

Bylaws of the First District Democratic Organization

Article I: Name

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

Article II: Definitions

Section 1. These Bylaws use the following definitions:

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

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

- A. “Member” shall have meaning set forth in Article III, Sections 1 and 2.
- B. “Associate Member” shall have meaning set forth in Article III, Section 3.
- C. “Executive Board” shall have meaning set forth in Article IX, Section 1.
- D. “Officer” means and includes the individuals described in Article VII, Section 1.
- E. “Meeting” includes regular meetings, special meetings, and reorganization meetings, and these terms shall have further meaning set forth in Article V.
- F. “PCO” means Precinct Committee Officer, and includes “elected PCO,” and “appointed PCO” and these terms shall have further meaning set forth in Article IV, Section 1.
- G. “Standing Rules” shall have further meaning set forth in Article XV, Section 1, and in the Standing Rules themselves.

Article III: Membership

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

Section 2. Any registered voter residing within the First Legislative District who declares

45 themselves a Democrat may become a member on payment of annual dues.

46

47 Section 3. Non-resident Democrats may become associate members on payment of annual dues.

48 Associate members are entitled to a voice in the Organization and to receipt of First District

49 Democrats' publications, but they have no vote.

50

51 Section 4. Dues shall be payable at the time of joining and are renewable each year. The

52 Membership shall establish the amount of annual dues. A majority vote of the Membership may

53 change the amount of the annual dues, on recommendation of the Executive Board. The

54 Executive Board shall review the annual dues amounts at least once per annum.

55

56 Section 5. All records of the First District Democrats are open to inspection by any member of

57 the First District Democrats. The Chair shall respond within 7 days of receipt to requests for

58 records or delegate the response to another officer.

59

60 Section 6. The Chair is the spokesperson for the Organization. The Chair, or a majority vote of

61 the Executive Board, may delegate other officers or members of the Executive Board as

62 spokespersons for limited purposes.

63

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

65

66 Section 1. The rules of the KCDCC, SCDCC, and Washington State Law shall govern the

67 election and appointment of PCOs. There shall be two (2) different types of PCOs:

68

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

71

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

74

75 Section 2. In the event of two or more people seeking an appointment to a vacant precinct the

76 Membership must use a written, signed ballot to select the person to receive the appointment.

77

78 Section 3. The District Chair shall submit approved recommendations to the appropriate County

79 Chair within fifteen (15) days of approval.

80

81 Section 4. The First District Democrats may not fill any vacant PCO positions in even-numbered

82 years during the period between the Primary Election, when the voters elect PCOs, and the

83 reorganization meeting.

84

85 Section 5. Appointed PCOs shall have all the rights and obligations of elected PCOs.

86

87 Section 6. The First District Democrats shall consider elected or appointed PCOs as resigned

88 from their office on written or electronic notification to the Chair, or on termination of residence

89 in the precinct that the PCO represents. The Chair shall make resignations public at the next

90 regular meeting. The Chair may fill vacancies due to resignation at the regular meeting following

91 this announcement.

92

93 **Article V: Meetings**

94

95 Section 1. The First District Democrats shall hold regular meetings as set forth in the Standing
96 Rules. A quorum at regular meetings shall be ten percent (10%) of the members eligible to vote.
97 Notice of the regular meeting shall be made a minimum of 10 days prior to the meeting.

98

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

104

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

109

110 Section 4. General Membership Meetings Held Electronically: In the event of a natural disaster,
111 public mandate, or other emergency situation that would make it unsafe or not prudent to meet in
112 person, the General Membership may meet electronically.

113

114 Section 5. Committee and Executive Board Meetings Held Electronically: Committee and
115 Executive board meetings may be held online by the general consensus and agreement of the
116 committee or board membership.

117

118 Section 6. Rules for Electronic Meetings: Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws,
119 meetings may be conducted through use of Internet meeting services designated by the Chair that
120 support voting and support visible displays identifying those participating, identifying those
121 seeking recognition to speak, showing (or permitting the retrieval of) the text of pending
122 motions, and showing the results of the votes. These electronic meetings shall be subject to all
123 of the rules adopted by First District Democrats to govern them, which may include any
124 reasonable limitations on, and requirements for member participation; where possible allow for a
125 telephonic feature. Any such rules adopted shall supercede any conflicting rules in the
126 parliamentary authority but may not otherwise conflict with or alter any rule or decision of the
127 First District Democrats. A visibly anonymous vote, which is auditable, and conducted through
128 the designated internet meeting service shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement
129 in the bylaws or rules that a vote be conducted by ballot.

130

131

132 **Article VI: Voting**

133

134 Section 1. First District Democrats elected and appointed PCOs, and any member who has paid
135 their dues at least fifteen (15) days in advance of a meeting, shall be entitled to vote on all
136 matters arising at that meeting, unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws or by the Standing

137 Rules. During reorganization meetings, an individual who has paid membership dues for the
138 even-numbered year immediately preceding the reorganization meeting, and who has paid their
139 membership dues by the date of the reorganization meeting, shall be eligible to vote.

140
141 Section 2. State Democratic Party Bylaws dictate that only elected PCOs and PCOs appointed
142 after the reorganization meeting shall vote for District Chair, Vice Chairs, State Committee
143 Members, representatives to the County Executive Boards, and on the adoption or amendment of
144 the Bylaws. A majority of the Membership shall elect all other officers.

145
146 Section 3. Voting shall be by signed ballot for all officer positions, unless the vote is non-
147 contested. The First District Democrats shall not recognize proxies in voting on any business of
148 the First District Democrats. The Chair shall appoint a tally committee.

149
150 Section 4. For the election of officers, if no person receives a majority on the first ballot cast, the
151 Membership shall eliminate the person receiving the least votes, and any other candidate who
152 wishes to resign from consideration. On each succeeding ballot, the same rule shall apply until
153 one person receives a majority of votes cast for the position. In the event of a tie, decision shall
154 be made by lot.

155
156 Section 5. Members voting to elect candidates to the officer positions of the First District
157 Democrats shall have been members fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting when the elections
158 occur. An individual who has paid membership dues for the even-numbered year immediately
159 preceding such a meeting, and who has paid their membership dues by the date of such meeting,
160 shall be eligible to vote.

161
162 **Article VII: Officers**

163
164 Section 1. Officers of the First District Democrats shall be:

- 165
166 A. Chair
167 B. First Vice Chair
168 C. Second Vice Chair
169 D. Third Vice Chair
170 E. Secretary
171 F. Treasurer
172 G. KCDCC Delegate
173 H. Two (2) SCDCC Delegates (identifying as a gender other than their associate)
174 I. Two (2) State Committee Members (identifying as a gender other than their associate)
175 J. Young Democrats Delegate

176
177 Section 2. The Chair and the Second Vice Chair must reside in the same county. The First Vice
178 Chair and the Third Vice Chair must reside in the county opposite that of the Chair.

179
180 Section 3. The First Vice Chair must identify as a gender other than the Chair; the Second Vice
181 Chair must identify as a gender other than the First Vice Chair, and the Third Vice Chair must
182 identify as a gender other than the Second Vice Chair. No gender in either county shall exceed a

183 majority by more than one position spread across the Chair and Vice Chair positions.

184
185 Section 4. Officers shall serve until the next reorganization meeting, or until the First District
186 Democrats duly appoint or elect their successors, or until the First District Democrats remove
187 them from office by a majority vote of qualified voters as described in Article VI, Section 2.
188 Only a majority vote of the elected PCOs in the First Legislative District can remove the Chair
189 from office, however, as per RCW 29A.80.061.

190
191 Section 5. The Chair shall announce vacancies in Executive Board positions at a regular meeting.
192 The First District Democrats shall fill vacancies by election at the following regular meeting. For
193 any Executive Board positions unfilled at the reorganization meeting, the First District
194 Democrats shall deem those positions to be announced at that time, and the First District
195 Democrats thus may fill the vacant positions at any subsequent regular meeting.

196
197 Section 6. The Young Democrats Delegate must be a Young Democrat (age 35 or younger).
198

199 **Article VIII: Duties of Officers**

200
201 Section 1. The Chair shall be the executive officer and spokesperson for the First District
202 Democrats and shall represent the First District Democrats on the Snohomish County Executive
203 Board if the Chair resides in Snohomish County. The Chair shall preside over the meetings of the
204 First District Democrats and the Executive Board. The Chair may appoint members to perform
205 duties, as the Chair deems necessary. The Chair may appoint a Parliamentarian to advise the
206 Chair on all disputes concerning parliamentary order, these Bylaws, and the Standing Rules at
207 regular and special meetings.

208
209 Section 2. The First Vice Chair shall serve in the absence of the Chair. The First Vice Chair, if
210 they reside in Snohomish County, shall be a voting member of the Snohomish County Executive
211 Committee. The First Vice Chair shall perform such other duties as assigned by the Chair.

212
213 Section 3. The Second Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence of the
214 Chair and First Vice Chair and shall perform such other duties as assigned by the Chair.

215
216 Section 4. The Third Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair,
217 First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair, and shall perform such other duties as are assigned by
218 the Chair. The Third Vice Chair shall perform the county duties of the First Vice Chair in the
219 absence of that officer.

220
221 Section 5. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the General and Executive Board meetings
222 and all records of the First District Democrats and shall perform such other duties as the Chair
223 assigns.

224
225 Section 6. The Treasurer shall maintain a bank account for the First District Democrats, receive
226 and disburse the funds of the First District Democrats, maintain the financial records of the First
227 District Democrats, prepare and file applicable public disclosure reports, prepare and file
228 applicable tax reports and returns, formally prepare the Organization's budget; provide monthly

229 written financial reports to the Executive Board and the Membership, and perform such other
230 duties as the Chair assigns. The Treasurer and the Chair (in the absence of the Treasurer) shall be
231 the only officers authorized to draw on the Treasury.

232
233 Section 7. The King County Delegate shall represent the First District Democrats at KCDCC
234 meetings. The King County Delegate shall be responsible for presenting resolutions from the
235 First District Democrats to the KCDCC and for reporting KCDCC actions to the First District
236 Democrats. It shall be the responsibility of the Delegate to notify the Chair in event that an
237 alternate is needed, and the Chair shall appoint a temporary alternate per the KCDCC bylaws.

238
239 Section 8. The Snohomish County Delegates shall represent the First District Democrats at
240 SCDCC meetings. They shall be responsible for presenting resolutions from the First District
241 Democrats to the SCDCC and for reporting SCDCC actions to the First District Democrats.

242
243 Section 9. The State Committee Members shall represent the First District Democrats at WSDCC
244 meetings. They shall be responsible for advocating for resolutions passed by the First District
245 Democrats to the WSDCC and for reporting WSDCC actions to the First District Democrats. It
246 shall be the responsibility of the Committee Member to find a proxy if the Committee Member
247 cannot attend a meeting and report this temporary proxy to the WSDCC.

248

249 **Article IX: Executive Board**

250

251 Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of the elected Officers listed in Article VII, Section
252 1, and the Chairs of the Standing Committees as defined in the Standing Rules of the First
253 District Democratic Organization.

254

255 Section 2. In addition to other responsibilities enumerated in these Bylaws and the Standing
256 Rules, the Executive Board shall establish regular monthly meeting dates for the purpose of
257 planning and directing the policies and activities of the First District Democrats. A majority of
258 the members of the Executive Board may call special meetings of the Executive Board. The
259 Chair may initiate electronic votes with a two-day notice.

260

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

263

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

266

267 **Article X: Removal from Office**

268

269 Section 1. On petition for removal of an officer other than the Chair, filed by twenty-five percent
270 (25%) of the members or twenty (20) members, whichever is less, the Chair shall call a meeting
271 of the First District Democrats for the purpose of removing an officer listed in [Article VII](#)
272 [Section 4](#) from office. This meeting can be a General meeting if the Chair meets the proper
273 notification requirements. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Membership eligible to elect said officer
274 at a duly called meeting is necessary to remove an officer.

275
276 Section 2. In the event of a petition to remove the Chair of the organization, refer to [Article VII,](#)
277 [Section 4.](#)

278
279 Section 3. The Chair may declare the position of any elected or appointed member of the
280 Executive Board, except the Chair, vacant, with an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the
281 members of the Executive Board, if that member has been absent from three (3) consecutive
282 monthly Executive Board meetings. The Executive Board must send notice, by certified mail at
283 that person's registered voting address, of the intent to introduce a motion for removal by the
284 Chair at least ten (10) days prior to the next regular meeting.

285
286 Section 4. With respect to the removal of any officer, the Chair must publish the following at
287 least ten (10) days before the meeting at which the First District Democrats will consider the
288 removal:

- 289
290 A. The grounds asserted by those who petitioned for removal of the officer;
291 B. The response, if any, of the officer in question; and
292 C. The date and time of the meeting when the First District Democrats will act on the
293 petition for removal.

294
295 **Article XI: Resolutions**

296
297 Section 1. The Rules for Resolutions shall detail the process for researching, submitting, and
298 acting on resolutions.

299
300 Section 2. If a resolution involves an issue or activity of a committee as defined in the Standing
301 Rules, the Chair of the Issues Committee shall forward the resolution to that committee for
302 comment prior to the regular meeting at which the Membership will consider it.

303
304 Section 3. The Membership may nonetheless consider proposed resolutions that the proposer did
305 not submit in a timely manner to the Issues Committee, or that the Issues Committee did not
306 publish in a timely manner, if the resolution is submitted in writing to the Secretary or Chair
307 before the adoption of the meeting agenda and two-thirds (2/3) of the Membership agree to
308 consider the resolution.

309
310 **Article XII: Censure**

311
312 Section 1. Censure shall be defined to be an official, public statement by the First District
313 Democrats disapproving the conduct of a member, official, elected official, or candidate seeking
314 the endorsement of the First District Democrats. The Executive Board shall be responsible for
315 researching the facts of the case and shall present the results of their research to the Membership.
316 Censure shall be by resolution and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Membership in
317 attendance. The Chair shall give written notice to any person subject to censure at least ten (10)
318 days prior to the meeting at which the Membership will consider the censure and give the person
319 an opportunity to respond on the official websites of the First District Democrats. The public
320 statement, and breadth, must be approved by majority vote of the membership in attendance at

321 the time of censure.

322

323 **Article XIII: Expenditures**

324

325 Section 1. The First District Democrats shall pay no money from the funds of the First District
326 Democrats except as made by the treasurer, or by the Chair in the absence of the Treasurer. All
327 expenditures shall be in accordance with the budgets approved by the Executive Board or the
328 Membership.

329

330 Section 2. The Executive Board may authorize expenditures in the course of regular budgeted
331 operations or business.

332

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

337

338 **Article XIV: Standing Rules**

339

340 Section 1. The Standing Rules shall detail the organizational structure and further define the
341 procedures of the First District Democrats.

342

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

346

347 Section 3. The requirements of these Bylaws shall take precedence over the Standing Rules in
348 cases of conflicting provisions.

349

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

355

356 **Article XV: Endorsements**

357

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

360

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

362

363 Section 3: The Executive Board or the Endorsement Sub-Committee shall periodically review
364 the Rules for Endorsement and make recommendations for amendments. The Membership may
365 amend the Rules of Endorsement at a duly called regular or special meeting. The Chair shall
366 include notice of such a proposed amendment in the notice for the meeting. An amendment

367 requires approval from a majority of the Membership of those in attendance.

368
369 Section 4: The Executive Board or the Issues Committee shall periodically review the Rules for
370 Resolutions and make recommendations for amendments. The Membership may amend the
371 Rules for Resolutions at a duly called regular or special meeting. The Chair shall include notice
372 of such a proposed amendment in the notice for the meeting. An amendment requires approval
373 from a majority of the Membership of those in attendance.

374
375 Section 5. The requirements of these Bylaws shall take precedence over the Rules for
376 Endorsement in cases of conflicting provisions.

377
378 **Article XVI: Ownership**

379
380 Section 1. The First District Democrats shall own, control, and have full rights to its name,
381 physical property, website, newsletter, social media accounts, and bank account.

382
383 Section 2. The First District Democrats shall maintain an official inventory of all First District
384 Democrats' property and create a tracking mechanism by which Members may use said property.

385
386 **Article XVII: Binding Authorities**

387
388 Section 1. This Organization shall operate under the laws of the State of Washington, under the
389 National and Washington State Charters and Bylaws of the Democratic Party, and under the
390 Bylaws of the KCDCC and SCDC. The requirements of these documents shall take precedence
391 over these Bylaws in cases of conflicting provisions.

392
393 Section 2. In any procedural situation not expressly covered by these Bylaws, the Standing
394 Rules, or any other rules adopted by the Membership, the most recent edition of the revised
395 Robert's Rules of Order shall govern. In all other situations, the Chair, on the advice of the
396 Executive Board and Parliamentarian, shall arbitrate and make such decisions as deemed
397 necessary.

398
399 **Article XVIII: Code of Conduct**

400
401 Section 1. The First District Democrats may adopt and maintain a Code of Conduct approved by
402 the membership and published on the First District Democrats website.

403
404 **Article XIX: Adoption and Amendments**

405
406 Section 1. These Bylaws shall become effective on adoption by a majority of the PCOs present
407 and voting at a duly called First District Democrats reorganization meeting, with notice of
408 consideration of the Bylaws included in the notice of the meeting.

409
410 Section 2. In the event the body is unable to adopt the full set of bylaws at the reorganization
411 meeting, the bylaws may be tabled to be reviewed at a subsequent general meeting. In the event
412 this occurs, amendments and passage shall be by a majority vote.

413
414 Section 3. The Membership may amend these Bylaws at a duly called regular or special meeting.
415 The Chair shall include notice of such proposed amendment in the notice for the meeting and
416 include the original and proposed language. An amendment requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of
417 the PCOs present and voting for approval.

418
419 Section 4. The Membership may not suspend these Bylaws for any purpose, nor may any
420 provision in these Bylaws enable such suspensions

421
422 These By-laws were reviewed by the by-laws Ad-Hoc Committee, on 12/21/20, with members
423 Hillary Moralez, Ken Lapp, Linda Tosti-Lane, Jenne Alderks and Amanda Olson in attendance.

424
425 These By-Laws were approved as amended at the 01/11/21 Reorganization Meeting of the First
426 District Democratic Organization