

1 **Bylaws of the First District Democratic**
2 **Organization**

3
4 **Article I: Name**

5
6 The official name of this Organization is the “First District Democratic Organization.”
7

8 **Article II: Definitions**

9
10 Section 1. These Bylaws use the following definitions:

- 11 A. “KCDCC” means the King County Democratic Central Committee.
- 12 B. “SCDCC” means the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee.
- 13 C. “WSDCC” means the Washington State Democratic Central Committee.
- 14 D. “Chair” means Chair of the First District Democratic Organization.
- 15 E. “County Chair” means the chair of the KCDCC or SCDCC as applicable by county.
- 16 F. “First District Democrats” means the First District Democratic Organization.
- 17 G. “Majority” means fifty percent (50%) plus one (1).
- 18 H. “Membership” means the members as defined in Article III, Sections 1 and 2 when so
- 19 assembled, those present and voting on any given action.
- 20 I. “Publish” means to disseminate information or notice to Members by U.S. mail, e-mail,
- 21 or posting to official websites. The First District Democrats considers information to be
- 22 “published” when the communication is deposited in the U.S. mail, sent by e-mail, or
- 23 posted on the official website.
- 24
- 25

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

- 27 A. “Member” shall have meaning set forth in Article III, Sections 1 and 2.
- 28 B. “Associate Member” shall have meaning set forth in Article III, Section 3.
- 29 C. “Executive Board” shall have meaning set forth in Article IX, Section 1.
- 30 D. “Officer” means and includes the individuals described in Article VII, Section 1.
- 31 E. “Meeting” includes regular meetings, special meetings, and reorganization meetings, and
- 32 these terms shall have further meeting set forth in Article V.
- 33 F. “PCO” means Precinct Committee Officer, and includes “elected PCO,” “appointed
- 34 PCO,” and “acting PCO”; these terms shall have further meaning set forth in Article IV,
- 35 Section 1.
- 36 G. “Standing Rules” shall have further meaning set forth in Article XV, Section 1, and in the
- 37 Standing Rules themselves.
- 38
- 39

40 **Article III: Membership**

41
42 Section 1. All Democratic PCOs as defined in Article IV are members of the First District
43 Democrats.

44
45 Section 2. Any registered voter residing within the First Legislative District who declares
46 themselves a Democrat may become a member on payment of annual dues.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

72
73 B. An appointed PCO is a resident of a First Legislative District precinct appointed by the
74 King County or Snohomish County Chair according to Washington State Law.

75
76 C. In King County only, the District Chair may appoint an acting PCO. An acting PCO is
77 a resident of the First Legislative District, but not a resident of the precinct in which the
78 PCO is to serve. 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. In the event of two or more people seeking an appointment to a vacant precinct the
83 Membership must use a written, signed ballot to select the person to receive the appointment.

84
85 Section 3. The District Chair shall submit approved recommendations to the appropriate County
86 Chair within fifteen (15) days of approval.

87
88 Section 4. The First District Democrats may not fill any vacant PCO positions in even-numbered
89 years during the period between the Primary Election, when the voters elect PCOs, and the
90 reorganization meeting.

91
92 Section 5. Appointed PCOs shall have all the rights and obligations of elected PCOs. Acting
93 PCOs shall have all the rights and obligations of elected PCOs, except they may not vote to elect
94 the officers of the First District Democrats. Acting PCOs may not vote to fill legislative

95 vacancies.

96

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

102

103 **Article V: Meetings**

104

105 Section 1. The First District Democrats shall hold regular meetings as set forth in the Standing
106 Rules. A quorum at regular meetings shall be ten percent (10%) of the members eligible to vote.

107

108 Section 2. A special meeting is a meeting other than a regular or reorganization meeting.
109 Twenty-five percent (25%) of the Members eligible to vote, twenty-five percent (25%) of the
110 PCOs, or a majority of the Executive Board may call a special meeting and shall notify the
111 Chair. The Chair must publish notice of a special meeting at least fifteen (15) days before the
112 meeting date.

113

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

118

119 **Article VI: Voting**

120

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

127

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

132

133 Section 3. Voting shall be by signed ballot for all officer positions, unless the vote is non-
134 contested. The First District Democrats shall not recognize proxies in voting on any business of
135 the First District Democrats. The Chair shall appoint a tally committee.

136

137 Section 4. For the election of officers, if no person receives a majority on the first ballot cast, the
138 Membership shall eliminate the person receiving the least votes, and any other candidate who
139 wishes to resign from consideration. On each succeeding ballot, the same rule shall apply until
140 one person receives a majority of votes cast for the position. In the event of a tie, decision shall
141 be made by lot.

142

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

148
149 **Article VII: Officers**

150
151 Section 1. Officers of the First District Democrats shall be:

- 152
153 A. Chair
154 B. First Vice Chair
155 C. Second Vice Chair
156 D. Third Vice Chair
157 E. Secretary
158 F. Treasurer
159 G. Two (2) KCDCC Delegates (identifying as a gender other than their associate)
160 H. Two (2) SCDCC Delegates (identifying as a gender other than their associate)
161 I. Two (2) State Committee Members (identifying as a gender other than their associate)
162 J. Young Democrats Delegate

163
164 Section 2. The Chair and the Second Vice Chair must reside in the same county. The First Vice
165 Chair and the Third Vice Chair must reside in the county opposite that of the Chair.

166
167 Section 3. The First Vice Chair must identify as a gender other than the Chair, the Second Vice
168 Chair must identify as a gender other than the Chair, and the Third Vice Chair must identify as a
169 gender other than the Second Vice Chair. In totality, there must be at least one male identifying
170 and one female identifying member elected at minimum as either a chair or vice chair.

171
172 Section 4. Officers shall serve until the next reorganization meeting, or until the First District
173 Democrats duly appoint or elect their successors, or until the First District Democrats remove
174 them from office by a majority vote of qualified voters as described in Article VI, Section 2.
175 Only a majority vote of the elected PCOs in the First Legislative District can remove the Chair
176 from office, however, as per RCW 29A.80.061.

177
178 Section 5. The Chair shall announce vacancies in Executive Board positions at a regular meeting.
179 The First District Democrats shall fill vacancies by election at the following regular meeting. For
180 any Executive Board positions unfilled at the reorganization meeting, the First District
181 Democrats shall deem those positions to be announced at that time, and the First District
182 Democrats thus may fill the vacant positions at any subsequent regular meeting.

183
184 Section 6. The Young Democrats Delegate must be a Young Democrat.

185
186 **Article VIII: Duties of Officers**

187
188 Section 1. The Chair shall be the executive officer and spokesperson for the First District
189 Democrats and shall represent the First District Democrats on the Snohomish County Executive
190 Board if the Chair resides in Snohomish County. The Chair shall preside over the meetings of the

191 First District Democrats and the Executive Board. The Chair may appoint members to perform
192 duties, as the Chair deems necessary. The Chair may appoint a Parliamentarian to advise the
193 Chair on all disputes concerning parliamentary order, these Bylaws, and the Standing Rules at
194 regular and special meetings.

195
196 Section 2. The First Vice Chair shall serve in the absence of the Chair. The First Vice Chair, if
197 they reside in Snohomish County, shall be a voting member of the Snohomish County Executive
198 Committee. The First Vice Chair shall perform such other duties as assigned by the Chair.

199
200 Section 3. The Second Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence of the
201 Chair and First Vice Chair and shall perform such other duties as assigned by the Chair.

202
203 Section 4. The Third Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair,
204 First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair, and shall perform such other duties as are assigned by
205 the Chair. The Third Vice Chair shall perform the county duties of the First Vice Chair in the
206 absence of that officer.

207
208 Section 5. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the General and Executive Board meetings
209 and all records of the First District Democrats and shall perform such other duties as the Chair
210 assigns.

211
212 Section 6. The Treasurer shall maintain a bank account for the First District Democrats, receive
213 and disburse the funds of the First District Democrats, maintain the financial records of the First
214 District Democrats, prepare and file applicable public disclosure reports, prepare and file
215 applicable tax reports and returns, formally prepare the Organization's budget; provide monthly
216 written financial reports to the Executive Board and the Membership, and perform such other
217 duties as the Chair assigns. The Treasurer and the Chair (in the absence of the Treasurer) shall be
218 the only officers authorized to draw on the Treasury.

219
220 Section 7. The King County Delegates shall represent the First District Democrats at KCDCC
221 meetings. They shall be responsible for presenting resolutions from the First District Democrats
222 to the KCDCC and for reporting KCDCC actions to the First District Democrats. It shall be the
223 responsibility of a Delegate to notify the Chair in event that an alternate is needed and the Chair
224 shall appoint a temporary alternate per the KCDCC bylaws.

225
226 Section 8. The Snohomish County Delegates shall represent the First District Democrats at
227 SCDC meetings. They shall be responsible for presenting resolutions from the First District
228 Democrats to the SCDC and for reporting SCDC actions to the First District Democrats.

229
230 Section 9. The State Committee Members shall represent the First District Democrats at WSDCC
231 meetings. They shall be responsible for advocating for resolutions passed by the First District
232 Democrats to the WSDCC and for reporting WSDCC actions to the First District Democrats. It
233 shall be the responsibility of the Committee Member to find a proxy if the Committee Member
234 cannot attend a meeting and report this temporary proxy to the WSDCC.

235
236 **Article IX: Executive Board**

237
238 Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of the elected Officers listed in Article VII, Section

239 1, and the Chairs of the Standing Committees as defined in the Standing Rules of the First
240 District Democratic Organization.

241
242 Section 2. In addition to other responsibilities enumerated in these Bylaws and the Standing
243 Rules, the Executive Board shall establish regular monthly meeting dates for the purpose of
244 planning and directing the policies and activities of the First District Democrats. A majority of
245 the members of the Executive Board may call special meetings of the Executive Board. The
246 Chair may initiate electronic votes.

247
248 Section 3. The Executive Board or an ad-hoc by-laws committee appointed by the Chair shall bi-
249 annually review these Bylaws and may make recommendations for amendments.

250
251 Section 4. A quorum of the Executive Board shall be fifty percent (50%) of its members. This
252 quorum shall also apply to electronic votes.

253
254 **Article X: Removal from Office**

255
256 Section 1. On petition for removal of an officer other than the Chair, filed by twenty-five percent
257 (25%) of the members or twenty (20) members, whichever is less, the Chair shall call a meeting
258 of the First District Democrats for the purpose of removing an officer listed in Article VII from
259 office. This meeting can be a General meeting if the Chair meets the proper notification
260 requirements. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Membership eligible to elect said officer at a duly
261 called meeting is necessary to remove an officer.

262
263 Section 2. In the event of a petition to remove the Chair of the organization, refer to Article VII,
264 Section 4.

265
266 Section 3. The Chair may declare the position of any elected or appointed member of the
267 Executive Board, except the Chair, vacant, with an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the
268 members of the Executive Board, if that member has been absent from three (3) consecutive
269 monthly Executive Board meetings. The Executive Board must send notice, by certified mail at
270 that person's registered voting address, of the intent to introduce a motion for removal by the
271 Chair at least ten (10) days prior to the next regular meeting.

272
273 Section 4. With respect to the removal of any officer, the Chair must publish the following at
274 least ten (10) days before the meeting at which the First District Democrats will consider the
275 removal:

- 276
277 A. The grounds asserted by those who petitioned for removal of the officer;
278 B. The response, if any, of the officer in question; and
279 C. The date and time of the meeting when the First District Democrats will act on the
280 petition for removal.

281
282 **Article XI: Resolutions**

283
284 Section 1. The Rules for Resolutions shall detail the process for researching, submitting, and
285 acting on resolutions.

286

287 Section 2. If a resolution involves an issue or activity of a committee as defined in the Standing
288 Rules, the Chair of the Issues Committee shall forward the resolution to that committee for
289 comment prior to the regular meeting at which the Membership will consider it.
290

291 Section 3. The Membership may nonetheless consider proposed resolutions that the proposer did
292 not submit in a timely manner to the Issues Committee, or that the Issues Committee did not
293 publish in a timely manner, if the resolution is submitted in writing to the Secretary or Chair
294 before the adoption of the meeting agenda and two-thirds (2/3) of the Membership agree to
295 consider the resolution.
296

297 **Article XII: Censure**

298
299 Section 1. Censure shall be defined to be an official, public statement by the First District
300 Democrats disapproving the conduct of a member, official, elected official, or candidate seeking
301 the endorsement of the First District Democrats. The Executive Board shall be responsible for
302 researching the facts of the case and shall present the results of their research to the Membership.
303 Censure shall be by resolution and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Membership. The
304 Chair shall give written notice to any person subject to censure at least ten (10) days prior to the
305 meeting at which the Membership will consider the censure and give the person an opportunity
306 to respond on the official websites of the First District Democrats.
307

308 **Article XIII: Expenditures**

309
310 Section 1. The First District Democrats shall pay no money from the funds of the First District
311 Democrats except as made by the treasurer, or by the Chair in the absence of the Treasurer. All
312 expenditures shall be in accordance with the budgets approved by the Executive Board or the
313 Membership.
314

315 Section 2. The Executive Board may authorize expenditures in the course of regular budgeted
316 operations or business.
317

318 Section 3. The Executive Board may authorize non-budgeted expenditures of five hundred
319 dollars (\$500.00) or less. At a regular meeting, the Membership must authorize non-budgeted
320 expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and all contributions to candidates and
321 ballot issues.
322

323 **Article XIV: Standing Rules**

324
325 Section 1. The Standing Rules shall detail the organizational structure and further define the
326 procedures of the First District Democrats.
327

328 Section 2. The Standing Rules shall become effective on adoption by a majority of the
329 Membership at a duly called First District Democrats meeting, with notice of consideration of
330 the Standing Rules included in the notice of the meeting.
331

332 Section 3. The requirements of these Bylaws shall take precedence over the Standing Rules in
333 cases of conflicting provisions.
334

335 Section 4. The Executive Board or an ad-hoc committee as appointed by the chair shall
336 periodically review the Standing Rules and make recommendations for amendments. The
337 Membership may amend the Standing Rules at a duly called regular or special meeting. The
338 Chair shall include notice of such a proposed amendment in the notice for the meeting. An
339 amendment requires approval from a majority of the Membership.

340
341 Section 5. Only an amendment to the Bylaws may suspend the Standing Rules.

342
343 **Article XV: Endorsements**

344
345 Section 1: The Rules for Endorsement shall detail the process of providing candidates with the
346 endorsement and financial support of the First District Democrats.

347
348 Section 2: The Rules for Resolutions shall detail the process of endorsing ballot measures.

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

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

361
362 Section 5. The requirements of these Bylaws shall take precedence over the Rules for
363 Endorsement in cases of conflicting provisions.

364
365 **Article XVI: Ownership**

366
367 Section 1. The First District Democrats shall own, control, and have full rights to its name,
368 physical property, website, newsletter, social media accounts, and bank account.

369
370 Section 2. The First District Democrats shall maintain an official inventory of all First District
371 Democrats' property and create a tracking mechanism by which Members may use said property.

372
373 **Article XVII: Supersession**

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

379
380 Section 2. In any procedural situation not expressly covered by these Bylaws, the Standing
381 Rules, or any other rules adopted by the Membership, the most recent edition of the revised
382 Robert's Rules of Order shall govern. In all other situations, the Chair, on the advice of the

383 Executive Board and Parliamentarian, shall arbitrate and make such decisions as deemed
384 necessary.

385
386 **Article XVIII: Code of Conduct**

387
388 Section 1. The First District Democrats adopt the Washington State Democratic Central
389 Committee Code of Conduct by reference and incorporate the Code herein.

390
391 **Article XIX: Adoption and Amendments**

392
393 Section 1. These Bylaws shall become effective on adoption by a majority of the PCOs present
394 and voting at a duly called First District Democrats reorganization meeting, with notice of
395 consideration of the Bylaws included in the notice of the meeting.

396
397 Section 2. The Membership may amend these Bylaws at a duly called regular or special meeting.
398 The Chair shall include notice of such proposed amendment in the notice for the meeting and
399 include the original and proposed language. An amendment requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of
400 the PCOs present and voting for approval.

401
402 Section 3. The Membership may not suspend these Bylaws for any purpose, nor may any
403 provision in these Bylaws enable such suspensions

404
405 These By-laws were reviewed by the by-laws Ad-Hoc Committee, on 11/12/2018, with members
406 Jackie McGourty, Roger Burton, Hillary Morales, Wanda Morales, Ken Lapp, Linda Tosti-Lane,
407 Monica Chilton and Kara French in attendance.

408 These By-Laws were approved as amended at the 12/17/18 Reorganization Meeting of the First
409 District Democratic Organization