

# CONSTITUTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE

## ARTICLE I: Organization

For the purposes of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States and its Bylaws, the District of Columbia shall be treated as a state.<sup>1</sup> The District of Columbia Democratic Party shall consist of persons who are registered as Democrats in the District of Columbia. The District of Columbia Democratic State Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “State Committee”) is the affiliated state committee to the Democratic National Committee and the District of Columbia Democratic Party.

## ARTICLE II: Purpose

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the State Committee to conduct the affairs of the Democratic Party in the District of Columbia, which include:
1. Programs of voter registration, training, issue education and political engagement;
  2. Active participation in the election of candidates for President and Vice President of the United States and candidates for national and local office;
  3. Communication of the goals and mission of the Democratic National Committee and the State Committee; and
  4. Carrying out any other activities necessary to achieve the purposes of the District of Columbia Democratic Party in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the State Committee.
- B. The State Committee shall have the power to charter or reject ward organizations and constituency groups seeking to operate as official organizations of the Democratic Party of the District of Columbia. Should a conflict exist involving an existing member organization or between the chartered organization’s ratified Constitution and/or Bylaws and the Constitution and/or Bylaws of the State Committee, the governing documents of the State Committee shall prevail.
- C. Candidates
1. The State Committee shall establish and maintain rules of eligibility for candidates seeking the Democratic nomination for public or party office in the District of Columbia primary election.
  2. The State Committee shall have the authority to endorse candidates in a manner as determined in the Bylaws.

## ARTICLE III: Membership

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<sup>1</sup> See the Democratic Party of the United States’ Charter at Article Nine, General Provisions, Section 3 and its Bylaws at Article II, Section 2 (t).

A. The State Committee shall consist of At-Large members; Ward Members; a National Committeewoman and National Committeeman elected in city wide elections; Ward Chairs elected by ward organizations; Add-On Members (elected by the State Committee); Ex-Officio members; and Constituency Members elected by their organizations' membership. The members shall be allocated as follows:

1. Fourteen (14) **At-large** Committee Members (seven men and seven women) elected citywide by the Democratic electors of the District of Columbia to a term of four (4) years;

2. Thirty-two (32) **Ward Committee Members**, four (two men and two women) to be elected from each of the eight (8) wards by the Democratic electors of their respective wards. Such members shall be elected to a term of four (4) years;

3. The **National Committeeman** and **National Committeewoman**, elected by the Democratic electors of the District of Columbia to a term of four (4) years;

4. The **Democratic Ward Committee Chairpersons**, serving a term of office as stipulated by the bylaws of their respective ward organizations.

5. Twelve (12) (six men and six women) **Add-On State Committee Members**, with full rights of participation, including the right to vote and hold office, shall be elected by the State Committee for a term of two (2) years. Such election shall occur at the Biennial Meeting that scheduled within 90 days of the November National General Election, and again at any properly noticed Meeting scheduled within 90 days of the national Midterm Election;

6. Four (4) Representatives of the **District of Columbia Young Democrats** to serve as **Ex-officio Members** with full rights of participation, including the right to vote and hold State Committee office. Serving members' term of office is set by their organization's charter;

7. Two (2) Representatives of the **District of Columbia College Democrats** chapter of the College Democrats of America, of which (1) will be male and one (1) will be female, who shall be elected by its membership to serve as **Ex-officio Members** with full rights of participation, including the right to vote and hold State Committee office. **Ex-officio Members'** term of office is set by their organization's charter;

8. Two (2) representatives from the **Capital Stonewall Democrats** who shall be elected by its membership to serve as **Ex-officio Members** with full rights of participation, including the right to vote and hold State Committee office. Serving members' term of office is set by their organization's charter;

9. Two (2) representatives from the **D.C. Federation of Democratic Women** elected by its membership to serve as **Ex-officio Members** with full rights of

participation, including the right to vote and hold State Committee office. Serving members' term of office is set by their organization's charter;

10. Two (2) representatives from the **Asian and Pacific Islander Democratic Caucus** elected by its membership to serve as **Ex-officio Members** with full rights of participation, including the right to vote and hold State Committee office. Serving members' term of office is set by their organization's charter;

11. Two (2) representatives from the **D.C. Latino Caucus of Democrats** elected by its membership to serve as **Ex-officio Members** with full rights of participation, including the right to vote and hold State Committee office. Serving members' term of office shall be set by their organization's charter;

12. The two (2) highest ranking male and female members of the **DC Central Labor Council** shall serve as **Ex-officio Members** for the duration of their terms of office set by the Labor Council. This Ex-officio Member will serve with full rights of participation and the right to vote.

13. Two (2) representatives from D.C. Democratic Black Caucus elected by its membership to serve as Ex-officio Members with full rights of participation, including the right to vote and hold State Committee office. Serving members' term of office is set by their organization's charter.

14. Democratic Constituency Membership to the State Committee will be reviewed and certified by the Standing Committee of Party Organization and Function in accordance with Article VIII of the Bylaws of the State Committee. The Chairperson shall nominate (1) representative from various Democratic constituent organizations of the District of Columbia Democratic Party who may serve as a **Constituency Member** with full rights of participation, including the right to vote, for a term of two (2) years beginning when approved by the Executive Committee and ratified by the General Membership.

#### B. Term of Office for State Committee Members

1. The elected citywide At Large, Ward Members, and National Committeewoman and National Committeeman shall serve four (4) year terms.
2. The Add-On Members, elected by the State Committee, and the Certified Democratic Constituent Members, approved by the State Committee, shall serve two (2) years, based on a fiscal year (October 1 – September 30).
3. Democratic Ward Committee Chairpersons and Ex-Officio Members' terms shall be equal to the term identified in their respective organizations' Bylaws/charters.
4. All State Committee members shall serve until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

### C. State Committee Membership Eligibility

1. To be eligible for membership on the State Committee, a person must be registered as a Democrat in the District of Columbia and must maintain a legal domicile within the District of Columbia.

2. To be eligible for Ex-Officio membership as a Representative of a democratic organization, a person must be a member in good standing of the said organization and in compliance with their organization's charter/Bylaws. To be eligible for Constituency Membership, a representative's democratic organization must be in compliance with the requirements in Article IX of the State Committee's Bylaws.

### D. A Member's position on the State Committee shall be declared vacant if any of the following occurs:

1. A member changes his/her registration from the Democratic Party;
2. Any ward committee member changes his/her District of Columbia legal domicile from the Ward in which elected;
3. Any ward committee member changes his/her residence from the Ward in which elected;
4. A member becomes a candidate for public office in a general election in opposition to the officially designated candidate of the Democratic Party of the District of Columbia;
5. A member resigns, which is accepted by the State Committee as outlined in Article II, 1. of its Bylaws; or
6. A member is removed in accordance with Article III, of the Bylaws of the State Committee. The office shall be declared vacant and filled as provided in Article II of the Bylaws of the State Committee.

### E. Resignations from membership on the State Committee

1. Resignation from membership on the State Committee shall be made in writing to the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall provide to the State Committee Members a copy of the member's resignation for review.

2. Persons deemed to have resigned pursuant to Article II., 1. of the Bylaws shall be considered to have resigned when notice of a Members' accepted resignation, by the State Committee, has been certified and delivered by the Chairperson to the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics.

F. Members are removed from membership on the State Committee in accordance with Article III of the State Committee's Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE IV: Officers**

A. The Officers of the State Committee shall be a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers of the State Committee shall be elected from among the members of the State Committee as provided in the Bylaws.

B. It shall be the duty of the Chairperson to make certain that the business of the State Committee is conducted according to law and the State Committee Constitution and Bylaws. The Chairperson shall ensure that all legal and official documents are signed by the required officer and/or legal counsel. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the State Committee and the Executive Committee and shall prepare each year a State of the District of Columbia Democratic Party report to be presented to the State Committee at its first Regular Meeting. The Chairperson shall serve as a member of the Democratic National Committee and the Association of Democratic State Chairs.

C. It shall be the duty of the Vice Chairperson to act for the Chairperson in the absence or incapacity of the Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson may serve as a member, in accordance with gender parity guidelines, of the Democratic National Committee and the Association of Democratic State Chairs.

D. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to maintain the funds of the State Committee in a District of Columbia financial institution in a prudent manner and to keep an account thereof, providing regular written and oral reports at each Regular Meeting of the State Committee. The Treasurer shall also report to the State Committee any disputes and/or discrepancies regarding financial affairs of the State Committee and related funds for final resolution.

E. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to certify meeting quorums, prepare, and maintain a record of the meetings of the State Committee and the Executive Committee. Also, the Recording Secretary shall maintain records of the Democratic Party of the District of Columbia in an orderly manner. The Secretary shall provide that books and records will be kept at the principal office of the State Committee.

F. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to maintain the correspondence of the State Committee and a record thereof, including notices to members, and a correct and current roster of State Committee Members.

G. Officers shall serve for two (2) years until the call of the Biennial Meeting at the expiration of their term.

#### **ARTICLE V: Meetings**

##### **A. Meetings**

##### **1. Biennial Meeting (every 2 years)**

- a. There shall be a Biennial Meeting of the State Committee to elect two-year termed Members and Officers.
- b. The business of the meeting as described in the Bylaws shall include the election of State Committee members.
- c. The Biennial Meeting shall be held within 90 days of the Primary Elections in the District of Columbia.

## 2. Regular Meetings

a. The State Committee shall hold Regular Meetings at a time to be established in the Bylaws, provided that there shall be no fewer than five (5) Regular Meetings per year, including the Biennial Meeting, in the year during which the Biennial Meeting is held.

b. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairperson in consultation with the Executive Committee. If the Chairperson refuses or fails to call a meeting within fifteen (15) days after a written/electronic notice has been sent to all **State** Committee Members, a meeting may be convened, and chaired by the next highest State Committee Officer, provided such meeting is approved by one-fifth (1/5) of the Members of the State Committee.

## B. Meeting Notices and Quorum

1. Written/Electronic notice, as set forth in the By-Laws, shall be given for all meetings of the State Committee, provided that no less than seven (7) days' notice shall be given for any regular meeting and no less than forty-eight (48) hours' notice for any special meeting.

2. One-third (1/3) of the D.C. Democratic State Committee membership shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting official business at meetings.

C. The State Committee shall act by majority vote of those present and voting at meetings, unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution or Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE VI: Committees**

### A. Executive Committee

1. There shall be an Executive Committee, which shall consist of the Officers; the National Committeeman and National Committeewoman; the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees; the President of the Young Democrats of the District of Columbia; and, the Chair of the Ward Chairs Committee.

2. The Executive Committee shall conduct the business of the State Committee between Regular Meetings and shall report actions taken to the State Committee at the next Regular Meeting. The Chairperson shall recommend to the State

Committee an Executive Director and/or other required staff as required by the DNC.

3. The Chairperson shall have the authority to poll the full executive committee membership as needed for action required in the event that the Executive Committee is not scheduled or unable to meet in person.

B. The Standing Committees shall be:

1. Constitution and Bylaws
2. Finance and Fundraising
3. Issues and Programming
4. Voter Outreach, Training, and Education
5. Party Organization and Function
6. Voting Rights and Statehood
7. Blue Wave Victory Committee

C. Ad-Hoc Committees

There shall be such ad-hoc Committees as deemed necessary by the State Committee. Members of the Committees shall be appointed as provided in the Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE VII: Elections**

A. There shall be a Democratic Party Primary Election in the year of the mayoral election in the District of Columbia.

B. In the year of the mayoral primary election, which occurs every four (4) years, there shall be elected the members of the State Committee as set forth in Article III of this Constitution.

C. Delegates to the Democratic National Convention

1. In each year of a Democratic National Convention, the State Committee shall be responsible for plans and rules governing the election of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

2. Delegates and Alternate Delegates to such Convention must be Democrats registered in the District of Columbia and residents of the District of Columbia for the ninety (90) day period preceding their election and shall remain registered Democrats and residents of the District of Columbia through the Democratic National Convention.

3. The election of Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall be governed by the District of Columbia Election Laws as specified in the D.C. code, the official delegate selection rules of the Democratic National Committee of

the United States and the D.C. Delegate Selection Plan adopted by the State Committee and approved by the DC Board of Elections.

4. The State Committee shall meet prior to the Democratic National Convention to conduct the delegate selection process including the certification of Delegates, Alternates, and Standing Convention Committee Members of the District of Columbia Delegation to the Democratic National Convention.

5. The Delegates who represent the District of Columbia Democratic Party at all conventions and conferences of the National Democratic Party shall constitute the official District of Columbia Delegation.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: Amendments**

A. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the State Committee members present and voting upon proper notice of the Regular Meeting set for the adoption of the Proposed Amendment.

B. A Proposed Amendment must be submitted in writing to the members of the State Committee at least thirty (30) days before the Regular Meeting at which it will be considered.

C. Any amendment(s) to a Proposed Amendment must be submitted in writing to the members no later than seven (7) days prior to the Regular Meeting for consideration of the Proposed Amendment.

D. The text and date of any amendments to the Constitution adopted at a Regular Meeting will be logged into the Index attached to this Constitution by the Recording Secretary. The Index will be maintained as the official record of Constitutional Amendments to the State Committee's Constitution.

***This Constitution reflects amendments adopted at DCDSC meetings on 6/3/04, 11/3/11, 9/5/12, 3/12/14, 6/18/14, and 12/2/21.***

## **INDEX OF ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE COMMITTEE'S CONSTITUTION**