

# Democratic Party of Racine (DPRC) By-laws

## ARTICLE 1: COMMITTEES

**Section 1: Election Committee:** The Election Committee consists of three members and one alternate elected by the membership at the September meeting of the odd-numbered years, serving for two years. No candidate for DPRC elective office shall be eligible to serve on the Election Committee. Acceptance of nominations for the Election Committee by any member must be by verbal consent of the nominee member present at this meeting, or by written consent received by the Secretary prior to this meeting. To preserve impartiality, any Election Committee member who chooses to campaign on behalf of any party nominee will be removed from this committee. Vacancies occurring during the two-year term of this committee will be filled by appointment from the DPRC Chair. This committee shall elect its own chair and designate the alternate committee member.

- Voting procedures to be used are detailed in the DPRC Election Procedure Policy.
- Odd Year October Regular Meeting: The Election Committee shall compile and present a slate of qualified write-in candidates for Executive Committee positions.
- Odd Year November Regular Meeting: Nominations may be re-opened at the November meeting.
- The Election Committee shall announce the date and place of the November election.
- The Election Committee shall print and distribute a ballot for each election.
- Votes will be tabulated and reported by the Election Committee.
- The Election Committee Chair will deliver all relevant election documents/materials to the DPRC Secretary for retention.

**Section 2: Auditing Committee:** The Auditing Committee shall be comprised of the DPRC Treasurer, and a maximum of two people appointed by the DPRC Chair for two (2) years. The committee shall complete an audit of receipts and expenses no later than March 1 for the preceding year. They will verify that all the documentation is in good order. Requests for additional audits may be sent to the DPRC Chair, who has a month to respond.

## Section 3: Awards Committee

Two annual awards may be given: Democrat of the Year and the Spirit of Democracy Award. The Chair will select 3 people to serve as the awards committee for the awards. The due date for the nominations is set by the Awards Committee. The committee chooses the recipients from nominations submitted in writing. The award(s) are announced in advance of the DPRC's Annual Dinner and are presented at that dinner. The early announcement allows the award winner(s) to invite family and friends. It also allows the DPRC to publicize the award community-wide in advance of the event.

- The **Democrat of the Year Award** recognizes the person who has supported democratic principles, who has promoted the DPRC to the community and must be a

current member of the DPRC.

- The **Spirit of Democracy 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.

To nominate someone for an award:

- 1) List the nominee's and the nominator's name, address, city, zip, and phone number.
- 2) Write a short statement about the nominee's background. List his/her contributions to the DPRC (or, in the case of the Spirit of Democracy Award, the community, state or nation). State reasons why this person deserves the award.
- 3) Nominations may be submitted to:  
DPRC, PO Box 081825, Racine, WI 53408

**Section 4: Budget Committee:** The Budget Committee shall be comprised of the DPRC Treasurer, and a maximum of two people appointed by the DPRC Chair in February for two (2) years. The budget shall be presented and accepted by the membership at the May meeting.

**Section 5: Constitution/By-Laws Committee:** This committee shall be comprised of a minimum of three people appointed by the DPRC Chair. The membership may adopt changes to the constitution and/or by-laws upon the recommendation of the Constitution/By-Laws Committee or Executive Committee. Changes to the constitution or by-laws shall be communicated to DPRC members at least 10 days before a regular scheduled meeting. The amendment will be read at the first meeting and read again and voted on at the next scheduled meeting. Proposed changes to the constitution require approval by the DPW. By-laws do not need DPW approval. Amendments require acceptance by a two-thirds majority of the DPRC members voting at the second meeting.

**Section 6: Fundraising Committee:** A committee will be appointed by the DPRC Chair. The committee will raise funds for the DPRC. It will be their duty to create, staff, and implement fundraising projects to fund DPRC needs.

**Section 7: Membership Committee:** The membership committee shall include the Secretary and Treasurer. They will coordinate with the DPW membership department to maintain the membership lists.

## **ARTICLE 2: CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (CD) AND STATE CONVENTION DELEGATES**

Delegate selection:

- a) The DPRC delegate selection process shall comply with the DPW Delegate Selection Plan.
- b) The selection of delegates to the 1st CD and State Conventions shall be announced at a regular DPRC monthly membership meeting. The delegates selected 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**

This article applies to situations where multiple members of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW) are running for office, either in partisan or non-partisan elections. The Democratic Party of Racine County (DPRC) will adhere to the following rules before primaries:

1. Neutral Board Members: When endorsing or supporting candidates, board members (including Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, and Members at Large) must not use their DPRC titles.
2. Freedom of Support: Every DPRC member has the liberty to support any candidate of their choice.
3. Endorsements in non-partisan races must be based on the candidate's alignment with the principles and values of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, their qualifications, and their conduct. Party membership and other contributions do not automatically invoke rules around partisan primary neutrality unless the candidate holds a current elected partisan office.
4. Equal Treatment for All Candidates: All candidates will receive the same level of treatment from the DPRC.
5. Speaking at Meetings: Candidates desiring to speak at DPRC meetings shall contact the DPRC Chair. Each candidate will be allocated an equal amount of time to speak at meetings, and this will be consistent across all meetings.
6. Impartiality at Meetings and Events: Officers at the head table during party meetings or events will not display support for candidates through buttons or stickers.
7. Circulating Candidate Notices: The DPRC will distribute notices about candidates' events (like fundraisers, listening sessions, volunteer requests), but not their position papers. This applies to all candidates with the following conditions:
  - i. The candidate must be a DPRC member and participate in an election where Racine County voters are involved.
  - ii. If the DPRC has an office, no candidate will be allowed exclusive use of space. If space is provided, it will be available equally to all candidates. Candidate literature will be placed together on one table.
  - iii. The same policy of equal representation applies to literature distribution at meetings, the DPRC office, and events such as Juneteenth and the County Fair.
  - iv. Candidates are permitted to use DPRC space for storing yard signs or literature and may arrange to use office space for campaign activities like making calls or writing postcards. However, they cannot use the DPRC's copy machine.

This article will be communicated to candidates when they file for office.

### **ARTICLE 4: SOCIAL MEDIA:**

The Chair will approve administrative access to any DPRC social media account, may terminate such access at any time, and will moderate and enforce proper DPRC protocol posted to such accounts. When representing the DPRC, members will conduct themselves with restraint and good judgement. DPRC members will reserve opinions for their personal social media outlets.

**ARTICLE 5: BOARD OF CANVASS:**

Wisconsin State statutes (Wisconsin Legislature Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, 7.53 - Municipal Canvass) provide for the composition of the Board of Canvass. The DPRC 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:**

Per the state statutes, the DPRC Chair must appoint Election Inspectors (poll workers) to serve in all municipalities. A list of inspector nominees must be submitted by the end of November of the odd numbered years. Election inspectors will serve for a two-year term.

Signatures and date indicating approval:

County Party Chair

County Party Officer