

1 **Bylaws of the First District Democrats**

2 **Democratic Organization**

4 **Article I: Name**

6 The official name of this Organization is the “First District Democratic Organization.”

8 **Article II: Definitions**

10 Section 1. These Bylaws use the following definitions:

- 12 A. “KCDCC” means the King County Democratic Central Committee.
- 13 B. “SCDCC” means the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee.
- 14 C. “WSDCC” means the Washington State Democratic Central Committee.
- 15 D. “Chair” means Chair of the First District Democratic Organization.
- 16 E. “County Chair” means the chair of the KCDCC or SCDCC **as applicable by county.**
- 17 F. “First District Democrats” means the First District Democratic Organization.
- 18 G. “Majority” means fifty percent (50%) plus one (1).
- 19 H. “Membership” means the members ~~assembled at a Meeting of the First District~~
20 ~~Democrats, and when so assembled, those present and voting on any given action as~~
21 ~~defined in Article III, Sections 1 and 2 when so assembled, those present and voting on~~
22 ~~any given action.~~
- 23 I. “Publish” means to disseminate information or notice to Members by U.S. mail, e-mail,
24 or posting to official websites. The First District Democrats considers information to be
25 “published” when the communication is deposited in the U.S. mail, sent by e-mail, **or**
26 ~~posted on the official website., or posted on official social media sites.~~

28 Section 2. The Bylaws define the following terms in subsequent articles:

- 30 A. “Member” shall have meaning set forth in Article III, Sections 1 and 2.
- 31 B. “Associate **Member**” shall have meaning set forth in Article III, Section 3.
- 32 C. “Executive Board” shall have meaning set forth in Article IX, Section 1.
- 33 D. “Officer” means and includes the individuals described in Article VII, Section 1.
- 34 E. “Meeting” includes regular meetings, special meetings, and reorganization meetings, and
35 these terms shall have further meeting set forth in Article V.
- 36 F. “PCO” means Precinct Committee Officer, and includes “elected PCO,” “appointed
37 PCO,” and “acting PCO”; these terms shall have further meaning set forth in Article IV,
38 Section 1.
- 39 G. “Standing Rules” shall have further meaning set forth in Article XV, Section 1, and in the
40 Standing Rules themselves.

42 **Article III: Membership**

44 Section 1. All ~~elected and appointed~~ Democratic PCOs **as defined in Article IV,** ~~residing in the~~

45 ~~First Legislative District of Washington State~~, are members of the First District Democrats.

46
47 Section 2. Any registered voter residing within the First ~~District~~ Legislative District who declares
48 ~~him/herself themselves~~ a Democrat may become a member on payment of annual dues.

49
50 Section 3. Non-resident Democrats may become associate members on payment of annual dues.
51 Associate members are entitled to a voice in the Organization and to receipt of First District
52 Democrats' publications, but they have no vote.

53
54 Section 4. Dues shall be payable at the time of joining and are renewable each year. The
55 Membership shall establish the amount of annual dues. A majority vote of the Membership may
56 change the amount of the annual dues, on recommendation of the Executive Board. The
57 Executive Board shall review the annual dues amounts at least once per annum.

58
59 Section 5. All records of the First District Democrats are open to inspection by any member of
60 the First District Democrats. The Chair shall respond to requests for records, or delegate the
61 response to another officer.

62
63 Section 6. The Chair is the spokesperson for the Organization. The Chair, or a majority vote of
64 the Executive Board, may delegate other officers or members of the Executive Board as
65 spokespersons for limited purposes.

66 67 **Article IV: Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs)**

68
69 Section 1. The rules of the KCDCC, ~~SCDCC~~, and Washington State Law shall govern the
70 election and appointment of PCOs. There shall be three (3) different types of PCOs:

71
72 A. An elected PCO is a PCO elected in the Primary Election by the voters in the precinct
73 in which the PCO resides.

74
75 B. An appointed PCO is a resident of a First Legislative District precinct appointed by the
76 King County or Snohomish County Chair ~~on the recommendation of the First District~~
77 ~~Chair and approval by a majority of the Membership~~ according to Washington State Law.

78
79 C. In King County only, ~~the District Chair may appoint an acting PCO~~. An acting PCO is
80 a resident of the First Legislative District, but not a resident of the precinct in which the
81 PCO is to serve. ~~The District Chair shall appoint an acting PCO~~. A majority of the
82 Membership must approve the acting PCO. The appointment of a resident of the precinct
83 as the PCO for that precinct shall supersede an acting PCO.

84
85 Section 2. ~~The Membership shall act on recommendations for appointed and acting PCOs at a~~
86 ~~regular meeting. A majority vote of the Membership is necessary to approve a recommendation.~~
87 ~~If there is only one candidate for a PCO position, the Membership may take a voice vote. In the~~
88 ~~event of two or more people seeking an appointment to a vacant precinct If there are two or more~~
89 ~~candidates for a PCO position, the Membership must use a written, signed ballot to select the~~
90 ~~person to receive the appointment.~~

91
92 Section 3. The District Chair shall submit approved recommendations to the appropriate County
93 Chair within fifteen (15) days of approval.

94
95 Section 4. The First District Democrats may not fill any vacant PCO positions in even-numbered
96 years during the period between the Primary Election, when the voters elect PCOs, and the
97 reorganization meeting.

98
99 Section 5. Appointed PCOs shall have all the rights and obligations of elected PCOs. Acting
100 PCOs shall have all the rights and obligations of elected PCOs, except they may not vote to elect
101 the officers of the First District Democrats. Acting PCOs may not vote to fill legislative
102 vacancies.

103
104 Section 6. The First District Democrats shall consider elected or appointed PCOs as resigned
105 from their office on written or electronic notification to the Chair, or on termination of residence
106 in the precinct that the PCO represents. The Chair shall make resignations public at the next
107 regular meeting. The Chair may fill vacancies due to resignation at the regular meeting following
108 ~~their~~ this announcement.

109
110 **Article V: Meetings**

111
112 Section 1. The First District Democrats shall hold regular meetings as set forth in the Standing
113 Rules. A quorum at regular meetings shall be ten percent (10%) of the ~~members~~ eligible to vote.

114
115 Section 2. A special meeting is a meeting other than a regular or reorganization meeting.
116 Twenty-five percent (25%) of the Members ~~hip~~ eligible to vote, twenty-five percent (25%) of the
117 PCOs, or a majority of the Executive Board may call a special meeting ~~and shall notify the~~
118 ~~Chair~~. The Chair must publish notice of a special meeting at least fifteen (15) days before the
119 meeting date.

120
121 Section 3. The Chair will convene a reorganization meeting after December 1, following the
122 Primary election, and before the State Democratic Party reorganization meeting in January . At
123 the reorganization meeting, all PCOs and all members whose dues are current for the year are
124 eligible to vote, per Article VI.

125
126 **Article VI: Voting**

127
128 Section 1. First District Democrats elected and appointed PCOs, and any member who has paid
129 their dues at least fifteen (15) days in advance of a meeting, shall be entitled to vote on all
130 matters arising at that meeting, unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws or by the Standing
131 Rules. During reorganization meetings, an individual who has paid membership dues for the
132 even-numbered year immediately preceding the reorganization meeting, and who has paid their
133 membership dues by the date of the reorganization meeting, shall be eligible to vote.

134
135 Section 2. State Democratic Party Bylaws dictate that only elected PCOs and PCOs appointed
136 after the reorganization meeting shall vote for District Chair, Vice Chairs, State

137 Committee ~~woman, State Committeeman, Members~~, representatives to the County Executive
138 Boards, and on the adoption or amendment of the Bylaws. A majority of the Membership shall
139 elect all other officers.

140

141 Section 3. Voting shall be by signed ballot for all officer positions, unless the vote is non-
142 contested. The First District Democrats shall not recognize proxies in voting on any business of
143 the First District Democrats. The Chair shall appoint a tally committee.

144

145 Section 4. For the election of officers, if no person receives a majority on the first ballot cast, the
146 Membership shall eliminate the person receiving the least votes, and any other candidate who
147 wishes to resign from consideration. On each succeeding ballot, the same rule shall apply until
148 one person receives a majority of votes cast for the position. **In the event of a tie, decision shall**
149 **be made by lot.**

150

151 Section 5. Members voting to elect candidates to the officer positions of the First District
152 Democrats shall have been members fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting when the elections
153 occur. An individual who has paid membership dues for the even-numbered year immediately
154 preceding such meeting, and who has paid their membership dues by the date of such meeting,
155 shall be eligible to vote.

156

157 **Article VII: Officers**

158

159 Section 1. Officers of the First District Democrats shall be:

160

161 A. Chair

162 B. First Vice Chair

163 C. Second Vice Chair

164 D. Third Vice Chair

165 E. Secretary

166 F. Treasurer

167 G. Two (2) KCDCC Delegates (~~identifies as female~~)-(identifying as a gender other than their
168 associate)

169 ~~H. KCDCC Delegate (identifies as male)~~

170 ~~I. KCDCC Alternate (identifies as female)~~

171 ~~J. KCDCC Alternate (identifies as male)~~

172 K. Two (2) SCDCC Delegates (~~identifies as female~~)-(identifying as a gender other than their
173 associate)

174 ~~L. SCDCC Delegate (identifies as male)~~

175 M. Two (2) State Committee Members (~~identifies as female~~)-(identifying as a gender other
176 than their associate)

177 ~~N. State Committee Member (identifies as male)~~

178

179 Section 2. The Chair and the Second Vice Chair must reside in the same county. The First Vice
180 Chair and the Third Vice Chair must reside in the county opposite that of the Chair.

181

182 **Section 3. The First Vice Chair must identify as a gender other than the Chair, the Second Vice**

183 Chair must identify as a gender other than the Chair, and the Third Vice Chair must identify as a
184 gender other than the Second Vice Chair. In totality, there must be at least one male identifying
185 and one female identifying member elected at minimum as either a chair or vice chair.
186

187 ~~Section 3~~ Section 4. Officers shall serve until the next reorganization meeting, or until the First
188 District Democrats duly appoint or elect their successors, or until the First District Democrats
189 remove them from office by a majority vote of qualified voters as described in Article VI,
190 Section 2. Only a majority vote of the elected PCOs in the First Legislative District can remove
191 the Chair from office, however, as per RCW 29A.80.061.
192

193 ~~Section 4~~ Section 5. The Chair shall announce vacancies in Executive Board positions at a
194 regular meeting. The First District Democrats shall fill vacancies by election at the following
195 regular meeting. For any Executive Board positions unfilled at the reorganization meeting, the
196 First District Democrats shall deem those positions to be announced at that time, and the First
197 District Democrats thus may fill the vacant positions at any subsequent regular meeting.
198

199 **Article VIII: Duties of Officers**

200
201 Section 1. The Chair shall be the executive officer and spokesperson for the First District
202 Democrats and shall represent the First District Democrats on the Snohomish County Executive
203 Board if the Chair resides in Snohomish County. The Chair shall preside over the meetings of the
204 First District Democrats and the Executive Board. The Chair may appoint members to perform
205 duties, as the Chair deems necessary. The Chair may appoint a Parliamentarian to advise the
206 Chair on all disputes concerning parliamentary order, these Bylaws, and the Standing Rules at
207 regular and special meetings.
208

209 Section 2. The First Vice Chair shall serve in the absence of the Chair. The First Vice Chair,
210 ~~should the First Vice Chair if they~~ reside in Snohomish County, ~~will~~ shall be a voting member
211 of the Snohomish County Executive Committee. The First Vice Chair shall perform such other
212 duties as assigned by the Chair.
213

214 Section 3. The Second Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence of the
215 Chair and First Vice Chair and shall perform such other duties as assigned by the Chair.
216

217 Section 4. The Third Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair,
218 First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair, and shall perform such other duties as are assigned by
219 the Chair. The Third Vice Chair shall perform the county duties of the First Vice Chair in the
220 absence of that officer.
221

222 Section 5. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the General and Executive Board meetings
223 and all records of the First District Democrats and shall perform such other duties as the Chair
224 assigns.
225

226 Section 6. The Treasurer shall maintain a bank account for the First District Democrats, receive
227 and disburse the funds of the First District Democrats, maintain the financial records of the First
228 District Democrats, prepare and file applicable public disclosure reports, prepare and file

229 applicable tax reports and returns, formally prepare the Organization’s budget; provide monthly
230 written financial reports to the Executive Board and the Membership, and perform such other
231 duties as the Chair assigns. The Treasurer and the Chair (in the absence of the Treasurer) shall be
232 the only officers authorized to draw on the Treasury.

233
234 Section 7. The King County Delegates ~~and Alternates~~ shall represent the First District Democrats
235 at KCDCC meetings. They shall be responsible for presenting resolutions from the First District
236 Democrats to the KCDCC and for reporting KCDCC actions to the First District Democrats. It
237 shall be the responsibility of a Delegate to notify ~~an Alternate if the Delegate cannot attend a~~
238 ~~meeting the Chair in event that an alternate is needed and the Chair shall appoint a temporary~~
239 ~~alternate per the KCDCC bylaws.~~

240
241 Section 8. The Snohomish County Delegates shall represent the First District Democrats at
242 SCDCC meetings. They shall be responsible for presenting resolutions from the First District
243 Democrats to the SCDCC and for reporting SCDCC actions to the First District Democrats.

244
245 Section 9. The State ~~Committee Members woman and State Committeeman~~ shall represent the
246 First District Democrats at WSDCC meetings. They shall be responsible for ~~advocating for~~
247 ~~resolutions passed by the First District Democrats presenting resolutions from the First District~~
248 ~~Democrats~~ to the WSDCC and for reporting WSDCC actions to the First District Democrats. It
249 shall be the responsibility of the Committee ~~Member woman and Committeeman~~ to find a proxy
250 if the Committee ~~Member woman or the Committeeman~~ cannot attend a meeting ~~and report this~~
251 ~~temporary proxy to the WSDCC.~~

252
253 **Article IX: Executive Board**

254
255 Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of the elected Officers listed in Article VII, Section
256 1, ~~except for the county alternates,~~ and the Chairs of the Standing Committees ~~as defined in the~~
257 ~~Standing Rules of the First District Democratic Organization.~~

258
259 Section 2. In addition to other responsibilities enumerated in these Bylaws and the Standing
260 Rules, the Executive Board shall establish regular monthly meeting dates for the purpose of
261 planning and directing the policies and activities of the First District Democrats. A majority of
262 the members of the Executive Board may call special meetings of the Executive Board. The
263 Chair may initiate electronic votes.

264
265 Section 3. The Executive Board ~~or an ad-hoc by-laws committee appointed by the Chair~~ shall bi-
266 annually review these Bylaws and may make recommendations for amendments.

267
268 Section 4. A quorum of the Executive Board shall be fifty percent (50%) of its members. This
269 quorum shall also apply to electronic votes.

270
271 **Article X: Removal from Office**

272
273 Section 1. On petition for removal ~~of an officer other than the Chair,~~ filed by twenty-five percent
274 (25%) of the members or twenty (20) members, whichever is less, the Chair shall call a meeting

275 of the First District Democrats for the purpose of removing an officer listed in Article VII from
276 office. This meeting can be a General meeting if the Chair meets the proper notification
277 requirements. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Membership ~~eligible to elect said officer~~ at a duly
278 called meeting is necessary to remove an officer.

279
280 ~~Section 2. In the event of a petition to remove the Chair of the organization, refer to Article VII,~~
281 ~~Section 4.~~

282
283 ~~Section 2. Section 3.~~ The Chair may declare the position of any elected or appointed member of
284 the Executive Board, except the Chair, vacant, with an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the
285 members of the Executive Board, if that member has been absent from three (3) consecutive
286 monthly Executive Board meetings. The Executive Board must send notice, by certified mail at
287 that person's registered voting address, of the intent to introduce a motion for removal by the
288 Chair at least ten (10) days prior to the next regular meeting.

289
290 ~~Section 3. Section 4.~~ With respect to the removal of any officer, the Chair must publish the
291 following at least ten (10) days before the meeting at which the First District Democrats will
292 consider the removal:

- 293
- 294 A. The grounds asserted by those who petitioned for removal of the officer;
 - 295 B. The response, if any, of the officer in question; and
 - 296 C. The date and time of the meeting when the First District Democrats will act on the
297 petition for removal.
- 298

299 **Article XI: Resolutions**

300
301 Section 1. The Rules for Resolutions shall detail the process for researching, submitting, and
302 acting on resolutions.

303
304 Section 2. If a resolution involves an issue or activity of a committee as defined in the Standing
305 Rules, the Chair of the Issues Committee shall forward the resolution to that committee for
306 comment prior to the regular meeting at which the Membership will consider it.

307
308 Section 3. The Membership may nonetheless consider proposed resolutions that the proposer did
309 not submit in a timely manner to the Issues Committee, or that the Issues Committee did not
310 publish in a timely manner, if the resolution is submitted in writing to the Secretary or Chair
311 before the adoption of the meeting agenda, ~~if the Chair finds that the Membership should~~
312 ~~consider the resolution at the meeting because it is critical,~~ and two-thirds (2/3) of the
313 Membership agree to consider the resolution.

314 315 **Article XII: Censure**

316
317 Section 1. Censure shall be defined to be an official, public statement by the First District
318 Democrats disapproving the conduct of a member, official, elected official, or candidate seeking
319 the endorsement of the First District Democrats. The Executive Board shall be responsible for
320 researching the facts of the case and shall present the results of their research to the Membership.

321 Censure shall be by resolution and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Membership. The
322 Chair shall give written notice to any person subject to censure at least ten (10) days prior to the
323 meeting at which the Membership will consider the censure and give the person an opportunity
324 to respond on the official websites of the First District Democrats.

325

326 **Article XIII: Expenditures**

327

328 Section 1. The First District Democrats shall pay no money from the funds of the First District
329 Democrats except ~~as made by the treasurer by a check signed by the Treasurer~~, or by the Chair in
330 the absence of the Treasurer. All expenditures shall be in accordance with the budgets approved
331 by the Executive Board or the Membership.

332

333 Section 2. The Executive Board may authorize expenditures in the course of regular budgeted
334 operations or business.

335

336 Section 3. The Executive Board may authorize non-budgeted expenditures of five hundred
337 dollars (\$500.00) or less. At a regular meeting, the Membership must authorize non-budgeted
338 expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and all contributions to candidates and
339 ballot issues.

340

341 **Article XIV: Standing Rules**

342

343 Section 1. The Standing Rules shall detail the organizational structure and further define the
344 procedures of the First District Democrats.

345

346 Section 2. The Standing Rules shall become effective on adoption by a majority of the
347 Membership at a duly called First District Democrats meeting, with notice of consideration of
348 the Standing Rules included in the notice of the meeting.

349

350 Section 3. The requirements of these Bylaws shall take precedence over the Standing Rules in
351 cases of conflicting provisions.

352

353 Section 4. The Executive Board ~~or an ad-hoc committee as appointed by the chair~~ shall
354 periodically review the Standing Rules and make recommendations for amendments. The
355 Membership may amend the Standing Rules at a duly called regular or special meeting. The
356 Chair shall include notice of such a proposed amendment in the notice for the meeting. An
357 amendment requires approval from a majority of the Membership.

358

359 Section 5. Only an amendment to the Bylaws may suspend the Standing Rules.

360

361 **Article XV: Endorsements**

362

363 Section 1: The Rules for Endorsement shall detail the process of providing candidates with the
364 endorsement and financial support of the First District Democrats.

365

366 Section 2: The Rules for Resolutions shall detail the process of endorsing ballot measures.

367
368 Section 3: The Executive Board **or the Endorsement Sub-Committee** shall periodically review
369 the Rules for Endorsement and make recommendations for amendments. The Membership may
370 amend the Rules of Endorsement at a duly called regular or special meeting. The Chair shall
371 include notice of such a proposed amendment in the notice for the meeting. An amendment
372 requires approval from a majority of the Membership.

373
374 Section 4: The Executive Board **or the Issues Committee** shall periodically review the Rules for
375 Resolutions and make recommendations for amendments. The Membership may amend the
376 Rules for Resolutions at a duly called regular or special meeting. The Chair shall include notice
377 of such a proposed amendment in the notice for the meeting. An amendment requires approval
378 from a majority of the Membership.

379
380 Section 5. The requirements of these Bylaws shall take precedence over the Rules for
381 Endorsement in cases of conflicting provisions.

382 **Article XVI: Ownership**

383
384 Section 1. The First District Democrats shall own, control, and have full rights to its name,
385 physical property, website, newsletter, social media accounts, and bank account.

386
387 Section 2. The First District Democrats shall maintain an official inventory of all First District
388 Democrats' property and create a tracking mechanism by which Members may use said property.

389 **Article XVII: Supersession**

390
391 Section 1. This Organization shall operate under the laws of the State of Washington, under the
392 National and Washington State Charters **and Bylaws** of the Democratic Party, and under the
393 Bylaws of the KCDCC and SCDC. The requirements of these documents shall take precedence
394 over these Bylaws in cases of conflicting provisions.

395
396 Section 2. In any procedural situation not expressly covered by these Bylaws, the Standing
397 Rules, or any other rules adopted by the Membership, the most recent edition of the revised
398 Robert's Rules of Order shall govern. In all other situations, the Chair, on the advice of the
399 Executive Board and Parliamentarian, shall arbitrate and make such decisions as deemed
400 necessary.

401 **Article XVIII: Adoption and Amendments**

402
403 Section 1. These Bylaws shall become effective on adoption by a majority of the PCOs present
404 and voting at a duly called First District Democrats reorganization meeting, with notice of
405 consideration of the Bylaws included in the notice of the meeting.

406
407 Section 2. The Membership may amend these Bylaws at a duly called regular or special meeting.
408 The Chair shall include notice of such proposed amendment in the notice for the meeting **and**
409 **include the original and proposed language**. An amendment requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of

413 the PCOs present and voting for approval.

414

415 Section 3. The Membership may not suspend these Bylaws for any purpose, nor may any
416 provision in these Bylaws enable such suspensions

417

418 These By-laws were reviewed by the by-laws Ad-Hoc Committee, on 11/12/2018, with members
419 Jackie McGourty, Roger Burton, Hillary Moralez, Wanda Moralez, Ken Lapp, Linda Tosti-Lane,
420 Monica Chilton and Kara French in attendance.