Section 2. Officer Terms. All terms of office shall be for two (2) years. Officers are expected to commit to fulfilling the full term of the office to which elected. Officers are strongly encouraged to mentor and assist their potential successors prior to and following their election.

Section 3. Former Officers. In order to maintain continuity and historical memory for this chapter: former chairs especially, and other former officers of this chapter, are encouraged to seek election to the Board of Directors of this chapter.

Section 4. Chair and Vice-Chair Prerequisite. In order to ensure the continued perceived legitimacy of this chapter among LGBTQ+ persons and the LGBTQ+ community, the chair and vice-chair offices shall be filled by Democrats who are themselves LGBTQ+.

Section 5. Office Vacancies. In the event of a mid-term vacancy in the chair or vice-chair positions, the Board, in order to sustain the continued existence of this chapter, may allow the special election of a Member who is a non-LGBTQ+ ally to fill the vacancy on an interim basis until a special election by the membership can be held to elect an LGBTQ+ Member for the remainder of the term.

Section 6. Office-Holding Limitations. No Member shall hold more than two (2) offices at a time, and no Member shall be eligible to serve more than three (3) consecutive terms in the same office.

Section 7. Forfeit of Office – Dues Nonpayment. Forfeit of office due to non-payment of dues is specified in *Article IV, Dues, Section 5, Forfeiture of Office*.

Section 8. Forfeit of Office – Prohibited Endorsement Action. Participation in any endorsement action of this Chapter or otherwise publicly expressed related to a candidate from any other political party that is not the Democratic Party shall constitute forfeiture of office.

Section 9. Forfeit of Office – Abandonment of Office. Unexcused absences from four consecutive regular meetings shall constitute abandonment of office and the officer or Board member shall be deemed to have resigned the position and the vacant position shall be filled in accordance with the procedures described in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Duties of the Chair. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of this chapter and its Board, of which the Chair of this chapter is automatically Chair; shall be an *ex officio* member of all committees except the Nominating Committee; shall appoint all the Standing and Special Committees and their chairmen; shall represent this chapter at county, district and state functions unless otherwise delegated; shall give guidance to the committee chairs in their work and shall perform all duties pertaining to the office of the Chair.

Section 2. Duties of the Vice-Chair for Operations. The Vice-Chair for Operations shall render all possible assistance to the Chair in matters pertaining to this chapter, and shall serve as acting Chair in the absence of, or inability of, the Chair to serve.

Section 3. Duties of the Vice-Chair for Membership and Programs. The Vice-Chair for Membership and Programs: 1) Shall render all possible assistance to the Chair in matters pertaining to this chapter; 2) Shall be the *ex officio* chair of the membership committee; 3) shall manage the speaker and entertainment program for this chapter; 4) Shall maintain a current list of members by category of membership and date of new membership with addresses, phone numbers and email addresses; and, 5) Shall serve as acting Chair in the absence of, or inability to serve of the Chair and the Vice-Chair for Operations.

Section 4. Duties of the Secretary. The Secretary: 1) Shall prepare and provide to the Chair the minutes of each meeting within seven (7) days after each meeting and Board meeting that adhere to the provisions of *Article VII, Meetings, Section 6, Meeting Minutes*; 2) Shall keep an accurate record of all meetings of this chapter and the Board; 3) Shall at the beginning of each Chapter and Board meeting determine and announce whether a quorum is present; 4) Shall present a statement of membership at each meeting, and at other times when requested by the Chair or by the Board; 5) Shall maintain a current list of all constituted committees and subcommittees, their chairs, and their membership, and any specified duties or terms; and, 6) Shall maintain a copy of the Bylaws with any amendments properly recorded.

Section 5. Duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall: 1) Receive and manage all monies of this chapter; 2) Shall manage its bank account, PayPal or similar electronic financial account, and all other financial accounts; 3) Shall keep an accurate record of its receipts and expenditures; 4) Shall present a statement of all its income and all its expenditures at each of its meetings, and at other times when requested by the Chair or the Board of this chapter; and, 5) Shall pay out funds only as authorized by the Board or by a motion approved by the Membership. Books of the Treasurer shall be reviewed by the Finance Committee, if so constituted. Checks and all other financial disbursements duly authorized by the Board or the Membership shall be approved jointly by the Treasurer and the Chair.

Section 6. Duties of the Parliamentarian. The Chair may appoint a Parliamentarian, who shall, upon request, read from the Bylaws, the bylaws of the state Caucus or the FDP, or the most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Section 7. Duties of Additional Officers. The creation and duties of additional offices shall be undertaken in the Bylaws at the time when they are adopted or amended.

Section 8. Ownership of Officers' Records. All property of the Chapter and records created and maintained by officers and Board members in the discharge of their duties shall be the exclusive property of this chapter. Officers and Board directors shall be custodians of such property and records during their term of office and shall physically present them at the meeting called to elect officers (or at such other time as their term ends or the Chair or Board requests) and directors to ensure the smooth transfer of all property and records to succeeding officers upon their election.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of this chapter shall be held in at least each quarter of the year. Monthly meetings, social events, and other meetings and functions may be held as directed by the Chair, by a majority of the Board, or by a majority of the Members of this chapter.

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the Chair or a majority of the Board, with at least a seven (7) day advance notice to the Members. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the notice, which may be provided electronically, in writing, orally, or using communications technology commonly used in the present period.

Section 3. Meeting Quorum. Twenty percent (20%) of the total membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business at any regular or special meeting.

Section 4. Meeting Accessibility. All meetings shall be in a facility accessible to the differently abled.

Section 5. Alternate Attendance. Attendance and voting at meetings shall be allowed by teleconferencing, conference call, or similar technology in current use at the time.

Section 6. Meeting Minutes. The content of the minutes of each meeting shall be created in accordance with the most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* and shall additionally include the names of all meeting attendees and their membership status.

ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Board Composition. The Board of Directors ("Board") shall consist of the elected officers and at least one elected director.

Section 2. Number of Directors. The maximum number of officers and directors shall be twelve (12).

Section 3. Board Duties. The duties of the Board shall be to transact the business of this chapter in regular or special sessions, and to make recommendations to the Membership of this chapter. No act of the Board shall conflict with action taken by the Membership.

Section 4. Board Meetings. Meetings of the Board shall be held prior to each of the regular meetings of this chapter, or at the request of the Chair, or at the request of three members of the Board.

Section 5. Board Meeting Quorum. A majority of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for a Board meeting. A majority vote of the Board members present and voting at the meeting is necessary to carry motions.

Section 6. Board Meeting Attendance. Attendance and voting at Board meetings shall be allowed by teleconferencing, conference call, or similar technology in current use at the time.

Section 7. Meeting Accessibility. All Board meetings shall be made accessible to the differently abled.

ARTICLE IX – ELECTIONS AND VOTING

Section 1. 45-Day Rule. A new Member must have been a member of this chapter for at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date of said election or vote in order to vote or participate in: 1) any election of officers or board members for this chapter; 2) endorsement votes by this chapter; or 3) votes to amend the Bylaws.

Section 2. Election Timing. Officers and directors shall be elected biennially by the Membership at the biennial meeting held at the regular First Quarter meeting (or, if the Chapter is meeting on a monthly basis, the biennial meeting shall be held at the regular February monthly meeting) of each odd-numbered year with the exception of the charter year.

Section 3. Nominations. Nominations shall be made by the Nominating Committee in accordance with the procedure laid out in *Article X, Standing Committees, Section 3(f), Nominating Committee*. Additional nominations from the floor shall be in order. A Member may be nominated to more than one office; however, if a Member is elected to more than one office, the provisions of *Article 5, Officers, Section 6, Office-Holding Limitations* and the relevant provisions of the most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall dictate the procedure.

Section 4. Vacancy. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Chair, the Vice-Chair for Operations shall become Chair; if vacancies occur in both the offices of the Chair and Vice-Chair for Operations, the Vice-Chair for Programs and Membership shall become Chair. Other vacancies occurring shall be filled by a majority vote of the Membership of this chapter attending and voting at a regular meeting at which there is a quorum present.

Section 5. Voting for officers and directors. Voting for officers and directors shall be by secret ballot.

Section 6. Preparation of ballots. Prior to the biennial meeting, the Nominating Committee or if there is no Nominating Committee, the Chair or the Secretary at the Chair's direction, shall prepare a ballot with the names of the duly qualified candidates for each office. Each ballot shall be printed with the name of this chapter at the top, followed by the position to be voted upon, with the candidates' names printed on the ballot. There will be a blank line or lines provided for each office for additional nominations from the floor.

Section 7. Loyalty Oath Prior to Assuming Office. Officers and Board directors shall be required prior to assuming their office to execute the Loyalty Oath in the form included in the bylaws of the FDP.

Section 8. Removal from Office. Any member may be removed from office upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire membership of this chapter at any regular or special meeting after at least a ten (10) day advance notice to the Membership that a motion for the purpose of removal of said Member will be considered at the regular or special meeting. The removal may be for causes including, but not limited to, the following: malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, and conviction of a felony involving moral turpitude.

Section 9. Majority Vote. A majority vote, of the Membership present and voting at a duly constituted meeting of the Membership at which there is a quorum present, is necessary to carry all motions not otherwise specified as subject to a supermajority vote.

Section 10. Supermajority Vote. A two-thirds vote, of the Membership present and voting at a duly constituted meeting of the Membership at which there is a quorum present, is necessary to carry endorsement motions.

Section 11. Effective Dates. The terms of office shall commence at the close of the meeting at which the election is held; unless specified otherwise or in the motion, votes on other matters shall take effect immediately.

Section 12. No Proxy or Absentee Voting. In accordance with the bylaws of the FDP, proxies and absentee voting in meetings of the Chapter and the Board are prohibited in all cases.

Section 13. No Secret Ballots. No vote at any meeting of the Chapter, a Committee, or the Board shall be made by secret ballot with the exception of Membership elections for Chapter officers and directors.

ARTICLE X – STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees. The Standing Committees may include Budget, Bylaws, Campaign, Finance, Membership, Publicity, Ways and Means, Public Policy, and others as created by the Board or the Membership of this chapter.

Section 2. Chair Appoints. If created, each Committee (except the Nominating Committee) shall, during a regular Membership meeting and consistent with the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*, be created and appointed by the Chapter Chair, and the Committee Chair named by the Chapter Chair, promptly after each biennial meeting or at the time each is needed.

Section 3. Committee Duties. If created, the duties of each committee shall be as follows:

- a. **Budget Committee.** The Budget Committee shall prepare a budget for the fiscal biennium and submit it to the Membership for adoption as soon as practicable following the biennial meeting.
- b. **Bylaws Committee.** The Bylaws Committee shall recommend such changes in the Bylaws as appear necessary and feasible from time to time.
- c. **Campaign Committee.** The Campaign Committee shall work toward the election of all Democratic candidate nominees for the area covered by this chapter, including county, state, and national candidates, and if constituted shall develop and maintain an endorsement procedure for candidate endorsements to be presented to the Board of Directors for approval by the Board and the Membership.
- d. **Finance Committee.** The Finance Committee shall act as “auditors” of the treasury by carefully reviewing, and maintaining accurately reviewed financial records of the Chapter.
- e. **Membership Committee.** The Membership Committee shall see that all persons wishing to become members are, in fact, registered Democrats, and also organize and assist on membership campaigns.
- f. **Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee shall be elected by the Membership at the regular Fourth Quarter meeting (or, if the Chapter is meeting on a monthly basis, at the November meeting) of each even-numbered year, composed of at least three (3) but no more than five (5) Members who shall not include the Chair of this chapter. The Nominating Committee, if duly constituted, shall perform its duties consistent with the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* including presenting its

report, for candidates for each elective office, at the biennial meeting in the First Quarter of each odd-numbered year.

- g. Publicity Committee.** The Publicity Committee shall see that all activities, including meetings, are announced through the media.
- h. Public Policy Committee.** The Public Policy Committee shall research and promote anti-discrimination legislation and policies.
- i. Ways and Means Committee.** The Ways and Means Committee shall find manners of fundraising and shall coordinate all fundraising activities.

Section 4. Role of Chair. The Chair of this chapter shall unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws be an *ex officio* member of all committees (except the Nominating Committee) and may choose at will to be a voting member or chair of any committee (except the Nominating Committee) at the time of the appointment of that Committee.

ARTICLE XI – ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PROVISIONS

This chapter hereby adopts and shall enforce the following anti-discrimination provisions:

- 1. No Democratic Loyalty Oath shall be used which has the effect of requiring members of the Democratic Party to condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex, age, religion, economic status, ethnic identity, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.
- 2. The time and place for all public meetings of this chapter shall be publicized fully in such a manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons, and should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, religion, economic status, ethnic identity, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.
- 3. In order to fully and adequately inform prospective and current members of a full description of the legal, practical and pertinent procedures for selection of all representatives and officers of this chapter, the Chair shall ensure that this chapter shall publicize fully, and in such a manner, as to assure notice to all interested Democrats in time to have adequate opportunity to participate.
- 4. Allies of LGBTQ+ persons, the LGBTQ+ community, and the Manatee LGBTQ+ Democratic Caucus are warmly encouraged to join as Members, Associate Members, or Friends of the Chapter, and to serve as elected members of the Board, as Secretary, as Treasurer, and as the appointed Parliamentarian.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Section 1. Amendment Process. The Bylaws may be amended, pursuant to the provisions of this Article, by an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Membership attending and voting at a regular meeting at which there is a quorum, subject to the 45-Day Rule.

Section 2. Advance Written Notice. At least seven (7) days prior to the meeting at which the Bylaws may be amended, the entire Membership of this chapter shall be provided, in the written advance notice of the meeting, the exact language of each proposed amendment and an explanation of the intent and effect of each proposed amendment or change to the Bylaws.

Section 3. Meeting Minutes. Within seven (7) days following the adoption of any amendment or change to these bylaws, the Secretary shall prepare and provide to the Chair the minutes of

the meeting that adhere to the provisions of *Article VII, Meetings, Section 6, Meeting Minutes* and include a record of the other portions of the meeting and: 1) the quorum that was present during the meeting and the names of the Members constituting such quorum; 2) affirmation that the advance written notice was provided in accordance with this Article; 3) a record of motions made and seconded, and the tally of each vote sufficient to adopt each amendment or change separately voted upon; and, 4) as an appendix, a copy of the advance written notice described in *Section 2* above.

Section 4. Submission to State. Within thirty (30) days following the adoption of any amendment or change to these bylaws, the Chair of this chapter shall, in accordance with the requirements of the state Caucus, submit all of the following to the Committee on Membership and Chartering of the state Caucus: 1) a copy of the newly amended Bylaws; 2) a copy of the Bylaws showing each amendment or change made, with each addition underscored and each deletion struck through; 3) a copy of the minutes, prepared in accordance with this Article, of the meeting at which the amendment or change was adopted.

Section 5. Effective Date and Approval. All amendments shall take effect immediately but shall be subject to approval by the state Caucus and the FDP Committee on Clubs, Organizations, and Caucuses; any amendment or change that is not approved shall be deleted from the bylaws and all actions taken pursuant to such unapproved amendment or change shall be null and void.

ARTICLE XIII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. Robert's Rules. The most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern this chapter in all cases to which those rules are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and the rules of the state Caucus, the FDP, and the Democratic Party of the United States.

ARTICLE XIV – ACCOUNTABILITY

Section 1. Charter Recertification. In each odd-numbered year this chapter shall apply to the state Caucus, in accordance with Article VI of the bylaws of the FDP and the bylaws of the state Caucus, for a charter renewal Certificate of Compliance; failure to do so or failure to receive approval of the charter renewal shall result in the forfeiture of all rights and privileges of the use of the word Democrat, Democratic, or derivative thereof.

Section 2. Dissolution. In the event this chapter wishes to dissolve, a resolution stating the date of dissolution and the reasons for same shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Membership of this chapter after being submitted in writing at the previous meeting; when this chapter disbands for any reason, its assets and funds, after all debts are satisfied, shall become the property of the state Caucus.

Section 3. Disputes and Grievances. Disputes and grievances involving this chapter may be resolved by the president and officers of the state Caucus; an appeal of that resolution may be made, in accordance with the bylaws of the state Caucus and the FDP, to the FDP Judicial Council not later than forty-five (45) days from the date of that decision.

Approved in May 10, 2011 organizational meeting for submission to the Florida GLBT Caucus
Amendment 1 (Art. IV, *Dues Schedule*) approved May 3, 2012.

Amendment 2 (Art. IV, *Dues for Students*) approved Sep 6, 2012.

Amendment 3 (Art. V and VI, *Additional Officers*) approved Feb 27, 2014.

Amendment 4 (Various) approved July 23, 2015.

Amendment 5 (Art. II, V, XI) approved January 16, 2019.

Amendment 6 (Article XI, *Anti-Discrimination Provisions*) approved June 19, 2019.

Amendment 7 (comprehensive rewrite with mission, vision, objectives, substantial revisions, and formatting) approved September 18, 2019.

Amendment 8 (Caucus Chapter name from “*LGBT*A” to “*LGBTQ*+”; nominating and other committees; codifying biennial meeting timing) approved October 20, 2021.

Florida Democratic Party LOYALTY OATH

County of _____, Florida

I, _____, having been duly sworn, say that I am a member of the Democratic Party,

that I am a qualified elector of _____ County, Florida; that during my term of office, I will not support the election of the opponent of any Democratic nominee, I will not oppose the election of any Democratic nominee, nor will I support any non-Democrat against a Democrat in any election other than in judicial races; that I am qualified under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Florida and the Charter and Bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party to hold the office I am seeking, or to which I have been elected; that I have not violated any of the laws of the State of Florida relating to election or the Charter and Bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party.

Print Name

Signature

OPTION 1. SIGNED BY A NOTARY PUBLIC

(Use either Option 1 OR Option 2.)

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF _____	
Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20 _____, by (name of person making statement) _____.	
_____ Signature of Notary Public – State of Florida	
_____ Name of Notary typed, printed or stamped	
<input type="checkbox"/> Personally Known	OR <input type="checkbox"/> Produced Identification
Type of ID Produced: _____	

OPTION 2. SIGNED BY TWO WITNESSES

(Use either Option 1 OR Option 2.)

WITNESS #1	
_____	_____
Date	County

WITNESS #1: Print Name	

Signature	

Address	

City	

_____	_____
State	Zip Code

WITNESS #2	
_____	_____
Date	County

WITNESS #2: Print Name	

Signature	

Address	

City	

_____	_____
State	Zip Code