

BYLAWS FOR THE 26TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATS

ARTICLE ONE NAME

26th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATS is the official organization of the Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) of the 26th Legislative District of the State of Washington, as set forth in Washington State Democratic Central Committee (WSDCC) Bylaws Article IX and the Revised Code of Washington Title 29A Section 80. Additionally, it is the general membership Democratic Party organization within the 26th Legislative District.

ARTICLE TWO PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization is to:

1. Provide a forum wherein Legislative District PCOs and others interested in promoting Democratic Party causes and principles may come together to debate and support Democratic Party causes and candidates.
2. Contribute to the formation, development, and advancement of the ideas and principles of the Democratic Party.
3. Promote action to assure that all levels of government function for the common good for present and future generations.
4. Build and maintain an effective local Democratic organization to:
 - a. Recruit, support, and elect candidates who share our principles.
 - b. Recruit and support PCOs dedicated to electing Democrats.
 - c. Maximize the turnout of voters who support Democrats.
5. Perform the functions assigned to Elected and Appointed PCOs as set forth in the Charter and Bylaws of the WSDCC and State law.

ARTICLE THREE MEMBERSHIP

- A. Elected PCOs are members of the organization for the period for which they have been elected, and Appointed PCOs are members for the balance of the term for which appointed. Membership is open to all others residing within the bounds of the 26th Legislative District who assert themselves to be Democrats and who pay the requisite membership dues. The Chairs of the Democratic Central Committee for Pierce County and for Kitsap County shall be deemed ex officio members of this organization so long as it contains precincts within that county. Membership terminates immediately prior to each biennial organization meeting and must be renewed following the biennial organization meeting. New memberships will not be accepted at regular or special meetings until the conclusion of all business.
- B. Other than the automatic memberships set forth above, membership may be cancelled in writing, including the reason for cancellation, by the Executive Board and such cancellation may be appealed to the full membership at the next regular meeting following cancellation. In response to any appeal the Executive Board shall state a reason for membership cancellation. To overturn such cancellation shall require a majority affirmative vote of PCOs attending the meeting. An appeal may be presented by the affected person or any elected PCO, in writing or by oral motion. **NOTE:** This Bylaw is intended to be the alternative to Article XIII section 72 of Robert's Rules of Order. Expulsion information shall never be released to the public by the 26th LD Democrats.
- C. Dues shall be established at the biennial organizational meeting. The Executive Board shall have the right to waive the dues of any individual upon written application.

ARTICLE FOUR VOTING

- A. Only elected PCOs shall vote for any office elected at the biennial organization meeting. Only elected and appointed PCOs shall vote to remove or replace officers, to recommend appointments to fill public office vacancies, to conduct the official business of the Democratic Party at the Legislative District level, and to nominate Democratic Party candidates as set forth in the Rules and Bylaws of the WSDCC.
- B. All members may participate in debate and may vote on any motion or resolution not specifically denied to them by these Bylaws.
- C. Proxies and absentee votes are never permitted.

ARTICLE FIVE OFFICERS

- A. The officers of the organization are Chair, Vice Chair for Kitsap County, and Vice Chair for Pierce County; and each will be on the organization Executive Board. During the term of office of any of these, a replacement shall be elected by vote of the elected and appointed PCOs. Chair and at least one Vice Chair shall not be of the same gender. State Committeewoman and Committeeman shall also be on the LD Executive Board and need not be elected PCOs but must be members in good standing immediately preceding the reorganization meeting.
- B. Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chair shall also be elected at the biennial organization meeting and need not be PCOs. They shall also be members of the LD Executive Board.
- C. OTHER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS, see Article Eight regarding specific duties.
 - 1. Delegates to a County Central Committee Executive Board, in a number determined by the County Central Committee, shall be elected at the biennial organization meeting as to Pierce County and as appointed by the Central Committee for Kitsap County, and shall be members of the LD Executive Board. 26th LD PCO(s) elected to County Central Committee Executive Board(s) shall be ex officio members of the 26th LD Executive Board. These members represent the 26th LD Democrats at the County Central Committee Executive Board meetings or as otherwise determined by applicable bylaws of the respective Central Committees.
 - 2. The organization may elect up to three Advisors (preferably under thirty-five years of age and a balance of male and female) to the Executive Board. These members broaden the voices at the 26th LD Democrats Executive Board meetings.
 - 3. The Chair shall have the authority to appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms, Parliamentarian, and committees. These positions are not members of the Executive Board.
 - 4. All officers, appointees, and committees serve from the time elected until replacements are elected at the next biennial organization meeting or until removed by the membership or appointing authority at an earlier date.
 - 5. Any member holding a position identified above may resign at any time and a replacement shall be elected in the manner prescribed for the Biennial Reorganization meeting by the PCOs. The Chair may appoint a member to fill in on interim basis but an election must be held within two months following resignation.

ARTICLE SIX ELECTIONS

- A. Election of all officers and representatives to a county central committee executive board shall occur at the biennial organization meeting called in accord with state law or any meeting called to elect a replacement thereto where seven days' notice has been given in advance of the meeting.
- B. Candidates may be self-nominated; Nominating and seconding speeches are permitted
- C. If there are more than two candidates for a position and no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the name of the person with the fewest votes shall be deleted and a vote taken on the remaining candidates until one candidate has a majority.

ARTICLE SEVEN REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Any elected or appointed officer of the organization or committee member thereof may be removed for failure to discharge assigned duties of the office, provided, as to elected positions:

- A. Charges for removal are in writing and signed by five members.
- B. Removal shall be considered only where at least seven days' notice of intent to consider removal has been given, the reason(s) for removal are stated and the opportunity for rebuttal has been provided. To support removal requires two-thirds of the votes cast.

ARTICLE EIGHT DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

- A. Chair
 - 1. Serve as spokesperson for the organization.

2. Preside at all meetings of the organization, utilizing the Agenda prepared in cooperation with the Secretary and Executive Board.
3. Appoint the Sergeant-at-Arms, Parliamentarian, and such committees as deemed necessary to assure proper function of the organization and serve as ex officio member of each.
4. Recommend to the County Central Committee Chair candidates for appointment to fill PCO vacancies.
5. Advise and assist party organizations, candidates, and elected officials.
6. Assure maintenance of an up to date mailing list of members and PCOs in the Legislative District and persons within the Legislative District who have asked to be kept informed of activities.
7. Represent the organization on the county Executive Board for the county of residence and at the Chairs Committee of the WSDCC, by both attendance and participation.

B. Vice Chair(s)

1. Serve as the presiding officer in the absence of the Chair or at other times upon request.
2. Represent the organization on the county Executive Board for the county of residence.
3. Assist the Chair by attending and participating in committees as requested by the Chair.
4. Identify Democrats who may wish to be appointed PCO in vacant precincts in their respective county.

C. Secretary

Prepare the agenda for each monthly or other official meeting, coordinating such with the Chair and Executive Board. Keep minutes and records of the organization, including minutes of general, special, and Executive Board meetings.

D. Membership Chair

1. Keep a record of all members and assure that proper notice of meetings is given to members and the public. Notice to members may be given by email or U.S. mail. Notice to the public may be given by posting on the 26th LD Democrats web site or by Facebook posting or by posting on other social media or any combination thereof.
2. Provide written certification to the Secretary that notice as specified in paragraph 1 above has been given for each meeting.
3. Maintain a record of all PCOs, including the date of election or appointment.
4. Maintain a record of meeting attendance.

E. Treasurer

1. Receive all money paid to the organization, issuing receipts therefor, keeping a record identifying the source of and purpose of funds and making a monthly report to the membership.
2. Issue checks in payment for obligations or payments authorized by the Executive Board, where appropriate, or the organization at meetings, and making a monthly report to the membership.
3. Prepare a financial report upon request of the Executive Board or the membership.
4. Serve as Chair of the Budget Committee; prepare by March of each year a proposed budget to be submitted to the membership at the April meeting; and prepare and file reports required by the Public Disclosure Commission.
5. In January of each odd numbered year, arrange with the Chair for an audit committee of three persons to audit the books for the preceding two years.

F. State Committeewoman and Committeeman

1. Represent the organization at meetings of the State Central Committee and at meetings of the County Central Committee Executive Board for their county of residence and report the activities thereof at organization meetings.
2. Serve on committees of the WSDCC.
3. Serve on the organization Executive Board.
4. Perform liaison with state and county organizations upon request. NOTE: Committeewoman or committeeman may be removed from the position for failure to attend two consecutive state committee meetings, upon action by the membership after notice of such intent and opportunity for hearing.

G. Sergeant at Arms

1. Under the direction of the Chair, maintain order at meetings.
2. At the request of the Chair or the Secretary, assist in determining eligibility to vote on matters before the body.

H. Parliamentarian

Upon request of the Chair, the Body or a member of the Body or where otherwise appropriate, under Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, render a decision based on provisions of said Rules. The Parliamentarian does not make gratuitous rulings. Rulings may be set aside or overruled by the body as permitted by the Rules.

ARTICLE NINE MEETINGS

A. General Meetings

1. Regular meetings are open to all, except that at any meeting the Body may decide to limit attendance to those asserting to be Democrats.
2. Regular meetings shall be held monthly.
3. Notice of meetings shall be provided to newspapers generally circulating within the Legislative District and to other media, including social media, to assist in publicizing meetings and to any website utilized by the organization.
4. Except when the date, time, and place of a meeting were announced at the preceding meeting, each member shall be given seven days advance notice of meetings either by mail or email. A record of such notice shall be kept by the Membership Chair.
5. Ten (10) members attending a duly noticed regular meeting shall constitute a quorum.

B. Special Meetings

1. Special meetings may be called by the Chair, the Executive Board, or majority vote of the membership at a regular meeting or by petition of eight members submitted to the Chair who shall immediately cause the secretary to give notice of the meeting to be held not less than seven nor more than fifteen days after receipt of the petition.
2. At least seven days advance notice shall be given of special meetings, including date, time, place, purpose, and by whom called, either by mail or email.
3. Ten (10) members attending a duly called and noticed special meeting shall constitute a quorum.

C. Biennial Organization Meeting

1. Between the date of the state general election in even numbered years and the second Saturday of the following January and after the County Auditor has announced the names of the newly elected PCOs, the organization shall meet to elect officers and other elective positions for the succeeding two years.
2. Only newly elected PCOs, as recognized by the County Auditor, may vote at this meeting.
3. The meeting shall be publicized and notice shall be given to PCOs by mail at least seven days in advance of the meeting. Notice shall include date, time, and place. A record of the notice shall be placed in the records.
4. The ranking outgoing officer shall preside at the meeting until election of a new Chair, after which the new Chair shall preside. Such person shall assure that only elected PCOs vote.

ARTICLE TEN EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. PURPOSE

1. To permit action to be taken in the name of the organization if such needs to be taken immediately.
2. To discuss matters to be presented to the membership for action, together with recommended action. Where recommendations are not by consensus, the membership shall be provided the substance of the discussion by the Executive Board.
3. Perform other functions allowed by the Bylaws, directed by the membership, required by the rules of the WSDCC, or required by law.
4. Modify the adopted budget in the event of emergencies to allow the receipt and distribution of funds, such as where contributions have been received that require immediate use in providing financial assistance to Democratic Party

candidates.

Note: The Executive Board is not permitted to override any action of the membership unless such action was ruled illegal by either the State Democratic Party or the Public Disclosure Commission.

B. Members

Elected or appointed Officers set forth above.

C. Meetings

1. Subject to the call of the Chair on 48 hours' notice by phone or email, with a record thereof.

2. A quorum shall be four members if due notice has been given by the Chair or Secretary. A seriatim quorum is permissible only when all members are reached either by phone, email, or in person. This means that if a vote is taken other than at a duly noticed meeting of the Executive Board there must be a written record that every member has been contacted and voted. If emergency action is needed and some members are not available to vote, a record of the contact and result must be kept in the minutes.

3. The Executive Board may set a specific day and time for the monthly meeting.

ARTICLE ELEVEN COMMITTEES

Required

The membership and the Chair may provide for committees deemed necessary and shall provide for committees required by either the National, State, or County Democratic Committees including but not limited to a Platform Committee.

Members

Except as provided by these Bylaws or by National, State, or County Rules, the Chair shall appoint the Chair of committees and at least two additional members. Any person asserting to be a Democrat may be appointed to membership on a discretionary committee.

Reports

Committees shall make a report at each general meeting, including accomplishments and plans.

Funds

No funds shall be obligated by any committee without prior approval of the membership or budget appropriation.

Continuity

Retiring Chairs of ongoing committees shall deliver a final report and committee records to the organization Chair.

ARTICLE TWELVE NOMINATIONS, ENDORSEMENTS and DEBATE

A. Nomination of LD State House Candidates

The WSDCC has established Rules for the selection of Democrats for partisan office for the State of Washington applicable in the event of a so-called "top two" or "Louisiana" primary. Those Rules shall be followed.

B. Candidate Approval, Endorsement and Financing

1. Approval

Approval means that a majority of the membership present at a duly noticed meeting agrees that the candidate meets the qualifications for office, has agreed to support Democratic Party Values and is acceptable to the party if elected. Multiple approvals are permitted. Approved candidates are permitted access to the mailing lists of the 26th Legislative District Democrats.

2. Endorsement

- a. Endorsement means that the membership attending a duly noticed meeting by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote has agreed that the candidate meets the standards for approval and has been selected as the candidate most qualified to represent Democratic Party Values in that office.
 - b. Only one endorsement for each office is permitted. Endorsements may not be granted until after the filing period for the office has passed, so that the membership can know all available candidates when endorsement is considered.
 - c. Endorsement entitles the candidate to use the name of the 26th Legislative District Democrats in publicity, access to the mailing lists and financial assistance as determined by a majority vote of the membership or the Executive Board if immediate action is required.
3. All endorsements and approvals terminate at the end of the election cycle for which they were granted.

C. Candidate Action

Candidates requesting approval or endorsement shall present such request ~~either~~ in writing (see Candidate Endorsement Request Form) at least 3 weeks before the meeting where a vote is anticipated to allow the appropriate committee to evaluate the candidate and make a recommendation. Applications may be filed before the filing period ends.

D. Candidate Financing

Candidates requesting both endorsement and monetary contributions shall submit a written request and shall appear in person or by representative at the membership meeting where the request is to be considered. A majority affirmative vote as to a specific dollar amount is required for financial support, other than as shown in the next paragraph.

E. 26th LD Dem Candidates

26th Legislative District Democratic candidates for State Representative and State Senator in the 26th Legislative District are exempt from the above requirements, and action may be taken upon motion by any member at any general meeting once filing for office has opened. Financial assistance may be granted by a majority vote of the membership in advance of endorsement only for candidates for the 26th Legislative District House and Senate.

F. Initiative and Referendum Endorsements

Initiative and Referendum endorsements may be granted on simple majority vote of members present at any duly noticed meeting. Endorsement of such initiative or referendum entitles the backers to use the name of the 26th Legislative District Democrats in publicity, access to the mailing list and financial assistance as determined by a majority vote of the members at a duly noticed meeting.

G. Issues, Debate and Subjects

The body may consider and debate any subject brought before it by the Chair, the Executive Board, a committee, or any member at a general meeting.

H. Action

The body may endorse or oppose stands, positions, resolutions, or initiatives on any subject of a political nature.

I. Financing

At a regular meeting where a subject is discussed, the body by majority affirmative vote may allocate finances to support issues.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN STATUTORY OFFICES and CONVENTION

Statutory Offices

Should the 26th Legislative District PCOs be required to present recommendations to fill a public office vacancy, a special meeting shall be called by the Chair in accordance with State law and WSDCC. Although the body may participate in discussion, a vote shall be taken only of elected and appointed PCOs.

Convention

The 26th Legislative Democrats shall hold a Legislative District Convention in even numbered years prior to the County, State and National Conventions pursuant to the Rules of the County Central Committee, the WSDCC and the Democratic National Committee, to take positions and select delegates as may be appropriate.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN RULES & AMENDMENTS

This organization shall utilize these Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, Washington State law and the Rules of the WSDCC. Bylaws shall continue in force until modified or repealed by a 2/3rds vote of those PCOs attending a meeting noticed for such action, which may be a regular meeting, so long as notice of such purpose and the proposed amendment is included in the meeting notice.

Any elected or appointed PCO wishing the body to act on a proposed amendment to these Bylaws may make a motion at any regular meeting which, following a second, shall be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting. These Bylaws are intended to conform to the Charter, Bylaws, and Rules of the Democratic Party of Washington State and those of the Democratic National Party, as well as the laws of the State of Washington relating to political parties. Should any part of these Bylaws be found to conflict with the foregoing, the provisions contained herein shall be subordinate.

Bylaws Last Adopted December 4, 2014.

Bylaw Amendments Adopted June 1, 2017.