

Bylaws of the First District Democrats

Article I: Name

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

Article II: Definitions

Section 1. These Bylaws use the following definitions:

- A. “KCDCC” means the King County Democratic Central Committee.
- B. “SCDCC” means the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee.
- C. “WSDCC” means the Washington State Democratic Central Committee.
- D. “Chair” means Chair of the First District Democratic Organization.
- E. “County Chair” means the chair of the KCDCC or SCDCC.
- F. “First District Democrats” means the First District Democratic Organization.
- G. “Majority” means fifty percent (50%) plus one (1).
- H. “Membership” means the members assembled at a Meeting of the First District Democrats, and when so assembled, those present and voting on any given action.
- I. “Publish” means to disseminate information or notice to Members by U.S. mail, e-mail, or posting to official websites. The First District Democrats considers information to be “published” when the communication is deposited in the U.S. mail, sent by e-mail, posted on the official website, or posted on official social media sites.

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

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

Article III: Membership

Section 1. All elected and appointed Democratic PCOs, residing in the First Legislative District of Washington State, are members of the First District Democrats.

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

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

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

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

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

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64 **Article IV: Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs)**

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66 Section 1. The rules of the KCDCC, SDCC, and Washington State Law shall govern the election
67 and appointment of PCOs. There shall be three (3) different types of PCOs:

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69 A. An elected PCO is a PCO elected in the Primary Election by the voters in the precinct
70 in which the PCO resides.

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72 B. An appointed PCO is a resident of a First Legislative District precinct appointed by the
73 King County or Snohomish County Chair on the recommendation of the First District
74 Chair and approval by a majority of the Membership.

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

81
82 Section 2. The Membership shall act on recommendations for appointed and acting PCOs at a
83 regular meeting. A majority vote of the Membership is necessary to approve a recommendation.
84 If there is only one candidate for a PCO position, the Membership may take a voice vote. If there
85 are two or more candidates for a PCO position, the Membership must use a written, signed
86 ballot.

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

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91 Section 4. The First District Democrats may not fill any vacant PCO positions in even-numbered

92 years during the period between the Primary Election, when the voters elect PCOs, and the
93 reorganization meeting.

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

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

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106 **Article V: Meetings**

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108 Section 1. The First District Democrats shall hold regular meetings as set forth in the Standing
109 Rules. A quorum at regular meetings shall be ten percent (10%) of the Membership.

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111 Section 2. A special meeting is a meeting other than a regular or reorganization meeting.
112 Twenty-five percent (25%) of the Membership, twenty-five percent (25%) of the PCOs, or a
113 majority of the Executive Board may call a special meeting. The Chair must publish notice of a
114 special meeting at least fifteen (15) days before the meeting date.

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

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121 **Article VI: Voting**

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

129
130 Section 2. State Democratic Party Bylaws dictate that only elected PCOs and PCOs appointed
131 after the reorganization meeting shall vote for District Chair, Vice Chairs, State
132 Committeewoman, State Committeeman, representatives to the County Executive Boards, and
133 on the adoption or amendment of the Bylaws. A majority of the Membership shall elect all other
134 officers.

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136 Section 3. Voting shall be by signed ballot for all officer positions, unless the vote is non-
137 contested. The First District Democrats shall not recognize proxies in voting on any business of

138 the First District Democrats. The Chair shall appoint a tally committee.

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140 Section 4. For the election of officers, if no person receives a majority on the first ballot cast, the
141 Membership shall eliminate the person receiving the least votes, and any other candidate who
142 wishes to resign from consideration. On each succeeding ballot, the same rule shall apply until
143 one person receives a majority of votes cast for the position.

144

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

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151 **Article VII: Officers**

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

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- 155 A. Chair
- 156 B. First Vice Chair
- 157 C. Second Vice Chair
- 158 D. Third Vice Chair
- 159 E. Secretary
- 160 F. Treasurer
- 161 G. KCDCC Delegate (identifies as female)
- 162 H. KCDCC Delegate (identifies as male)
- 163 I. KCDCC Alternate (identifies as female)
- 164 J. KCDCC Alternate (identifies as male)
- 165 K. SCDCC Delegate (identifies as female)
- 166 L. SCDCC Delegate (identifies as male)
- 167 M. State Committee Member (identifies as female)
- 168 N. State Committee Member (identifies as male)

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

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173 Section 3. Officers shall serve until the next reorganization meeting, or until the First District
174 Democrats duly appoints or elects their successors, or until the First District Democrats remove
175 them from office by a majority vote of qualified voters as described in Article VI, Section 2.
176 Only a majority vote of the elected PCOs in the First Legislative District can remove the Chair
177 from office, however, as per RCW 29A.80.061.

178

179 Section 4. The Chair shall announce vacancies in Executive Board positions at a regular meeting.
180 The First District Democrats shall fill vacancies by election at the following regular meeting. For
181 any Executive Board positions unfilled at the reorganization meeting, the First District
182 Democrats shall deem those positions to be “announced” at that time, and the First District
183 Democrats thus may fill the vacant positions at any subsequent regular meeting.

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Article VIII: Duties of Officers

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

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

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

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

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

Section 6. The Treasurer shall maintain a bank account for the First District Democrats; receive and disburse the funds of the First District Democrats; maintain the financial records of the First District Democrats; prepare and file applicable public disclosure reports; prepare and file applicable tax reports and returns; formally prepare the Organization’s budget; provide monthly written financial reports to the Executive Board and the Membership; and perform such other duties as the Chair assigns. The Treasurer and the Chair (in the absence of the Treasurer) shall be the only officers authorized to draw on the Treasury.

Section 7. The King County Delegates and Alternates shall represent the First District Democrats at KCDCC meetings. They shall be responsible for presenting resolutions from the First District Democrats to the KCDCC and for reporting KCDCC actions to the First District Democrats. It shall be the responsibility of a Delegate to notify an Alternate if the Delegate cannot attend a meeting.

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

230 Section 9. The State Committeewoman and State Committeeman shall represent the First District
231 Democrats at WSDCC meetings. They shall be responsible for presenting resolutions from the
232 First District Democrats to the WSDCC and for reporting WSDCC actions to the First District
233 Democrats. It shall be the responsibility of the Committeewoman and Committeeman to find a
234 proxy if the Committeewoman or the Committeeman cannot attend a meeting.
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236 **Article IX: Executive Board**

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238 Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of the elected Officers listed in Article VII, Section
239 1, except for the county alternates, and the Chairs of the Standing Committees.
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241 Section 2. In addition to other responsibilities enumerated in these Bylaws and the Standing
242 Rules, the Executive Board shall establish regular monthly meeting dates for the purpose of
243 planning and directing the policies and activities of the First District Democrats. A majority of
244 the members of the Executive Board may call special meetings of the Executive Board. The
245 Chair may initiate electronic votes.
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247 Section 3. The Executive Board shall bi-annually review these Bylaws and may make
248 recommendations for amendments.
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250 Section 4. A quorum of the Executive Board shall be fifty percent (50%) of its members. This
251 quorum shall also apply to electronic votes.
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253 **Article X: Removal from Office**

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255 Section 1. On petition for removal filed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the members or twenty
256 (20) members, whichever is less, the Chair shall call a meeting of the First District Democrats for
257 the purpose of removing an officer listed in Article VII from office. This meeting can be a
258 General meeting if the Chair meets the proper notification requirements. A two-thirds (2/3) vote
259 of the Membership at a duly called meeting is necessary to remove an officer.
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261 Section 2. The Chair may declare the position of any elected or appointed member of the
262 Executive Board, except the Chair, vacant, with an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the
263 members of the Executive Board, if that member has been absent from three (3) consecutive
264 monthly Executive Board meetings. The Executive Board must send notice, by certified mail at
265 that person's registered voting address, of the intent to introduce a motion for removal by the
266 Chair at least ten (10) days prior to the next regular meeting.
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268 Section 3. With respect to the removal of any officer, the Chair must publish the following at
269 least ten (10) days before the meeting at which the First District Democrats will consider the
270 removal:
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- 272 A. The grounds asserted by those who petitioned for removal of the officer;
- 273 B. The response, if any, of the officer in question; and
- 274 C. The date and time of the meeting when the First District Democrats will act on the
275 petition for removal.

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Article XI: Resolutions

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

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

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

Article XII: Censure

Section 1. Censure shall be defined to be an official, public statement by the First District Democrats disapproving the conduct of a member, official, elected official, or candidate seeking the endorsement of the First District Democrats. The Executive Board shall be responsible for researching the facts of the case, and shall present the results of their research to the Membership. Censure shall be by resolution and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Membership. The Chair shall give written notice to any person subject to censure at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which the Membership will consider the censure, and give the person an opportunity to respond on the official websites of the First District Democrats.

Article XIII: Expenditures

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

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

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

Article XIV: Standing Rules

Section 1. The Standing Rules shall detail the organizational structure and further define the

322 procedures of the First District Democrats.

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

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

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331 Section 4. The Executive Board shall periodically review the Standing Rules and make
332 recommendations for amendments. The Membership may amend the Standing Rules at a duly
333 called regular or special meeting. The Chair shall include notice of such a proposed amendment
334 in the notice for the meeting. An amendment requires approval from a majority of the
335 Membership.

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

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339 **Article XV: Endorsements**

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

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

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346 Section 3: The Executive Board shall periodically review the Rules for Endorsement and make
347 recommendations for amendments. The Membership may amend the Rules of Endorsement at a
348 duly called regular or special meeting. The Chair shall include notice of such a proposed
349 amendment in the notice for the meeting. An amendment requires approval from a majority of
350 the Membership.

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352 Section 4: The Executive Board shall periodically review the Rules for Resolutions and make
353 recommendations for amendments. The Membership may amend the Rules for Resolutions at a
354 duly called regular or special meeting. The Chair shall include notice of such a proposed
355 amendment in the notice for the meeting. An amendment requires approval from a majority of
356 the Membership.

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

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361 **Article XVI: Ownership**

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

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

368 property.

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370 **Article XVII: Supersession**

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372 Section 1. This Organization shall operate under the laws of the State of Washington, under the
373 National and Washington State Charters of the Democratic Party, and under the Bylaws of the
374 KCDCC and SCDCC. The requirements of these documents shall take precedence over these
375 Bylaws in cases of conflicting provisions.

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

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383 **Article XVIII: Adoption and Amendments**

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

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389 Section 2. The Membership may amend these Bylaws at a duly called regular or special meeting.
390 The Chair shall include notice of such proposed amendment in the notice for the meeting. An
391 amendment requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the PCOs present and voting for approval.

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393 Section 3. The Membership may not suspend these Bylaws for any purpose, nor may any
394 provision in these Bylaws enable such suspension.

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396 These bylaws presented to, edited by, voted on, and approved by the First District Democrats
397 membership 2/13/2017