

Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington

As amended by the Washington State Democratic Central Committee on April 18, 2015

Article I State Democratic Convention

1 The State Convention of the Democratic Party is the highest authority of the Democratic Party of
2 the State of Washington, subject to the provisions of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the
3 State of Washington. The Convention shall be called by the Washington State Democratic
4 Central Committee pursuant to Articles V and VI of the State Charter.

Article II Washington State Democratic Central Committee

- 5 A. Purpose and Powers
- 6 1. The Washington State Democratic Central Committee, also known as the state
7 central committee ("SCC"), is the governing body of the Democratic Party of the
8 State of Washington as authorized by the Democratic State Convention and the
9 Charter of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington.
- 10 2. The SCC shall have all powers and carry out all duties delegated to it by the
11 Convention under the Charter. The SCC is the sole Party organization authorized
12 to collect and disburse funds in the name of the Democratic Party of the State of
13 Washington. The SCC provides the funds, staff and other assistance necessary for
14 the operations of its committees.
- 15
- 16 B. Membership
- 17 1. The SCC shall consist of the state committeewoman and the state committeeman
18 elected from each legislative district and from each county of the State of
19 Washington, without regard to whether each is a precinct committee officer, in
20 compliance with Article III B of the Charter.
- 21 2. Members shall be elected for two-year terms and shall serve until their successors
22 have been elected.
- 23 3. All Members of the SCC shall have equal voice and vote in the affairs of the SCC
24 unless these Bylaws or the Charter direct expressly to the contrary.
- 25 4. The following shall be Special Members of the SCC. They shall be entitled to equal
26 voice and vote in affairs of the SCC when in personal attendance. Special Members
27 have no proxy. Except where expressly limited in the Charter or in these Bylaws,
28 Special Members shall have all rights and privileges granted to Members under
29 these Bylaws.
- 30

- 1 5. The elected officers of the State Central Committee.
- 2 6. National Committeemen and National Committeewomen elected from the State of
- 3 Washington.
- 4 7. The Governor of the State of Washington when that office is held by a Democrat.
- 5 8. United States Senators from the State of Washington if such offices are held by
- 6 Democrats.
- 7 9. Members of the United States House of Representatives from the State of
- 8 Washington if such Members are Democrats.
- 9 10. The Leader of the Washington State Senate Democratic Caucus.
- 10 11. The Leader of the Washington State House of Representatives Democratic Caucus.
- 11 12. A representative of the Young Democrats of Washington.
- 12 13. A representative of the Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs.
- 13 14. The Chair of the Organization of County and District Chairs; provided that in the
- 14 absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair of the Organization of County and District
- 15 Chairs may serve in the Chair's stead, with vote, as an alternate.
- 16 15. The SCC may from time to time extend Special Membership privileges, provided
- 17 that any such extension must be adopted by the SCC by unanimous vote and shall
- 18 be submitted to the next Convention for ratification.
- 19

20 C. Officers and Their Duties

- 21 1. The officers of the SCC shall be the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and
- 22 such other officers as the SCC shall from time to time authorize and elect.
- 23 2. The officers of the SCC shall be elected for two-year terms at the first meeting of
- 24 the SCC in odd-numbered years or, in the case of officers added by the SCC, in the
- 25 manner and at the time specified by the SCC in the resolution establishing such
- 26 office.
- 27 3. In the event of a vacancy in an office, the office may be filled by election at any
- 28 regular or special meeting of the SCC, provided the written notice of the proposed
- 29 election has been deposited in the mail, postage prepaid, to each member of the
- 30 SCC at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the meeting.
- 31 4. Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall:
 - 32 a. In the absence of the Chair, or in the event of a vacancy in that office or the
 - 33 disability of the incumbent, perform the duties of the Chair.
 - 34 b. Develop and maintain personnel policies and committee chair job
 - 35 descriptions and perform such other responsibilities as the SCC or its
 - 36 Executive Committee or the Chair may from time to time delegate.
- 37 5. Secretary. The Secretary shall:
 - 38 a. Prepare the minutes of all meetings of the SCC or its Executive Committee
 - 39 and the State Convention.
 - 40 b. Keep all records of the SCC.
 - 41 c. Perform such other duties as the SCC or its Executive Committee or the
 - 42 Chair may from time to time delegate.
 - 43

- 1 6. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall:
 - 2 a. Maintain the financial records of the SCC and all committees, and be
 - 3 responsible for the accurate and timely filing of all reports required by
 - 4 public disclosure or taxing authorities.
 - 5 b. Be the custodian of all funds and securities of the SCC and all committees.
 - 6 c. Deposit and disburse funds of the SCC pursuant to the current budget and
 - 7 policies and procedures established by the SCC or its Executive Committee.
 - 8 d. Prepare and distribute a written financial report to each meeting of the
 - 9 SCC.
 - 10 e. Serve as a voting member of the Finance Committee.
 - 11 f. Perform such other duties as the SCC or its Executive Committee or the
 - 12 Chair may from time to time delegate.
 - 13 7. National Committee Members
 - 14 a. The offices of National Committee members apportioned to the State of
 - 15 Washington by the Democratic National Committee shall be filled by
 - 16 election at large by the SCC during each Presidential election year.
 - 17 b. National Committee members shall serve four-year terms and shall serve
 - 18 until their successors are elected.
 - 19 c. In the event of a vacancy in the post of National Committee member, the
 - 20 SCC shall elect a replacement to serve the balance of the term. The
 - 21 replacement shall be selected in the manner provided for filling vacancies
 - 22 in officer positions.
 - 23 8. Removal of Officers. Any officer may be removed upon two-thirds vote of the
 - 24 SCC, provided at least fifteen (15) days prior notice of the meeting and the
 - 25 grounds for removal are given to the members and the officer whose removal is
 - 26 sought.
- 27
- 28 D. Meetings
- 29 1. Regular Meetings
 - 30 a. The SCC shall hold at least three (3) meetings per year, one of which can be
 - 31 the State Convention. Meetings will be held at a time and place selected by
 - 32 the Chair, pursuant to guidelines established by the SCC or its Executive
 - 33 Committee; provided, however, that the Chair shall rotate the meetings
 - 34 among Congressional Districts.
 - 35 b. A call for each such meeting shall be mailed to all SCC Members at least
 - 36 thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting.
 - 37 c. In the absence of a call for a regular meeting, any twenty-five (25) Members
 - 38 of the SCC may call such a meeting by issuing a proper call and proposed
 - 39 agenda.
 - 40 2. Organizational Meeting.
 - 41 a. The first regular meeting of the SCC in odd-numbered years shall be its
 - 42 organizational meeting. This meeting shall be held after legislative district
 - 43 and county organizational meetings, provided such meetings are held in
 - 44 the months of December and January immediately proceeding.

- 1 b. As its first orders of business at the organizational meeting, the SCC shall
2 adopt temporary rules for the meeting and elect a Chair, Vice Chair and the
3 other officers of the SCC.
4 c. In the absence of a call for an organizational meeting, any ten (10) members
5 of the SCC may call such a meeting by issuing a proper call and proposed
6 agenda.

7 3. Special Meetings

- 8 a. A special meeting of the SCC may be called for any purpose by:
9 (1) The Chair.
10 (2) A majority of the Executive Committee.
11 (3) Any twenty-five (25) members of the SCC, provided that a proper
12 call is issued by the convening authority at least fifteen (15) days in
13 advance of the meeting.

14 4. Voting and Proxies

- 15 a. All Members of the SCC shall have equal vote. In the event that any
16 Member shall be an officer or hold any additional position with the SCC
17 that position carries a vote, the Member shall nevertheless have only one
18 vote in all affairs of the SCC.
19 b. A division of the house may be called upon any point by 10%, and a roll
20 call vote may be called by 20%, of those present and entitled to vote,
21 including proxies.
22 c. Voting by proxy shall be permitted in accordance with the following rules:
23 (1) All proxies must be in writing, signed by the Member. They may be
24 specific or general, instructed or uninstructed, transferable or non-
25 transferable, as specified by the maker. In the absence of
26 specification, a proxy shall be deemed to be general, uninstructed
27 and non- transferable.
28 (2) No person shall hold more than one proxy.
29 (3) In order to vote a proxy, the holder must register the proxy with the
30 Secretary of the SCC before a vote is taken. Only the individual
31 currently registered with the Secretary may vote the proxy.
32 (4) The holder of a proxy must reside in the county or legislative district
33 in which the Member giving the proxy resides.

34 5. Quorum

- 35 a. A quorum of the SCC shall be 40% of those eligible to vote. For purposes of
36 determining a quorum, valid proxies shall be counted.
37 b. Once a quorum is established, the Chair need not entertain a quorum call
38 until all business included in the adopted agenda for the meeting has been
39 transacted.
40 c. Robert's Rules. In all matters not covered expressly by these Bylaws,
41 Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised, shall prevail.
42 d. Open Meetings. All meetings of the SCC shall be open to all Democrats,
43 except when called into Executive Session by majority vote.
44
45

- 1 E. Committees
- 2 1. The SCC shall have the following Standing Committees: Resolutions Committee,
- 3 Rules and Bylaws Committee, Affirmative Action Committee; Finance Committee;
- 4 Elections Committee.
- 5 2. The Standing Committees shall:
- 6 a. Meet at the call of its chair.
- 7 b. Report fully on its activities and proposed activities to the SCC Chair, at
- 8 such times and in such form as the SCC Chair shall deem appropriate.
- 9 c. Submit annually to the SCC a proposed budget for SCC approval.
- 10 3. The Resolutions Committee shall review proposed resolutions to the SCC and
- 11 recommend their adoption or rejection; and propose rules and procedures to the
- 12 SCC for the handling of resolutions.
- 13 4. The Rules and Bylaws Committee shall recommend rules of procedure for the
- 14 conduct of meetings or the handling of special matters to the SCC and recommend
- 15 amendments to existing rules or these Bylaws; and review proposed Bylaw
- 16 amendments submitted to the SCC and recommend adoption or rejection.
- 17 5. The Affirmative Action Committee shall propose and coordinate an affirmative
- 18 action plan, and with the approval of the Executive Committee, implement the
- 19 plan, in order to discharge the SCC's affirmative action responsibilities under the
- 20 Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States and the Charter of the
- 21 Democratic Party of Washington.
- 22 6. The Finance Committee shall propose methods of raising funds for the SCC and,
- 23 with the approval of the Executive Committee, implement and coordinate
- 24 fundraising plans. The Treasurer of the SCC shall be a member of the Finance
- 25 Committee.
- 26 7. The Elections Committee shall propose policies and procedures to the SCC on
- 27 candidate recruitment and endorsements, fair campaign practices, political ethics
- 28 and other Party policy areas as determined by the SCC or the SCC Chair.
- 29 8. Other Committees.
- 30 a. The SCC may from time to time establish other committees to carry out
- 31 such duties and have such powers as the SCC may establish. Members of
- 32 such committees need not be members of the SCC.
- 33 b. The Chair may from time to time appoint such committees to report to the
- 34 Chair as the Chair may deem necessary or prudent. Such committees shall
- 35 have such powers as are granted by the Chair, provided, however, that the
- 36 Chair may not grant greater powers to a committee than the SCC has given
- 37 the Chair.
- 38 9. Committee Membership. Unless the enabling resolution shall specify a method of
- 39 selection of members of a committee and its composition, the Chair shall appoint
- 40 the members of the committee.
- 41 10. Committee Rules. Any Committee may adopt rules of procedure for the conduct
- 42 of its affairs. In the absence of specific rules, Robert's Rules of Order, newly
- 43 revised, shall govern the conduct of committee affairs.
- 44 11. Minority Reports. Minority Reports may be issued from any Committee on
- 45 concurrence of at least 20% of the Committee's membership.

- 1 12. Additional Duties. Committees shall perform such additional duties as the SCC
2 shall propose.
- 3 13. Limitations on Committee Activities. The following limitations shall govern the
4 activities of all Committees except the Executive Committee. The Committees shall
5 not be authorized to:
- 6 a. Incur expenses or enter contracts on behalf of the Democratic Party, except
7 as specifically authorized by the SCC.
- 8 b. Issue press releases or make public statements in the name of the
9 Democratic Party of the State of Washington except as specifically
10 authorized by the SCC Chair.
- 11
- 12 F. Availability of Members' List. So that Members of the SCC shall be able to freely
13 communicate with other Members for the purpose of proposing resolutions, bylaws,
14 amendments or other business requiring notice to the SCC under these Bylaws, the Chair
15 shall make available to Members a mailing list of the members of the Committee at cost.

Article III

Executive Committee

- 16 A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair; Vice Chair; Treasurer; Secretary;
17 National Committeemen and Committeewomen; the chairs of the Finance, Statutory
18 State and Affirmative Action Committees; and a representative of the Washington State
19 Federated Democratic Women's Clubs, together with the SCC member elected by and
20 from the SCC membership in each Congressional District.
- 21
- 22 B. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Chair and have such powers and
23 duties as are delegated to it by the SCC. All actions of the Executive Committee must be
24 reported to the SCC at the next SCC meeting. The Executive Committee shall prepare an
25 annual operating budget.

Article IV

Budget, Compensation and Reimbursement

- 26 A. No later than the regular Second Quarter meeting, the SCC shall adopt a budget for the
27 following year. Budgeted expenditures shall be divided into two parts as follows: Part A
28 shall cover all expenses for the administration of the SCC; and Part B shall cover all funds
29 disbursed to candidates or political committees or expended directly on their behalf.
30 Rules for the disbursement of Part B funds shall be adopted annually by the SCC. No
31 funds shall be disbursed or obligated by or on behalf of the SCC except in accordance
32 with the adopted budget and any applicable rules. The budget shall be amendable.
33
34

- 1 B. Officers or employees of the Washington State Democratic Party may be compensated
2 and reimbursed for expenses in such amount and manner as determined by the SCC or
3 its Executive Committee. In the absence of explicit authority to do so, no officer or
4 employee shall receive compensation.
5
- 6 C. The Executive Committee may require that the books be audited at any time. Subject to
7 Executive Committee confirmation, the Chair shall establish an audit committee
8 promptly after each reorganization meeting. The results of the audit shall be considered
9 by the Executive Committee and then reported to the SCC no later than its regular
10 second quarter meeting.

Article V

Chair of the Democratic Party of the State Of Washington

- 11 A. The Chair of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington shall:
- 12 1. Be the Chief Executive Officer of the SCC and preside at all meetings of the SCC or
13 its Executive Committee.
 - 14 2. Be charged with the responsibility for implementing all policies of the SCC.
 - 15 3. Make the call for all meetings of the SCC or its Executive Committee.
 - 16 4. Provide a provisional agenda for all meetings of the SCC or its Executive
17 Committee.
 - 18 5. Perform such additional duties as the SCC or its Executive Committee shall
19 delegate to the Chair.
 - 20 6. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, appoint the chairs of standing and
21 special committees of the SCC.
 - 22 7. Appoint legal counsel for the Washington State Democratic Party and appoint
23 such other professionals as may be required from time to time to act for the Party.
24 Such appointments must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Executive
25 Committee.
 - 26 8. Appoint a Parliamentarian, Sergeants-at-Arms, Pages, Tally Clerks and such other
27 individuals as may be necessary for the efficient and fair administration of SCC
28 meetings.
 - 29 9. Be the Authorized Spokesperson for the Democratic Party of the State of
30 Washington.
 - 31 10. Be an ex-officio voting member of all committees of the SCC except the Statutory
32 Committee.
 - 33 11. Appoint such deputy treasurers as may be needed to assist the Treasurer in filing
34 reports.

Article VI

Statutory State Committee

- 1 A. The Statutory State Committee shall be organized according to state law (RCW29.42.020)
2 and shall perform only those duties explicitly specified by RCW 29.42.020(l) through (4),
3 to-wit:
- 4 1. "Call conventions at such time and place and under such circumstances and for
5 such purposes as the call to convention shall designate. The manner, number and
6 procedure for selection of state convention delegates shall be subject to the
7 committee's rules and regulations duly adopted;"
 - 8 2. "Provide for the election of delegates to national conventions;"
 - 9 3. "Fill vacancies on the ticket for any federal or state office to be voted on by the
10 electors of more than one county;"
 - 11 4. "Provide for the nomination of presidential electors."
- 12
- 13 B. The Statutory State Committee shall adopt bylaws that shall delegate those duties to the
14 SCC and that shall provide that the Chair of the Democratic Party of the State of
15 Washington shall be the chair of the Statutory State Committee and that the Vice Chair
16 elected by the SCC shall be the vice chair of the Statutory State Committee.

Article VII

Vacancies, Appointments

- 17 A. The Statutory State Committee of the SCC is subject to a permanent injunction issued by
18 the Federal District Court in *Cunningham v. Washington State Democratic Committee*
19 (Civ. No. C75-901, W.D. Wash. 1977), enjoining the Statutory State Committee from
20 filling vacancies on the ticket for any federal or state office voted upon by the electors of
21 two or more counties, filling vacancies on the ticket in legislative races, or making
22 interim legislative appointments, in multi-county legislative districts by any method that
23 contravenes the one-person, one-vote rule. Pursuant to the delegation of authority of
24 Article VI. B. above, the SCC shall be responsible for compliance with this injunction.
25
- 26 B. In making interim legislative appointments in multi-county legislative districts, the SCC
27 shall make its appointment from a list of three names submitted to the committee by a
28 caucus of the elected and appointed Democratic precinct committee officers of the
29 precincts within the legislative district. The SCC Chair shall call this caucus.
30
- 31 C. In making interim legislative appointments in single-county legislative districts, the
32 county central committee shall make its appointment from a list of three names
33 submitted to the committee by a caucus of the elected and appointed Democratic precinct
34 committee officers of the precincts within the legislative district. The county chair shall
35 call this caucus.
36
- 37 D. The SCC shall develop rules for the conduct of legislative appointment caucuses.

Article VIII

County Central Committees

- 1 A. The county central committee shall be the governing body of the county Democratic
2 Party and shall have the responsibility for conducting Party affairs at the county level. It
3 shall be composed of all elected and appointed precinct committee officers.
4
- 5 B. In any county central committee, only elected precinct committee officers and precinct
6 committee officers appointed after the organizational meeting shall vote for county chair,
7 vice chair, state committeewoman, state committeeman and any representative the
8 county central committee is authorized to send to other Party organizations and on the
9 adoption or amendment of bylaws. County central committees may allow other
10 Democrats to participate in all other functions.
11
- 12 C. Each county central committee shall be organized according to state law, the Charter and
13 Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington, and other provisions
14 pursuant to the authority of the Charter. Its organizational meeting shall take place in
15 December or January following each state general election held in even-numbered years.
16 At the organizational meeting, the committee shall elect a chair, a vice chair, a state
17 committeewoman, a state committeeman and any representatives it is authorized to send
18 to other Party organizations.
19
- 20 D. The county central committee shall have a minimum of four (4) regular meetings a year
21 unless there are legislative district organizations within the county.
22
- 23 E. In counties with legislative district organizations, the county central committee may
24 establish a county executive board.

Article IX

Legislative District Organizations

- 25 A. The legislative district organization shall be the governing body of the legislative district
26 Democratic Party and shall have the responsibility for conducting Party affairs at the
27 legislative district level. It shall be composed of all elected and appointed precinct
28 committee officers.
29
- 30 B. In any legislative district organization, only elected precinct committee officers and
31 precinct committee officers appointed after the organizational meeting shall vote for
32 district chair, vice chair, state committeewoman, state committeeman and any
33 representative the legislative district organization is authorized to send to other Party
34 organizations, and on the adoption or amendment of bylaws. Legislative district
35 organizations may allow other Democrats to participate in all other functions.
36

1 C. Each legislative district organization shall be organized according to state law, the
2 Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington, and other
3 provisions pursuant to the authority of the Charter. The legislative district organization
4 shall be organized in accordance with rules passed by the county central committee in
5 those counties in which there are two or more complete legislative districts. In legislative
6 districts where counties have not provided for legislative district organization meetings,
7 the SCC Chair shall do so. Its organizational meeting shall take place in December or
8 January following each state general election held in even-numbered years. At the
9 organizational meeting, the legislative district organization shall elect a chair, a vice
10 chair, a state committeewoman, a state committeeman and any representatives it is
11 authorized to send to other Party organizations. The legislative district organization shall
12 have a minimum of four (4) regular meetings a year.

Article X

Organization of County and District Chairs

- 13 A. The Organization of County and District Chairs shall be composed of the chair of each
14 Democratic county central committee and the chair of each Democratic legislative district
15 organization in the State of Washington.
- 16
- 17 B. The Organization shall elect from its ranks a chair, vice chair and such other officers as
18 the Organization shall deem appropriate.
- 19
- 20 C. The Organization shall recommend to the SCC for its consideration actions or
21 expenditures to promote the grassroots structure of the Party and shall perform such
22 additional duties and have such additional powers as the SCC may by resolution
23 delegate.

Article XI

Selection of Nominees, Candidates and Delegates

- 24 A. Delegates to Party conventions at all levels and Party officers (whether or not such
25 delegates and officers are declared by the State to be public officials) shall be selected by
26 voters who support the principles of the Democratic Party and wish to be publicly
27 known as Democrats.
- 28

- 1 B. Except as otherwise required by the Charter, Bylaws and Rules of the Democratic Party
2 of the United States or by the Delegate Selection Rules of the Democratic National
3 Committee, candidates and nominees for public office who are or will be identified as
4 Democrats or publicly associated with the Democratic Party to any extent in the general
5 election for such office must be selected in accordance with Rules adopted by the SCC.
6 The Rules adopted by the SCC shall permit participation, subject to guarantees of
7 election fairness and accountability, by voters who wish to participate in the selection but
8 do not wish to become publicly affiliated with the Democratic Party; provided the Rules
9 may forbid the participation of any voter who has participated or will participate in the
10 selection of candidates associated with another political party if such candidates seek to
11 appear on the same primary or general election ballot as any Democratic candidate being
12 selected by the process in which the voter seeks to participate.
13
- 14 C. In connection with any selection process in which voters who are not members of the
15 Democratic Party are permitted to participate, the SCC may require that candidates
16 demonstrate prior to filing for office reasonable support from Party members in order to
17 be eligible to participate in the selection process; PROVIDED, that any such requirement
18 shall have been adopted not less than ninety (90) days prior to the filing period for the
19 selection process, and further provided that any such requirement shall apply equally to
20 all candidates for each particular office.

Article XII

Amendments, Rules

- 21 A. These Bylaws may be amended by affirmative vote of a majority of the entire
22 membership of the SCC, or as provided in the Charter.
23
- 24 B. Amendments to these Bylaws must be presented in writing to the state chair by an SCC
25 member at least fifteen (15) days prior to an SCC meeting or by an elected delegate to the
26 State Convention thirty (30) days prior to the State Convention. The State Chair shall then
27 publish the full text of the proposed amendment in the call no later than ten (10) days
28 prior to the date of the meeting or convention.
29
- 30 C. The SCC may from time to time adopt additional procedural rules consistent with these
31 Bylaws for the conduct of meetings or the handling of special matters, or relating to the
32 operation of other Party organizations. Such rules may be adopted by majority vote, but
33 once adopted shall require a two-thirds vote to suspend.
34
- 35 D. Each county central committee and legislative district organization shall adopt bylaws,
36 which shall establish a quorum and provide for calling special meetings by executive
37 action or by petition of members.