

Democratic Party of Racine By-laws

Article 1 Committees

Section 1: Nominating Committee: A Nominating and Election Committee consisting of three members shall be elected by the membership at the September meeting of the odd-numbered years. No candidate for elective office shall be eligible to serve on the Nominating and Election Committee. Acceptance of nominations for the Nominating and Election Committee by any member must be by verbal consent of the nominee member present at this meeting, or by written consent to the Secretary before starting nominations.

- a) This committee shall serve for a period of two years, and they shall preside over all nominations and elections.
- b) This committee shall elect its own chair.
- c) The Nominating and Election Committee may present a slate of qualified candidates, provided they have obtained written permission of these candidates to place their names in nomination. The slate may present more than one candidate for each position to be filed. This slate shall be presented at the regular October membership meeting preceding the election in November during the odd numbered years.

Nominations from the floor at the October membership meeting may be accepted in person by the so-nominated member present at this meeting. Nominations may be accepted by the nominee in writing, delivered to the Secretary before nominations are requested at the October membership meeting preceding the November election. In order to run for a board position, candidates must be nominated at the October meeting. No nominations shall be accepted after the October meeting, and write-in candidates shall not be permitted.

- d) In the event a full slate is not nominated, the Executive Committee may fill any vacancy(ies) at the next regular board meeting following the election.
- e) It shall then become the duty of this committee to have printed in ballot form the names of all candidates for the various offices and distribute same to the membership at the November general election.
- f) The Nominations and Elections Committee shall set the time, date and place of the November election.
- g) All members shall be informed in writing of the time, place and voting hours not less than 10 days prior to the election. In the event of a run-off, the Election Committee shall set the time, date and place of the run-off. The date is to be no later than 15 days after the election.
- h) Members in good standing, who have been members for at least five days, shall be allowed to vote.

Section 2: Auditing Committee: The Auditing Committee shall be comprised of three people appointed by the DPRC Chair. The committee shall conduct an audit in July for the first half of the year, and in January for the last half of the preceding year

Section 3: Awards

- a) Two annual awards are given: Democrat of the Year and the Phyllis Dresen Award. The Chair will select 3 persons to serve as the awards committee for each award. The due date for the Nominations is set by the Awards Committees. The committees choose the recipients from nominations submitted in writing. The awards are announced in advance of the DPRC's Annual Dinner and are presented at that dinner. The early announcement allows the award winners to invite family and friends. It also allows the DPRC to publicize the award community-wide in advance of the event.
- b) **The Democrat of the Year Award** recognizes the person who has supported democratic principles, who has promoted the Democratic Party of Racine County (DPRC) to the community and beyond, who has supported Democratic candidates for elected positions, who has participated in related political events in a positive way and who lives by the principles of our organization. The recipient must be a current member of the DPRC, who volunteers to serve on Party committees, who fulfills the duties and responsibilities for any position(s) held within the past year, and who provides positive support to the membership and the Executive Committee.
- c) **The Phyllis Dresen Award** honors a person who has worked to further democratic principles by his/her efforts in the community, state and/or nation. The person selected need not be a member of the Democratic Party. This person is a County resident who is noted for his/her work in furthering democratic principles (equality, justice, peace, quality education, affordable health care, environmental protection, labor equity, etc.).
- d) To nominate someone for an award:
 - 1. List the nominee's the nominator's name, address, city and zip, phone number.
 - 2. Write a short statement about the nominee's background.
 - 3. List his/her contributions to the DPRC (or, in the case of the Dresen Award, the community, state or nation).
 - 4. State reasons why this person deserves the award.
 - 5. Nominations may be submitted to:
 DPRC
 PO Box 081825
 Racine, WI 53408

Section 4: Budget Committee: The Budget Committee shall be comprised of three people that are appointed by the DPRC Chair in October, and the committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer. The budget shall be presented and approved by the membership at the January meeting.

Section 5: Constitution Committee: The membership may adopt changes to the by-laws upon the recommendation of the Constitution Committee or Executive Committee. Changes to the by-laws shall not be voted on at the meeting during which they are proposed, but will be voted on at the next monthly meeting. Any proposed changes to the constitution shall be approved by two-thirds of the members voting.

Section 6: Endorsements Committee: The Chair will appoint a five person Endorsements Committee.

- a) Eligibility: To be considered for endorsement, a candidate must have been a member of the Party as of the deadline for filing nomination papers for the election for which endorsement is sought. The candidate must also notify the Endorsements Committee not later than the filing deadline that he/she wishes to be considered for endorsement.
- b) Endorsement Vote: To receive the County Party endorsement, a candidate must interview with the Endorsements Committee. Endorsements Committee recommendations must receive a majority vote at a County Party meeting in order for a candidate to receive an official party endorsement.
- c) Benefit: No candidate will receive support from the County Party unless that candidate is endorsed.
- d) Dual Endorsement: In the case of a dual endorsement, equal support will be provided.
- e) Primaries: Where two or more Democrats are running in a primary, no endorsement will be made.

Section 7: Events Committee: A committee will be appointed by the Vice-Chair per the Constitution. This committee will be responsible for planning and staffing event. Duties will include: setting up and packing up an event, contacting speakers if needed, and contacting related event coordinators.

Section 8: Fundraising Committee: A committee will be appointed by the Chair to raise funds for the Party. It will be their duty to create, staff, and implement fundraising projects to fund DPRC needs.

Section 9: Membership Committee: The membership committee shall include the secretary and treasurer. They will coordinate with the state party membership department to maintain the membership lists. They will work to grow the party.

Article 2 CD and State Convention Delegates

Section 1: Delegate selection:

- a) Members vote to give Chair and two other members the authority to select delegates to the CD and/or State Conventions. Convention processes must align with the DPW Constitution and By-laws.
- b) The selection of delegates to the district and state conventions shall be held at the regular monthly membership meetings. The delegates elected may attend both conventions. Attendees at the CD convention are given first priority to be delegates to the State Convention.

Article 3 Fairness and Transparency:

- a) Leadership of the DPRC organization can endorse candidates personally. However, the leadership may not endorse candidates while acting as a representative of the organization.
- b) When any party leader is conducting party business, they will be neutral and show fair and equal support of all candidates. Leadership will not wear buttons or share preferences for their personal choice while conducting party business.
- c) Party leadership will welcome all candidates to organizational meetings. Speakers will be given the same speaking opportunities, including parity in time limits.

Article 4 Social Media:

- a) When representing the DPRC members will conduct themselves with restraint and good judgement when interacting on the DPRC Facebook, Twitter, webpage, and Mailchimp, and other social media outlets.
- b) DPRC members will reserve opinions for their personal social media outlets.

Article 5 Board of Canvass: The state statutes provide for the composition of the Board of Canvass. The County Party Chair submits a list of three potential members for the Board of Canvass, and the County Clerk chooses the Democratic representative on the Board. This happens in November of the odd numbered years. The Term of office is for two years and begins January 1 of the even numbered years.

Article 6 Poll Workers: The chair may appoint Election Inspectors (poll workers) to serve in all municipalities. A list of inspector nominees may be submitted by the end of November of the odd numbered years. Election inspectors will serve for a two-year term.

Article 7 Amendments to the by-laws:

The by-laws may be amended after a written notice and two readings at successive regular County Party membership meetings and/or special membership meetings called for such purpose, provided that:

- a) The proposed amendment is presented to all Members at least ten days before it is to be voted upon.
- b) Such Notice shall describe the nature of proposed amendments and shall identify the article to be amended.
- c) Two-thirds of those Members present and voting at the second meeting approve the amendment.
- d) By-laws do not need to be approved by DPW.

Initially Approved: Date: 5/6/19

Date Amended: 8/5/19

Signatures and date indicating approval:

_____, County Party Chair
 _____, County Party Officer