

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
BYLAWS
July 2024

ARTICLE I Organization Name

1.01 Name

The name of this organization shall be the “Rockingham County Democratic Committee,” hereinafter referred to as “the Committee.”

ARTICLE II Purposes

2.01 Purpose

- a. The Committee is established to serve all inhabitants of Rockingham County. It freely chooses to associate politically with others calling themselves Democrats for the purpose of seeking governmental office and affecting public policy in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America.
- b. The Democratic Party in Rockingham County is an expression of the citizen’s belief in their community and of their concern for it.

2.02 Democratic Party Support

- a. The Committee shall have charge of the affairs of the Democratic Party and the nomination of candidates and shall have full control of the Party’s interest in all meetings and elections.
- b. The Committee shall do all within its power to contribute to Democratic victory in all elections. Its partisan objectives shall include the following:
 - (1) to persuade the community of the merits of Democratic nominees;
 - (2) to organize get-out-the-vote campaigns and other Election Day activities to support Democratic candidates; and
 - (3) to take stands on issues of community interest, which requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a properly constituted Committee meeting or reorganization meeting.
- c. The Committee is a partisan organization dedicated to political service at every level of government in every office.
- d. All applicable sections of the state and federal Democratic Party Plans are incorporated into these Bylaws by reference.

ARTICLE III Membership Qualifications and Obligations

3.01 Qualifications

- a. Each Committee member shall be a registered voter in Rockingham County, Virginia.
- b. Members of the Committee shall abide by a Democratic Party pledge as to the following:
 - (1) To cooperate fully with all rules and requirements promulgated in connection with any call to official Democratic Party activity; and
 - (2) Not to participate in any official Democratic Party activity with the intention of supporting any organization or candidate opposed to any Democratic nominee in an ensuing election.
- c. The Committee may confer honorary life membership, on such terms as it deems appropriate, including the right to vote, to individuals who have given long and faithful service to the Democratic Party.

3.02 Obligations

- a. Unless otherwise provided in state or federal Democratic Party rules, no meeting or Party resolution shall bind any member selected by such activity to vote in a particular way, including for or against any particular candidate.
- b. Each Committee member will be expected to contribute at least twenty-five dollars (\$25) annually for Committee dues. **Students may contribute ten dollars (\$10) annually for their Committee dues.**
- c. Officers of the Committee shall not in their official capacity publicly support a primary candidate.
- d. The Committee may remove from office and/or membership any person who shall be guilty of willful neglect or violation of any duty or qualification, provided such action is taken by due process consistent with the state and federal Party Plans.
- e. To the extent consistent with the state and federal Party Plans, appeal from any decision, deadlock or failure to act on the part of the Committee shall be to the Sixth District Congressional Committee.
- f. Any member of the Sixth District Congressional Committee shall be a voting member of the Committee.

- g. The right to speak and invitation to attend all meetings of the Committee shall be extended to all elected Democrats and Democratic candidates whose jurisdiction includes any part of Rockingham County, and such rights may also be extended to all other elected or nominated Democrats; officers of all regional, state or federal Democratic organizations; and representatives of any other Rockingham County Democratic groups, as determined by the Executive Committee.
- h. There shall be no pledge or oaths of loyalty to the Democratic Party that would require any person to condone or support discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, creed, sexual orientation, economic status or national origin.

ARTICLE IV Committee Reorganization

4.01 Schedule

- a. A reorganization meeting to determine Committee members shall be held at the call of the Chair as directed by the state Democratic Party. If a new Committee is not established as set forth by the state Party, the old Committee shall serve until a new Committee is established.
- b. Notice of the time, place and method of Committee reorganization shall be given in accordance with the rules of the state Party.
- c. The Bylaws do not preclude the Chair from giving additional notice, as time and resources permit.

4.02 Voting

- a. No voting by proxy shall be permitted at the reorganizational meeting.
- b. Voting by secret ballot is permitted, at the discretion of the Chair.

4.03 Convening the Meeting

At the appointed time and place the Chair, or the highest-ranking Committee officer present, shall convene the meeting.

4.04 Rules

The body at the reorganizational meeting shall constitute the Rules Committee. Rules challenges shall be decided by majority vote.

4.05 Election of Members

- a. All Committee members shall serve at-large

- b. The Committee may fill vacancies and allow such additional individuals to serve on the Committee as approved by it.
- c. In addition to the foregoing, all individuals currently holding elected office as Democrats who represent all or any part of Rockingham County (or who live in Rockingham County) are members of the Committee as desired.

ARTICLE V Officers

5.01 Officers of the Committee

- a. The officers of the Committee shall consist of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.
- b. A Committee officer shall serve a term of two years from the date of the reorganization meeting or until their successor takes office.

5.02 Chair

The Committee Chair coordinates the Committee's day-to-day work, and shall be responsible for preparing agendas and presiding over Committee meetings and conducting all Committee business in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. The Chair is also responsible for filing reports and forms required by Electoral Boards, the State Party, other official entities, or election laws. Additionally, the Chair may:

- a) appoint standing and temporary committee chairs or members, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee;
- b) delegate assignments to other officers and committee chairs;
- c) represent the Rockingham County Democratic Committee at State Central Committee meetings;
- d) expend or obligate the Committee for the full cost of newspaper advertisements mandated by the Party Plan and for a maximum of \$250 for any other expenses.

Additionally, the Chair shall have the Treasurer's report independently reviewed on an annual basis, and shall ensure the status of joint account holders and no single signers for all accounts handling the business of the committee.

5.03 Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair shall preside over Committee meetings and conduct all Party business in the Chair's absence. This officer shall be responsible for recruiting volunteers to serve as district coordinators, precinct captains, and chairs of special

committees. Additionally, the vice-chair for the organization may be responsible for strengthening the County Democratic committee, increasing their membership and activities, perfecting their organization, and acting as a liaison to the congressional district and the County Democratic committee regarding statewide coordinated campaign activities.

5.04 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall safeguard Committee funds, account for income and disbursements, maintain accounts receivable and Committee financial obligations in good standing, ensure compliance with disclosure and reporting laws, and make all payments in the name of the Committee.

Additionally, the Treasurer shall provide financial conditions reports to each Committee or Executive Committee meeting, and annually submit financial records to a third party for certification that they are in good order.

5.05 Secretary

The Secretary ensures the recording and distribution of minutes from all full Committee and Executive Committee meetings, and conducts routine correspondence and other correspondence as directed by the Chair.

5.06 Vacancies

Any vacancy shall be filled by a vote of the general committee for the balance of the unexpired term except at times when this is unfeasible. In such instances, at the discretion of the chairperson, the position may be filled by a vote of the executive committee.

5.07 Officer Removal Process

- a. The executive committee may remove officers or members for legitimate reasons including, but not limited to excessive absence (3 or more meetings without notification) within a calendar year, neglect of duties, defalcation, or violating party rules.
- b. Removal of the Committee Chair may be considered by a fifty-one percent (51%) vote of the full Committee or by a majority of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI Nominations

6.01 Committee Officers

- a. Nomination and election of Committee officers shall be by the Committee in accordance with state Party rules, which presently require the election of officers not

more than forty (40) days after the reorganization meeting and which can take place at the reorganization meeting.

- b. No person shall hold more than one (1) Committee office at the same time.

6.02 Delegates

District or state convention delegates shall be chosen at a delegate selection meeting upon such rules as set forth in the applicable call for delegates.

ARTICLE VII Meetings and Quorum

7.01. Meetings

- a. Committee meetings shall be held on the call of the Chair or within fifteen (15) days of receipt by the Chair of a written request, signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the Committee members, stating the purpose for which the meeting is requested.
- b. All Committee meetings shall be open to the public and the press, except that a majority of the Committee present may designate that all or part of any meeting may be held in executive session.
- c. There shall be at least two regular meetings of the Committee each year, not counting the reorganization meetings held for the purpose of electing candidates or the reorganizational meetings held for the purpose of electing local Committee officers.

7.02 Quorum

A quorum shall consist of 20 percent of the Committee members.

7.03 Attendance

Any Executive Committee or other party member who is conducting party business may request an excused absence from the Chair.

ARTICLE VIII Committees

8.01 Executive Committee

- a. The Executive Committee shall be the governing body of the Committee when it is not in session and is authorized to take actions on behalf of the Committee, to the extent consistent with these Bylaws or Sixth District Committee, State Democratic Party or Federal Democratic rules or plans.

- b. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for approving all appointments for committees recommended by the Chair.
- c. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to instruct committees to execute duties assigned by it and to direct the Chair to appoint members to ad hoc committees as it deems necessary to conduct Party business.
- d. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Committee's officers. Additional members to the Executive Committee may be nominated by the Chair and approved by the Executive Committee.

8.02 Additional Committees

- a. The Chair and the Executive Committee may establish and appoint members to such additional committees as they deem to be in the best interests of the Party.
- b. Membership on such additional committees shall not be limited to Committee members.

8.03 Grievance Committee

- a. Any Democrat aggrieved may submit a written complaint with the Chair, who shall convene a Grievance subcommittee for review and investigation of such complaints. If the complaint is against the Chair, the written complaint may be submitted to the Vice Chair. Upon review, and if the subcommittee determines that there is a reasonable basis for the complaint, it shall immediately begin an investigation of the complaint. The subcommittee shall complete its investigation and file a written report with the executive committee. Within (30) days of receiving the subcommittee report, the executive committee shall act on the complaint and provide such remedies, as it deems appropriate.

ARTICLE IX Bylaws

9.01 Amendment

The Bylaws may be amended by majority vote at any duly constituted meeting of the Committee or in a reorganization meeting.

- (1) Interpretation of the Bylaws shall be by majority vote of those members of the Executive Committee present at any Committee meeting.
- (2) Any changes mandated by the Sixth District Congressional Committee, the state Party or the Democratic National Committee shall be deemed effective immediately without further Committee action.

ARTICLE X Rules

10.01 Rules

- a. Reorganization meetings shall have challenges interpreted on the spot by the duly presiding Chair of such reorganization meeting. A ruling of the Chair may be reversed or amended upon the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those individuals present and properly participating in such reorganization meeting.
- b. All subsequent rules challenges shall be made in writing and presented to the Chair within five (5) days after the meeting out of which such challenges arise. The Chair shall forward all such challenges as an appeal to the Sixth District Congressional Committee, notwithstanding the disposition of any related challenge at the meeting.

ARTICLE XI Parliamentary Authority

11.01 Robert's Rules

The rules in the current edition of Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Committee in all applicable cases, to the extent not inconsistent with the state or federal Party Plan, these Bylaws or any special rules of order adopted by the Committee.

ARTICLE XII Affirmative Action

12.01 Statement of Intent

A major Committee goal is to reflect the diversity within the Rockingham County community. While the Committee shall impose no quotas with respect to membership or officers, it affirms the validity of considering factors such as gender, race, color, creed, economic status, sexual orientation and national origin in promoting membership and electing officers.