

OCEAN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Ocean County Democratic Committee doing business as the Ocean County Democratic Organization hereinafter referred to as "Organization".

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

Section 1. The objectives of this Organization shall be to further the principles of the Democratic Party; to aid in the election of Democratic candidates; to assist in the promotion and development of good government whether national, state, county or municipal.

Section 2. In accordance with the principles of the Democratic Party of the State of New Jersey and of the United States, equal opportunity to participate in all activities carried on by the Democratic Party shall be given to all qualified persons without regard to race, religion, age, sex, economic status or any attribute irrelevant to the right of individual freedom.

ARTICLE III - MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES, COUNTY COMMITTEE & MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership: Members of the Organization shall include:

A. Members of the County Committee duly elected at the primary for the general election pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:5-3.

B. The municipal chairpersons and vice chairpersons duly elected by each municipal committee pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:5-2.

C. Members of the Executive Board of the Organization.

Section 2. Terms: The Terms of Office for all duly elected Municipal and County Committee members shall be four (4) years.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1. – Terms: The Terms of Office of all Organization officers, municipal chairpersons, and vice chairperson shall run simultaneously with the terms of all County Committee members.

Section 2. - Officers.

A. The elected officers of the Organization shall be the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer.

B. A Sergeant at Arms shall be appointed by the Chairperson at the time of the reorganization.

C. Any registered Democratic voter in good standing and residing in Ocean County shall be eligible to hold any office. It is not required that an officer of the Ocean County Democratic Organization be an elected county committee person. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall not be members of the same sex.

D. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretaries and Treasurer shall be

elected at the organizational meeting, to be held following the primary election in which County Committee members are elected, as provided by N.J.S.A. 19:5-3. Each office shall be voted upon individually in the same order as listed in paragraph (A) of this Section or, if unchallenged, by voice vote in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 3. - Vacancies.

A. A vacancy in the county committee caused by death, resignation, failure to elect or otherwise, shall be filled pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:5-3.

B. A vacancy in the office of Chairperson of the Organization shall be filled by the eligible voting members at a meeting to be called not later than forty-five (45) days from the date of the vacancy unless the organization meeting falls within the period of forty-five (45) days. The Vice Chairperson shall serve as Chairperson in the intervening period.

C. Vacancies in any of the other offices may be filled by majority vote of the Executive Board, said vacancy to be filled until the next organizational meeting of the Organization.

ARTICLE V - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. - Proxies. Proxy voting shall be permitted exclusively at meetings concerning a replacement of a candidate on the ballot. These proxies shall be counted toward establishing a quorum.

All proxies must be signed and dated by the member and the signature must be notarized. In the event of duplicate proxies, the proxy with the latest date will be honored.

Section 2. - Nominations. Any person interested in being a candidate for any office of the Organization shall submit his/her name and voting address to Organization headquarters by 4:00 pm of the 20th day preceding the next primary election. Such notice shall be in writing. The name of such person shall be included in the notice of the annual meeting together with the office which he/she seeks. In the event that no nominations are made for an office by the required date, or all candidates for a given office withdraw prior to the vote, the chair shall establish alternate procedures for nominations for the unfilled office.

Section 3. - Procedure.

A. Election Committee:

1. There shall be an Election Committee, chaired by the Parliamentarian who shall not be an officer of the Organization. The Election Committee shall, among its other duties, promulgate the rules governing the election of the officers of the Organization.

2. The Election Committee shall be responsible for the distribution and receipt of the ballots and for the tally, and shall report the results of the election to the Chairperson at the organizational meeting.

B. Credentials:

1. It shall be the duty of the municipal Chairpersons to provide the

Organization with a list of names and addresses of all those individuals who, having been elected or otherwise having qualified as members of the Organization, are entitled to vote, prior to the Organizational meeting.

2. Any disputes as to the right to vote shall be resolved prior to the commencement of voting.

C. Voting:

1. If there is no contest for any office, the election shall be held by voice vote;

2. If there is a contest for any office, the election shall be held. The Parliamentarian shall permit each candidate to appoint two (2) challengers to assist in the counting of the votes;

3. A plurality is required for election of the Organization Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretaries and Treasurer.

ARTICLE VI - Executive Board

A. There shall be an Executive Board which shall consist of the elected officers, the New Jersey State Democratic Committee members and the Chairpersons of any committee established pursuant to these Bylaws.

B. The Organization Chairperson shall serve as Chairperson of the Executive Board.

C. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at the call of the Chairperson. There shall be at least two meetings per year, including meetings on or within 30 days of Primary and General Election Day. The Executive Board shall be permitted to meet via phone, conference call or any other electronic media.

D. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the Executive Board.

E. Powers:

1. To review and approve the proposed budget;

2. To set the policy of the Organization.

ARTICLE VII - Duties of Officers

Section 1. - Chairperson. The Chairperson shall:

A. Preside at all meetings of the County Committee, of the Executive Board and of any committees established pursuant to these Bylaws;

B. Appoint the Chairperson and members of any committees established pursuant to the Bylaws;

C. Serve as a member of all committees;

D. Faithfully execute the decisions of the County Committee.

E. Together with the Treasurer, approve all vouchers in payment of the disbursements of the County Organization;

F. Except as otherwise stated in these Bylaws, have the authority to enter into and execute in the name of the Ocean County Democratic Organization, contracts or other instruments in the regular course of business;

G. Have the authority to maintain an office and hire necessary personnel;

H. Designate a banking institution with a branch located in Ocean County as

the depository of all moneys of the Ocean County Democratic Organization;

I. Appoint a Parliamentarian as needed;

J. Take whatever actions not specified herein that, in his discretion, may be necessary from time to time to further the purposes and objectives of the Organization as set forth in Article II of these Bylaws.

Section 2. - Vice Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson shall perform such duties as the Chairperson shall assign. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall:

A. Preside at meetings of the Organization and of the Executive Board;

B. In the event of the death, resignation, disqualification or incapacity of the Chairperson to discharge the duties of the office, the Vice Chairperson shall become vested with the authority, privilege, powers and responsibility of the office of the Chair and shall perform such duties until an election is held.

Section 3. - Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary shall:

A. Keep full and correct minutes of the proceedings of the Executive Board and of the Organization;

B. Keep a complete roster of all members of the Organization;

C. Maintain all files and documents of the Executive Board and of the Organization;

D. At the expiration of the term of office, deliver all Organization property in his/her possession or control to party headquarters.

Section 4. - Corresponding Secretary. The Corresponding Secretary shall:

A. Be responsible for the preparation and mailing of all notices of all meetings of the Organization as provided in Article IX, Section 3, except that notices of the annual meeting shall be mailed no later than 4:00 p.m. the Friday after the primary election;

B. Attend to all matters of correspondence as may be directed by the Chairperson;

C. At the expiration of the term of office, deliver all Organization records in his/her possession or control to party headquarters.

Section 5. - Treasurer. The Treasurer shall:

A. Receive and record all moneys, fees and contributions;

B. Deposit in the name of the Ocean County Democratic Committee, all funds in his/her custody and in such bank as the Executive Board may designate;

C. Keep full and complete accounts of all moneys received and dispersed;

D. Issue all checks or otherwise make payments as approved by the Budget and Finance Committee and authorized by the Executive Board;

E. Together with the Chairperson, approve all vouchers in payment of the disbursements of the Organization;

F. Prepare and file such financial statements, including ELEC reports, as may be required by law;

G. At the expiration of the term of office, deliver all Organization records in his/her possession or control to party headquarters.

Section 6. - Sergeant at Arms. The Sergeant at Arms shall be responsible for maintaining order at all meetings.

ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Chairperson shall establish such committees as will further the purposes and objectives set forth by Article II of these Bylaws.

Section 2. The Chairperson shall appoint the chairpersons and membership of all committees.

Section 3. Membership. Any registered Democratic voter in good standing and residing in Ocean County shall be eligible to serve on any committee.

ARTICLE IX - MEETINGS

Section 1. Organizational Meeting. The Organizational meeting of the County Committee shall be held after the primary election at which County Committee members are elected, on the date fixed by statute.

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Organization shall be called by the Chairperson at any time, the same to be held at such time and place as may be designated in the call.

Section 3. Notices:

A. Organizational Meeting. Written notice of the meeting setting forth the place, date, hour and agenda shall be sent as soon as practical after the primary election but no later than the Friday immediately following such election.

B. Regular Meetings. Written notice of a meeting called by the Chairperson shall be sent at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting.

C. Special Meetings. Written notice of a special meeting setting forth the purpose of the meeting shall be sent at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting. The Executive Board may call an emergency meeting on shorter notice should circumstances warrant and at their discretion.

Section 4. Quorum. Fifteen (15) percent of the total membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Organization shall amend the bylaws by an introduction meeting and voting meeting

A. The introduction shall be performed either:

1. By proposal of the Executive Board at a meeting of the Executive Board; or,
2. By written presentation of the text to the Secretary of the Board at a meeting of the Organization, by 25% (twenty-five percent) of the members of the Organization representing no fewer than 27 (twenty-seven) municipalities.

B. Following the introduction:

1. The Organization shall schedule a meeting at which the proposed amendment will be discussed and voted upon; and,
2. The notice of the voting meeting shall be sent by mail at least 10 days prior to the voting meeting and shall contain the text of amendment.

C. An amendment shall be adopted if approved by two-thirds of voting members present at the meeting where the amendment is being voted upon. If the amendment passes, it shall become effective immediately unless otherwise stated in the amendment.

ARTICLE XI - MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws. In any instance not provided in these Bylaws, Roberts Rules of Order shall apply.

ARTICLE XII - ADOPTION OF BYLAWS

These Bylaws shall become effective on the date of adoption and shall supersede all previous Bylaws of the Organization.

Adopted and effective October 16, 2005
Amended April 7, 2010
Amended January 26, 2013
Amended August 4, 2013
Amended March 23, 2014