

# BYLAWS OF THE 8TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Adopted April 19, 2017

## ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the 8<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democratic Central Committee (8th LDDCC).

## ARTICLE II: AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

The 8th LDDCC is a legislative district organization of the Democratic Party, organized according to state law and the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington. If any part of these bylaws conflicts with the rules established by the Democratic Party of the State of Washington, the WSDCC rules shall prevail.

As the body responsible for conducting Democratic Party affairs at the legislative district level, the 8th LDDCC shall foster and promote the principles of democracy as set forth by the Party. Among its principal duties are: recruiting candidates for the partisan races in the 8<sup>th</sup> LD, supporting nominated candidates in their efforts to win election to the legislature, building the Party organization in the 8<sup>th</sup> LD, and organizing and holding a legislative district caucus in even-numbered years.

## ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

Section 1 - Elected and appointed precinct committee officers (PCOs), based on Washington state law. State law sets forth the election of major political party PCOs. In each voting precinct there is a single Democratic Party PCO seat. The office of PCO is voted upon at the primary election in each even-numbered year. The statewide general election follows in November and then, no later than the second Saturday of the following January, the county central committee meets for the purpose of reorganization. After this biennial county organizational meeting, the county chair may fill vacant PCO seats by appointment. Both elected and appointed PCOs must be registered voters in the precincts they represent (RCW 29A.28.031).

Section 2 - Acting PCOs per the approved BCDCC process. The Bylaws of the Benton County Democratic Central Committee (BCDCC) authorize appointment by the county chair of “acting PCOs” as well as the statutory appointed PCOs of Section 1: “An acting PCO may be appointed to fill the position of a PCO in a precinct in which he/she does or does not reside. The number of Acting PCOs per precinct shall not be limited. Acting PCOs must be residents of Benton County.” (BCDCC Bylaws, Article IV, Item 3).

Section 3 - Membership Composition. The following are members of the 8th LDDCC:

- Elected and appointed PCOs representing 8<sup>th</sup> LD precincts (.
- Acting PCOs assigned to 8<sup>th</sup> LD precincts.
- Officers of the 8th LDDCC.
- Chairs of 8th LDDCC standing and special committees.

- Chair of the BCDCC, if a registered voter in the 8<sup>th</sup> LD.
- Democratic officeholders elected to partisan offices, if registered voters in the 8<sup>th</sup> LD.
- Chair of the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District
- Representative of the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District to the State Committee Board

Section 4 - Only elected and appointed PCOs of Section 1 may vote on certain matters. The WSDCC Bylaws state that “only elected precinct committee officers and precinct committee officers appointed after the organizational meeting shall vote for district chair, vice chair, state committeewoman, state committeeman, and any representative the legislative district organization is authorized to send to other Party organizations, and on the adoption or amendment of bylaws.” (Article IX, Section B) The BCDCC is empowered by Article II, Section 15 of the Washington State Constitution to nominate people for appointment to partisan county offices and to 8th LD legislative offices, if incumbents of the Democratic Party leave office. The WSDCC Bylaws state, “In making interim legislative appointments in single-county legislative districts, the county central committee shall make its appointment from a list of three names submitted to the committee by a caucus of the elected and appointed Democratic precinct committee officers of the precincts within the legislative district” (Article VII, Section C).

Section 5 - Only elected PCOs may vote at the reorganizational meeting. State law prescribes a biennial legislative district reorganizational meeting of elected PCOs (see Article VII, Section 3).

Section 6 – The elected PCOs can block the removal from office of the 8th LDDCC Chair. State law provides that a majority vote of the elected PCOs is necessary for the removal of a legislative district chair, see Article IV, Section 2.

Section 7 – Voting members. Aside from the matters noted in Sections 4, 5, and 6, all the 8th LDDCC members are entitled to full participation in the proceedings of the 8th LDDCC.

Section 8 - Voting by proxy shall be permitted in accordance with the following rules:

- All proxies must be in writing, and either signed by the member or accompanied by a signed letter attesting to the wishes of the member, and designating who will vote the proxy.
- No person will hold more than one general and uninstructed proxy.
- Proxies are nontransferable.
- In order to vote a general and uninstructed proxy, the holder must register the proxy with the Secretary of the 8th LDDCC before a vote is taken
- All specific and instructed proxies must be registered with the Secretary before a vote is taken, and shall be tallied for inclusion in the final vote count.
- The holder of the proxy must reside in the 8<sup>th</sup> Legislative District.

## **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS**

Section 1 – Officers and Duties. The officers of the 8th LDDCC shall be a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, State Committeewoman, and State Committeeman. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws, by the parliamentary authority, and additional duties as delineated in any policy guide adopted by the 8<sup>th</sup> LDDCC.

Section 2 – Election, Term of Office, and Removal from Office. Officers are elected at the biennial 8th LDDCC reorganizational meeting to serve until the next reorganizational meeting or until their successors are elected. Officers may be removed from office at the pleasure of the membership as provided in the

parliamentary authority. Only the elected and appointed PCOs of Article III, Section 1 shall be eligible to vote on a motion to remove the Chair, Vice-Chair, State Committeewoman, or State Committeeman. State law provides, "The legislative district chair may be removed only by the majority vote of the elected precinct committee officers in the chair's district." (RCW 29A.80.061) The removal of the Chair shall require sufficient votes of elected and appointed PCOs as well as of elected PCOs. All members may vote on other officers including Secretary and treasurer.

Section 3 – Vacancies. A vacancy in any office, including the office of Chair, shall be filled by election at an 8th LDDCC meeting. Notice shall be sent at least 10 days before the meeting to the members eligible to vote. In accordance with the WSDCC Bylaws, only the elected and appointed PCOs are eligible to vote for Chair, Vice-Chair, State Committeewoman, and State Committeeman (see Article III, Section 4.), but all members are eligible to vote for other officers including Secretary and Treasurer.

Chair - The Chair shall be the executive and official spokesperson of the 8th LDDCC, shall direct the activities of the Executive Board in carrying out the programs and policies of the 8th LDDCC, shall call and preside at all meetings of the 8th LDDCC and of its Executive Board, and shall appoint standing and special committees subject to the approval of the 8th LDDCC. The Chair shall be ex officio a member of every 8th LDDCC committee.

Vice-Chair - The Vice-Chair shall act in the absence of the Chair.

Treasurer - The Treasurer shall be custodian of funds belonging to the 8th LDDCC and arrange for payment of authorized expenses and shall prepare and file public disclosure forms as appropriate.

Secretary - The Secretary shall take minutes of meetings of the 8th LDDCC, shall conduct authorized correspondence, and shall preserve the records of the 8th LDDCC.

State Committeewoman - The State Committeewoman shall represent the 8th LDDCC in the WSDCC.

State Committeeman - The State Committeeman shall represent the 8th LDDCC in the WSDCC.

## **ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The Executive Board shall assist the Chair in implementing the programs and policies of the 8th LDDCC. The Executive Board shall consist of the officers identified in Article IV, the chairs of all 8th LDDCC standing and special committees, and the BCDCC Chair. Four members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE VI: STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

There shall be a Fundraising Committee, a Legislative Candidate Search Committee, and such other committees, standing and special, as shall be recommended by the Chair and approved by the 8th LDDCC. The 8th LDDCC Chair shall appoint committee chairs and membership, subject to the approval of the 8th LDDCC.

Fundraising Committee - The Fundraising Committee shall plan and carry out fundraising activities, subject to the approval of the 8th LDDCC.

Legislative Candidate Search Committee - The Legislative Candidate Search Committee shall seek out Democratic candidates for 8<sup>th</sup> LD State Senator and 8<sup>th</sup> LD State House Representatives.

## **ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS**

Section 1 – Regular meetings. The 8th LDDCC shall have a minimum of four regular meetings a year. The standard order of business described in the parliamentary authority shall be followed. At each meeting, the date, time, and place of the next meeting shall be stated.

If two successive regular meetings are not held, any two officers may call a meeting, provided that due notice be sent to all members at least ten days prior to the meeting date. In the event that the officers fail to call such a meeting, a petition with the signatures of ten Precinct Committee Officers to any officer to do so shall be mandatory, and failure of the officers to act within ten days shall automatically authorize the petitioners to call a meeting, provided that notice be sent to all members at least ten days prior to the meeting date. In the absence of a Chair or Vice-Chair, the top signer of the petition shall act as temporary chair of the meeting.

Section 2 – Special meetings. The Chair or Executive Board may call special meetings. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Notice shall be sent to all members at least 10 days before the meeting. An emergency meeting may be called without the ten-day notice provided that a good faith effort is made to notify all members prior to the meeting.

Section 3 – Reorganizational meeting. The biennial 8th LDDCC reorganizational meeting is prescribed by state law: “Within forty-five days after the statewide general election in even-numbered years, the county chair of each major political party shall call separate meetings of all elected precinct committee officers in each legislative district for the purpose of electing a legislative district chair in such district.” (RCW 29A.80.061) The Bylaws of the Washington State Democratic Party state, “At the organizational meeting, the legislative district organization shall elect a chair, a vice chair, a state committeewoman, a state committeeman and any representatives it is authorized to send to other Party organizations.” (WSDCC Bylaws, Article IX).

Section 4 – Quorum. Ten members of the 8th LDDCC, at least seven of whom shall be PCOs, shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5 – Email and postal mail notification. Email may be used in sending meeting calls, agenda, and written notice of motions, except postal mail shall be used for any member who requests it.

Section 6. 8th LDDCC meetings shall be open to the public.

## **ARTICLE VIII: BUDGET**

The 8th LDDCC shall adopt a budget, but shall make no financial commitment binding the organization beyond the next general election in an even-numbered year. The Treasurer, Chair, and Vice-Chair may make disbursement of funds within the approved budget. Disbursement of funds not within the approved budget may be made only after approval of the 8th LDDCC. At the beginning of each biennium or upon any change in Treasurer (should an elected treasurer be replaced), an Audit Committee shall be appointed to review and report on the 8th LDDCC financial records for the prior biennium.

## **ARTICLE IX: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (11<sup>th</sup> edition, 2011)* shall govern the 8th LDDCC in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the 8th LDDCC may adopt.

## **ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of eligible members present at any regular meeting of the 8th LDDCC. The call of the meeting shall contain the text of the proposed amendment(s). Notice shall be sent at least 10 days before the meeting to the members eligible to vote.