

1 **BYLAWS OF THE 35TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATS**

2 (APPROVED January 24, 2023)

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BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME

59 This organization, established under the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party
60 of the State of Washington, shall be known as the 35th Legislative District
61 Democrats, hereinafter referred to as the "35th Dems".

62

ARTICLE II. MISSION STATEMENT

64 The mission of the 35th Dems shall be:

- 65 A. To express the Democratic Party’s basic principles of inclusion and diversity
66 by welcoming all 35th Legislative District (35th LD) citizens who share
67 Democratic values.
- 68 B. To contribute to the development and advancement of the ideas and
69 principles that constitute the values of the Democratic Party.
- 70 C. To promote such actions as to ensure that all levels of government function
71 for the common good of both its current citizens and future generations.
- 72 D. To build and maintain an effective local Democratic organization for the
73 purpose of:
 - 74 1. Recruiting, supporting, and electing candidates to office who reflect the
75 values of the 35th Dems.
 - 76 2. Promoting positions on issues of public policy that are consistent with
77 the values of the 35th Dems.
 - 78 3. Advise and assist approved and endorsed Democratic candidates
79 for national, state, and local offices within the 35th LD.
 - 80 4. Maximizing the Democratic vote in all 35th LD elections.
- 81 E. To comply with and operate within all federal and state laws and the
82 Washington State Democratic Party Charter and Bylaws.

83 **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

84 **Section 1. MEMBERS OF THE 35th DEMS.**

85 Membership in this organization is open to all Democrats who are:

- 86 A. Registered voters in the 35th LD upon receipt of their annual dues
- 87 or fee waiver described in Article III, Section 2.
- 88 B. Democratic Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) in the 35th LD are
- 89 automatically Members.

90 **Section 2. DUES.**

- 91 A. Annual dues for the 35th Dems shall be determined each calendar year
- 92 by the Executive Board. Dues shall be credited for Membership for the
- 93 calendar year in which they are received, except that dues received in
- 94 November or December may be credited for the following year.
- 95 B. The Executive Board, by majority vote, may grant full Membership with
- 96 reduced or waived dues to a person who requests a reduction.

97 **Section 3. VOTING PRIVILEGES AND RESTRICTIONS.**

98 All Members shall have full voting privileges on matters coming before the

99 Membership with the following exceptions per the Statutes of the State of

100 Washington, the State Democratic Party Charter and Bylaws, and these Bylaws:

- 101 A. Only PCOs may vote to elect or remove officers.
- 102 B. Only PCOs may vote to recommend appointments to fill vacancies for
- 103 public office.
- 104 C. Only PCOs may vote to adopt or amend the Bylaws of this organization.
- 105 D. Only Members of the 35th Dems that have been Members at least
- 106 twenty-eight (28) calendar days prior to a 35th Dem’s meeting where
- 107 voting will take place, are eligible to vote on candidate endorsements or
- 108 approvals and positions on non-candidate ballot measures.
- 109 E. Proxy and absentee voting are prohibited.

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ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. ELIGIBILITY FOR 35TH DEMS' ELECTED OFFICERS.

Any Member in good standing of the 35th Dems shall be eligible to hold any office, provided the Chair and Vice Chair self-identify as different genders, and the two State Committee Members self-identify as different genders (as defined by Washington State Democratic Party Charter and Bylaws).

Section 2. ELECTED OFFICERS.

The elected officers of this organization shall consist of the following:

- A. Chair;
- B. Vice Chair;
- C. Two (2) State Committee Members;
- D. Secretary;
- E. Treasurer; and
- F. One (1) County Committee Member from each county within the 35th LD.

Section 3. TERMS OF OFFICE.

The officers of this organization shall serve terms of office as follows:

- A. Elected officers shall serve terms beginning immediately upon being elected and ending at the next 35th Dems Re-org meeting.
- B. All officer terms shall end upon either their death, resignation, or removal. The rules governing resignation or removal are provided in Article IV, Section 5 below.

Section 4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Election of officers shall be by one of the following methods:

- A. Regular election of officers shall occur at the biennial Re-org Meeting, as described in Article VII, Section 4, and require a simple majority of the elected PCOs present and voting for election.
- B. Special election of officers shall be conducted at the next Regular Meeting of the 35th Dems following a vacancy in office, provided that the PCOs have received official notice at least seven (7) days prior to

140 the meeting. Official notice may be sent electronically. All PCOs within
141 the 35th LD are eligible to vote in a Special election of officers.

142 **Section 5. RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.**

143 Removal of an officer from office may be accomplished by the following methods:

144 A. Any officer may resign from office by submitting a written resignation to the
145 Executive Board. The resignation may be sent electronically.

146 B. Any officer may be removed from office for failure to discharge the duties
147 of the office, provided:

148 1. The charges for removal are in writing and signed by at least five (5)
149 PCOs within the 35th LD, or at least four (4) members of the
150 Executive Board.

151 2. A Special Meeting shall be called to address the removal of an officer
152 and written or electronic notice of the meeting must be sent to the
153 officer and to 35th Dem Membership at least seven (7) days before
154 the meeting at which the charges are to be addressed.

155 3. The officer charged shall have the opportunity to address the
156 Membership at the Special Meeting.

157 4. Two-thirds (66.67%) of the PCOs present and voting vote in
158 favor of removal from office.

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160 **ARTICLE V. DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS**

161 **Section 1. CHAIR.**

162 The Chair shall serve as the chief administrative officer and official spokesperson
163 of the organization, presiding over all meetings of the Membership and the
164 Executive Board. The Chair shall appoint all Committee Chairs and may
165 appoint positions defined by the Executive Board to meet the needs and
166 mission of the organization.

167 **Section 2. VICE CHAIR.**

168 The Vice Chair shall perform the duties of Chair in the Chair’s absence or
169 if the Chair is unable to discharge the duties of the office. The Vice Chair
170 shall serve as a member of the Campaign Committee.

171 **Section 3. STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**

172 The State Committee Members (SCMs) shall represent the 35th Dems at all
173 Washington State Democratic Central Committee (WSDCC) meetings and
174 report to the Membership at each Regular Meeting. If an SCM is unable
175 to attend a WSDCC meeting, then they shall appoint a proxy to attend and
176 report on their behalf.

177 **Section 4. SECRETARY.**

178 The Secretary shall serve as the chief communications officer of the
179 organization and shall maintain the minutes of all Membership and
180 Executive Board meetings.

181 **Section 5. TREASURER.**

182 The Treasurer shall serve as the chief financial officer of the organization,
183 receiving and disbursing all funds. The Treasurer shall maintain all financial
184 records for the organization and provide reports to the Membership at each
185 Regular Meeting. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget and present
186 it to the Membership for approval not later than the second Regular Meeting
187 each year. The Treasurer shall also maintain records and file all reports
188 with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) and the Internal Revenue
189 Service as required by law. The Treasurer may appoint a Deputy Treasurer
190 to assist with the duties of the office.

191 **Section 6. COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**

192 The County Committee Members shall serve as the liaisons to their respective
193 counties and shall attend their respective counties’ Democratic organization
194 meetings and report to the Membership at each Regular Meeting.

195

196 **ARTICLE VI. EXECUTIVE BOARD**

197 **Section 1. MEMBERS AND FUNCTION.**

- 198 A. The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers listed in
- 199 these Bylaws.
- 200 B. The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the Chair. All members of the
- 201 Executive Board must be notified at least seven (7) days in advance of an
- 202 Executive Board meeting.
- 203 C. The Executive Board may conduct business via email for time-sensitive
- 204 matters, provided that any voting done electronically is via unanimous
- 205 consent and duly recorded by the Secretary.
- 206 D. The Executive Board, in order to meet the needs and mission of the
- 207 organization, may define positions within the 35th Dems at their discretion.
- 208 All such positions shall be appointed by the Chair and shall not be members
- 209 of the Executive Board. Furthermore, all such positions shall expire at the
- 210 earlier of a majority vote of the Executive Board, or the next Re-org Meeting.

211 **Section 2. EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIR AND SUCCESSION.**

212 The Chair of the 35th Dems shall be the Chair of the Executive Board, and in that
213 officer’s absence the succession shall be as follows: Vice-Chair, Secretary,
214 Treasurer.

215

216 **ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS**

217 Meetings of the 35th Dems are open to all Democrats, the public, and the press.

218 **Section 1: GENERAL RULES.**

- 219 A. The Washington State Democrats’ Code of Conduct shall apply to all
- 220 attending meetings or events of the 35th Dems.
- 221 B. In all 35th Dems meetings not expressly covered by these Bylaws, the
- 222 WSDCC Charter and Bylaws, the Revised Code of Washington and *Robert’s*
- 223 *Rules of Order Newly Revised*, latest edition, shall govern.

224 c. The 35th Dems may meet and transact business either virtually or in
225 person, provided the rules governing virtual meetings are in accordance
226 with guidelines prescribed by the WSDCC.

227 **Section 2: QUORUM.**

- 228 A. For the Re-org Meeting, a quorum shall consist of ten percent (10%)
229 of the Elected PCOs.
- 230 B. For Membership meetings (Regular and Special), a quorum shall
231 consist of ten percent (10%) of the Membership in good standing.
- 232 C. For Executive Board meetings, a quorum shall consist of a majority of
233 the currently serving officers.
- 234 D. For all meetings, a quorum will be based on members present at the
235 beginning of the meeting.

236 **Section 3: REGULAR MEETINGS.**

- 237 A. Regular Meetings of the 35th Dems shall be held at least quarterly, with
238 meeting dates selected at the discretion of the Chair.
- 239 B. If held in person, Regular Meetings of the 35th Dems shall be held
240 at a location within the 35th LD.
- 241 C. If held in person, electronic attendance may be allowed at the discretion
242 of the Chair.
- 243 D. Written or electronic notice for Regular Meetings shall be sent to all
244 members at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting.

245 **Section 4: RE-ORG MEETING.**

- 246 A. The Re-org Meeting, which includes the election of officers and adoption
247 of Bylaws, will take place between December 1 and 18 in even-numbered
248 years, with the date set by the Executive Board.
- 249 B. Written or electronic notice for the Re-org Meeting shall be sent to all
250 Members at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting.

- 251 C. Unless required by law to be held virtually, the Re-org Meeting shall
252 be held in person.
- 253 D. The Re-org Meeting shall be conducted by the Re-org Committee,
254 in accordance with procedures they establish, which shall be consistent
255 with the guidelines provided by the WSDCC for reorganization meetings.
- 256 E. In accordance with State Democratic Party Charter and Bylaws, only
257 Elected PCOs who were elected that year for the upcoming 2-year
258 election cycle (Elected PCOs) may vote for officers and the adoption of
259 Bylaws at the Re-org Meeting.
- 260 F. The Re-org Meeting shall be convened by one of the officers present,
261 in the following order: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer. The
262 convening officer shall preside solely for the purpose of the election
263 of the Temporary Chair.
- 264 G. The Temporary Chair shall preside through the election of all officers.
265 All newly elected officers will assume their positions immediately
266 following the election and the newly elected Chair shall preside.
- 267 H. The first and only business following the election of officers shall
268 be the adoption of the Bylaws by two-thirds (66.67%) vote of the
269 Elected PCOs present and voting.

270 **Section 5: SPECIAL MEETINGS.**

- 271 A. A Special Meeting may be called at any time by the Chair, or in
272 the Chair's absence or incapacity, by the Vice-Chair, or by any other
273 officer in the absence or incapacity of the Chair and Vice-Chair.
- 274 B. A Special Meeting may be called by petition of one-third (33.33%) of
275 the Membership.
- 276 C. Written or electronic notice for Special Meetings shall be sent to all
277 Members at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting.
- 278 D. The notice must state the reason for the Special Meeting.

279

280 **ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES**

281 **Section 1: GENERAL RULES.**

- 282 A. The Executive Board may form committees it deems necessary, including
283 any committees required by either National, State or County Democratic
284 organizations.
- 285 B. The Chair shall appoint all committee chairs, who may, in turn, appoint
286 additional committee members.
- 287 C. Committees may remain in existence until their objectives are met.
- 288 D. Each committee chair shall provide the Chair with a list of committee
289 members and notify the Chair of changes in membership in a timely
290 manner.
- 291 E. Committee chairs shall present progress reports to the Executive Board
292 as requested by the Chair.
- 293 F. No committee shall incur any expenditure involving this organization unless
294 authorized by the Executive Board.
- 295 G. Committee chairs must relinquish all books, records, and supplies to the
296 Executive Board when their service ends, if requested by the Executive Board.

297 **Section 2. STANDING COMMITTEES.**

298 In addition to any ad hoc committees formed by the Executive Board, there
299 shall be the following standing committees:

300 A. **CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.**

301 This committee shall recruit Democratic candidates to run for offices of
302 State Senator and State Representative in the 35th Legislative District. The
303 Campaign Committee shall not exceed 7 members, including the committee
304 chair and the Vice Chair.

305 B. **DIVERSITY COMMITTEE.**

306 This committee shall promote a diverse Membership to represent the
307 diversity of the population in the 35th LD. The committee shall also promote
308 diversity awareness in the 35th LD Dems organization and in the public
309 institutions of the 35th LD.

310 C. **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE.**

311 This committee shall have oversight over and shall coordinate all messaging
312 and publicity as deemed necessary.

313 D. **RE-ORG COMMITTEE.**

314 This committee shall seek and recommend qualified candidates for all 35th
315 Dems officer positions in advance of the biennial Re-org Meeting, including
316 the receipt of any self-nominations from eligible Members. In addition, this
317 committee shall be responsible for establishing the rules and procedures
318 for the Re-org Meeting. These rules and procedures shall be approved by
319 the Executive Board and submitted to Elected PCOs at least three (3) days
320 prior to the Re-org Meeting.

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322 **ARTICLE IX. ENDORSEMENTS, APPROVALS AND OPPOSITIONS.**

323 The 35th Dems may endorse, approve, or oppose candidates for elected office and
324 take positions on ballot measures.

325 **Section 1. PROCEDURE FOR SEEKING ENDORSEMENT OR APPROVAL.**

326 A. The Executive Board, or the Campaign Committee as authorized by the
327 Executive Board, shall propose procedures for endorsing or approving
328 candidates and taking positions on ballot measures. The Executive Board,
329 or the Campaign Committee as authorized by the Executive Board, shall
330 also propose procedures for revocation of endorsements or approvals.

331 B. The proposed procedures shall be approved at a Membership Meeting
332 by majority vote. A copy of the proposed procedures shall accompany
333 the written or electronic notice for the related meeting.

334 C. The written or electronic notice for any meeting at which any endorsements
335 or approvals (or revocations thereof) will be considered must include details
336 of the endorsements or approvals to be considered (or revocations thereof),
337 along with a copy of the adopted procedures.

338 **Section 2. CANDIDATES**

- 339 A. To be endorsed, candidates must receive a vote of at least sixty percent
340 (60%) of the Members present and voting at the meeting at which their
341 endorsement is considered. Only one candidate may be endorsed for a
342 given office. Endorsed candidates may receive financial and other support
343 from the 35th Dems.
- 344 B. To be approved, candidates must receive a majority vote of those present and
345 voting. Approvals may be granted to more than one candidate for a given
346 office. Approved candidates may not receive financial assistance from the
347 35th Dems, but may receive other forms of support at the discretion of the
348 Executive Board or Campaign Committee, as authorized by the Executive
349 Board. An approved candidate may later receive endorsement.
- 350 C. Any candidate may be unendorsed or unapproved by the 35th Dems with
351 a vote of at least sixty percent (60%) of the Members present and voting
352 at a meeting at which revocation of endorsements or approvals is considered.

353

354 **ARTICLE X: APPOINTMENTS TO PARTISAN ELECTIVE OFFICE**

355 **Section 1. VACANCY IN A PUBLIC OFFICE.**

356 When a vacancy occurs in a partisan elective office, and it is the responsibility
357 of the Democratic PCOs of the 35th LD to present recommendations for
358 appointment as provided by law, the following shall apply:

- 359 A. All candidates for appointment shall present to the Chair of the 35th Dems
360 a completed application form provided by the Chair.
- 361 B. The Chair shall make the candidates' applications available to the entire
362 Executive Board, who shall screen the candidates and shall rule on each
363 candidate's eligibility by a simple majority of those present and voting.
- 364 C. Eligibility shall be the same criteria as for candidates for election from the
365 35th LD.

- 366 D. The Executive Board shall present the eligible candidates for consideration
- 367 to the 35th Dems PCOs.
- 368 E. In order to be eligible to vote, appointed PCOs must have been appointed
- 369 by the County Central Committee (CCC) Chair as of the most recent
- 370 regular CCC meeting prior to the occurrence of the vacancy.
- 371 F. The 35th Dems PCOs shall vote to recommend to the appropriate
- 372 authority the names of the top three candidates.

373

374 **ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

375 **Section 1. POWER TO AMEND.**

376 As required under the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington,

377 only PCOs may vote to amend or adopt Bylaws for this organization.

378 **Section 2. AMENDMENT PROCEDURES.**

379 These Bylaws may be amended at any Regular Meeting by two-thirds (66.67%)

380 of the PCOs present, provided that notice of such proposed action was given

381 at least fourteen (14) days in advance and a quorum of PCOs are present.

382 A copy of the proposed amendment(s) shall be available with the meeting

383 notice (Note this requirement can be met by providing a complete copy of the

384 old and amended Bylaws with the meeting notice). The meeting notice may

385 be sent electronically.

386 **NOTE:** Mere formatting changes or typo corrections made to these Bylaws

387 do not constitute amendments and therefore do not need to be

388 approved by vote.

389

390 **ARTICLE XII. AUTHORITY OF BYLAWS**

391 The 35th Dems shall fulfill its mission under rules and procedures spelled out

392 in these Bylaws and/or in Policies prescribed in Article XIII below.

393 **Section 1. REPLACEMENT CLAUSE.**

394 These Bylaws supersede and replace any previous Bylaws.

395 **Section 2. CONFLICTS OF AUTHORITY.**

396 Where these Bylaws conflict with the Statutes or Regulations of the State of
397 Washington or the Charter, Bylaws, or rules of State or National Democratic Party
398 Organizations, the higher authority shall control.

399 **ARTICLE XIII. POLICIES**

400 Policies are the operating principles of the 35th Dems and are not part of
401 the Bylaws, but shall be maintained with the Bylaws.

- 402 A. Policies shall be recorded in a written Policy Manual maintained by
403 the Secretary and made publicly available along with the Bylaws.
404 B. Policies may be amended, added or removed at any meeting of the 35th
405 Dems by majority vote of the Members present and voting.