



HOW TO CREATE AN OKLAHOMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY FEDERATION

An ODP Federation is an association of local Democratic clubs, organizations, or caucuses.

A good rule of thumb for distinguishing the two is that a Federation operates statewide, while a club or caucus operates at the county or city level.

Currently, there are four recognized, active federations in the Oklahoma Democratic Party: the Veterans, the Young Democrats, the Stonewall Democrats, and the Democratic Women.

Federations can only be fully established by a majority vote of the state convention, so it's difficult to create a federation. And that's for good reason, because the state constitution gives great weight to the recognized statewide federations, and it's important to have all components of the party fully organized and at top-strength at all times.

However, nothing in the Constitution or Bylaws of the Party prevents the state central committee from granting provisional recognition to federations that are already in the process of forming, with an eye toward growing the party, getting organized in advance of the 2018 elections, and helping proposed federations complete the steps needed to gain full recognition at the next state party convention in 2019.

It is clear beyond a doubt the Oklahoma Democratic Party would be better served by establishing an African American Federation, a Native Democrats Federation, a statewide Disability Caucus--the Democratic Party is a party of movements, and movement progressives should have a seat at the table. It is clear beyond a doubt we have to do this. The party leadership wants this to happen, and we will cooperate with party members seeking to federate to ensure they are legally organized, representative of their communities, and ready for the long-haul.

The Constitution makes it easier and simpler to establish a local Democratic club or caucus, at the county level, than a federation, at the statewide level. We've released an infographic on social media and the **party website** explaining that process in detail.

If you wish to explore provisional recognition of a statewide federation, please contact your Congressional District Chair or Vice-Chair to be placed on the agenda at the next central committee meeting. Also, please prepare a letter, addressed to the leadership and the statewide central committee, asking to receive provisional recognition for a statewide federation. Please provide the names of your proposed statewide leadership team, with contact information, and please remember that regional balance is an important component of a statewide federation.

Also, and this is critically important, please contact ODP Vice-Chair Brian Jones at brian@okdemocrats.org to discuss the preparation of bylaws for your proposed statewide federation.