

# CONSTITUTION OF THE



**OKLAHOMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

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## **Constitution of the Oklahoma Democratic Party**

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## **Constitution of the Oklahoma Democratic Party**

### **Preamble**

We, the Democrats of the State of Oklahoma, united under the banner of the oldest political party in the world, hereby rededicate ourselves to the principles which have historically sustained our Party. While recognizing the limits of government, we regard democratic government as a force for good and a source of hope. We seek individual freedom in the framework of a just society. We pledge ourselves to uphold the United States Constitution and to work openly and honestly in our efforts to conduct public affairs in a manner worthy of a society of free and responsible citizens.

### **Article I: Authority**

#### **Section 1: Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Oklahoma Democratic Party.

#### **Section 2: Controlling Law**

This Constitution shall be the supreme governing document of this organization. It shall be controlling unless in conflict with the laws of the State of Oklahoma, or the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States, and any supporting rules and policies of the Democratic Party of the United States. However, nothing herein shall be construed as a waiver, modification, dilution or delegation of any right that this organization has under the Constitution of the United States, including, but not limited to, the right to determine its membership and officers, establish its own internal rules and procedures, and establish methods of nominating candidates for public office.

#### **Section 3: Subordination**

All party organizations other than precinct committees shall establish and adopt constitutions and bylaws subordinate to and in compliance with this Constitution and supporting Bylaws.

#### **Section 4: Parliamentary Law**

On any question of procedure not otherwise covered by the Constitution or supporting Bylaws, all bodies of the Democratic Party shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

### **Article II: Organization**

#### **Section 1: Membership**

Membership shall be open to all people of the State of Oklahoma who support the principles and mission of the Oklahoma Democratic Party. No person that is a member of any other political party may advance or vote on any motion, resolution, nomination, or election at any convention, meetings or conference of the Oklahoma Democratic Party.

#### **Section 2: Delegates**

Only citizens of that State of Oklahoma who are registered to vote as Democrats are eligible to be voting members of the Oklahoma Democratic Party, and any of its subordinate organizations.

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### **Section 3: Precinct Committees**

There shall be a Precinct Committee for each precinct in the State of Oklahoma. Every eligible delegate [Article II: §2] of the Oklahoma Democratic Party shall be a voting member of the Precinct Committee in the precinct which they are registered to vote.

### **Section 4: County Conventions**

There shall be a County Convention for each county in the State of Oklahoma. The County Convention membership of any given county shall be composed of:

- A. All Precinct Committee Officers [Article III: §1] registered to vote in the county;
- B. The County Convention Officers [Article III: §2.A.] of the county;
- C. State Delegates [Article III: §2.B.] to which the county may be entitled;
- D. Any Congressional District Officers [Article III: §3] who are registered voters in the county;
- E. Any State Affirmative Action Committee members [Article V: §6] registered to vote in the county;
- F. Any State Party Officers [Article III: §4] who are registered voters in the county;
- G. Any Democratic National Committee members [Article III: §5] registered to vote in the county;
- H. Any publicly elected Democratic official(s) who are designated to be delegates, per [Article IV], and are registered to vote in the county.

### **Section 5: Congressional District Conventions**

There shall be a Congressional District Convention for each congressional district in the State of Oklahoma. Each Congressional District Convention's membership shall be composed of:

- A. The County Convention Officers [Article III: §2.A.] from each of the counties in the congressional district they are located, and which they are registered to vote;
  - A.1. County Convention Officers from counties that are in more than one congressional district shall be delegates to the Congressional District Convention of the congressional district which has the largest number of registered Democratic voters in that county.
- B. State Delegates [Article III: §2.B.] from each of the counties in the congressional district in which they are registered to voter;
- C. The Congressional District Officers [Article III: §3] of the Congressional District Convention;
- D. Any State Affirmative Action Committee members [Article V: §6] registered to vote in the district;
- E. Any State Party Officers [Article III: §4] who are registered voters in the congressional district;
- F. Any Democratic National Committee members [Article III: §5] registered to vote in the district;
- G. Any publicly elected Democratic official(s) who are designated to be delegates, per Article IV, and are registered to vote in the congressional district.

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### **Section 6: State Convention**

There shall be a State Convention. The State Convention membership shall be composed of: shall be composed of the following delegates:

- A. The County Convention Officers [Article III: §2.A.] elected from each of the County Convention;
- B. The State Delegates [Article III: §2.B.] allocated to each County;
- C. The Congressional District Officers [Article III: §3] of each Congressional District Convention;
- D. The State Affirmative Action Committee members [Article V: §6];
- E. The State Party Officers [Article III: §4] of the State Convention;
- F. Any members of the Democratic National Committee [Article III: §5] from Oklahoma;
- G. Those publicly elected Democratic official(s) who are designated to be delegates, per Article IV;
- H. The president, and one delegate elected by convention, from each of the recognized federation of State Democratic clubs, who shall be voting ex-officio delegates.

## **Article III: Party Officials**

### **Section 1: Precinct Committee Officials**

- A. Each Precinct Committee shall elect a precinct chair, vice-chair — who shall be of a different gender than the chair — and secretary to serve as its officers.
- B. Each Precinct Committee may elect four committee persons, who shall not be delegates of the County Convention under Article II: §3 above.

### **Section 2: County Party Officials**

- A. Each County Convention shall elect a county chair, vice-chair — who shall be of a different gender than the chair — a secretary, and two (2) affirmative action officers — each of a different gender.
- B. Each County Convention, or political subdivision thereof, shall elect the State Delegates to which the county may be entitled.
  - B.1. One-half (1/2) shall be male, the other one-half (1/2) female, or as close thereto as mathematically possible. In the case of gender non-binary delegates, they shall not be counted as either male or female. The remainder of delegates to which the county may be entitled shall be equally divided by gender — one-half (1/2) male, one-half (1/2) female, or as close thereto as mathematically possible. County Officers shall be considered in determining the equal division of genders [Article IX: §3].
  - B.2. State Delegates shall be allocated to each county as the total of that county's vote for the [V] the Democratic nominees for the U.S. Senate and Governor in the most recent general election, [W] all the candidates in the most recent Democratic primary election for those two offices, and [Y] the Democratic nominees for President in the two most recent Presidential election years to [Z] the total of the statewide vote for all those candidates; the quotient of such fraction shall be

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multiplied by 416, with resulting fractions of 0.5 or greater rounded upward. [i.e.  $(V+W+Y)/Z \times 416 = \text{number of State delegates.}$ ]

B.3. Where portions of a county lie in different congressional districts, that county's State Delegates shall be allotted to each portion as that portion's Democratic vote for the above candidates' bears to the total such vote in the county as a whole. That said, if a portion of a county should earn less than one-half (1/2) of a State Delegate, it shall nonetheless be granted one (1) in addition to those allocated to the county.

B.4. State Delegates shall be used to encourage full participation of groups frequently underrepresented in Party organization pursuant to the standards of nondiscrimination and affirmative action. The Oklahoma Democratic Party shall establish constituency percentages within every county for each underrepresented group as representation goals for each county's officer and State Delegate pool.

### **Section 3: Congressional District Officers**

Each Congressional District Convention shall elect a district chair, vice-chair — who shall be of a different gender than the chair — a secretary, and two (2) affirmative action officers — each of a different gender — to serve as its officers.

### **Section 4: State Party Officers**

The State Convention shall elect a state chair, vice-chair — who shall be of a different gender — a secretary, and treasurer — who shall be a different gender of the secretary — to serve as its officers.

### **Section 5: National Committee Members**

Positions on the Democratic National Committee allocated to the Oklahoma Democratic Party shall be filled by election every four years by a majority vote of State delegates at the State's National Delegate Selection Convention called pursuant to a National Call for the election of National Delegates to a National Presidential Nominating Convention of the Democratic Party.

## **Article IV: Publicly Elected Officials**

### **Section 1: Members of Congress**

Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, from Oklahoma, shall be voting ex-officio delegates to the County and Congressional District Conventions in which they are registered voters, and to the State Convention.

### **Section 2: State Elected Officials**

Democratic officials elected in a statewide race, other than U.S. Senate, shall be voting ex-officio delegates to the County and Congressional District Conventions in which they are registered voters, and to the State Convention.

### **Section 3: Other State Officials**

Democratic members of the Oklahoma State Senate, Oklahoma House of Representatives, and Democratic District Attorneys shall be voting ex-officio delegates to the County and Congressional District Conventions in which they are registered voters, and to the State Convention.



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### **Section 4: County Officials**

Democratic officials elected at the county level shall be voting ex-officio delegates to the County and Congressional District Conventions in which they are registered voters, and to the State Convention.

### **Section 5: Holding Party Office**

An elected Democratic official may hold a Party office, but shall have only one vote.

## **Article V: Affirmative Action**

### **Section 1: Commitment**

The Oklahoma Democratic Party shall take action to encourage full participation and representation by minority groups in Party organizations and activities.

### **Section 2: Minority Groups**

Minority groups shall mean those groups in the Democratic population that are frequently underrepresented in the Party organization. Specific attention shall be given to the participation of Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx, American Indian/Native/Indigenous American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern American, the LGBTQIA2S+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, 2 Spirit, and non-binary) population, and individuals who have Disabilities.

### **Section 3: American Indian/Native/Indigenous American**

Indian/Native Americans shall mean those individuals who are able to provide proof of their Indian/ Native American ancestry.

### **Section 4: Transgender Individuals**

Any individual who identifies as Transgendered shall be considered by the gender they presently identify, rather than the gender of birth, and be addressed with the preferred pronouns.

### **Section 5: Statewide Affirmative Action Officials**

At its biannual organizational meeting, the State Convention shall elect to the State Central Committee two (2) men and two (2) women, each must be members of minority groups [Article V: §3] underrepresented in the Party.

### **Section 6: Affirmative Action Committee**

There shall be an affirmative action committee of the Oklahoma Democratic Party. All members must be members of minority groups frequently underrepresented in the Party organization [Article V: §2]. All committee members shall be ex-officio delegates to the State Convention and of their respective Congressional and County Conventions. In addition to the four (4) affirmative action officers elected at the State Convention [Article V: §5] the committee shall be consist of:

- A. The affirmative action officers elected by each Congressional District Convention during organizational meetings [Article III: §3]; and

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- B. Five (5) members total, with consideration given to gender parity, shall be appointed by the State Chair.

## **Article VI: Central Committees**

### **Section 1: County Central Committees**

There shall be a County Central Committee for each county, which shall consist of the chair, vice-chair, secretary, and the two (2) affirmative action officers of the County Convention [Article III: §2.A.].

### **Section 2: Congressional District Central Committees**

There shall be a Congressional District Central Committee for each congressional district, which shall consist of the chair, vice-chair, secretary, and the two (2) affirmative action members elected at the Congressional District Convention [Article III: §3].

### **Section 3: State Central Committee**

There shall be a State Central Committee, which shall consist of:

- A. The State Party Officers [Article III: §4] of the State Convention;
- B. Any members of the Democratic National Committee [Article III: §5] from Oklahoma;
- C. The chair, vice-chair and secretary of each Congressional District Convention;
- D. The four (4) State Affirmative Action Officials [Article V: §6] elected by the State Convention;
- E. The president of each of the recognized federation of State Democratic clubs, who shall be voting ex-officio members;
- F. The president of each state federation of Democratic clubs whose bylaws have been approved by the State Central Committee under Article XI, but which has not been established in the Oklahoma Democratic Party By-laws;
- G. A representative, selected from among them by Oklahoma's congressional delegation, a representative, selected from among them by Democratic officials elected statewide, a State Senator, selected by the Democratic Caucus of the State Senate, and a State Representative, selected by the Democratic Caucus of the State House of Representatives.

## **Article VII: Powers and Duties**

### **Section 1: Precinct Committee**

The Precinct Committee shall:

- A. Be the governing body of the Democratic Party within any given precinct;
- B. Conduct and direct all Democratic Party activities within a precinct;
- C. Provide leadership and direction for the Democrats within a precinct;
- D. Operate under the direction of the County Convention and Central Committee;
- E. Propose resolutions to the County Convention and Central Committee; and
- F. Assist in raising funds for the county party, but may not retain or disburse any funds.

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### **Section 2: County Convention**

The County Convention shall be the governing body — directing all Democratic Party activities — within their given county, operating at the directions of the Congressional District and State Conventions and Central Committees, and shall have the authority to:

- A. Provide leadership and direction to the registered Democrats, Precinct Committees and, Democratic clubs within a county;
- B. Adopt its own bylaws, by majority vote, to organize and govern the county. Such bylaws shall:
  - B.1. Be congruous with this Constitution and supporting Bylaws;
  - B.2. Be approved by the State Convention or Central Committee before becoming effective;
  - B.3. Not include any rule that delegates or reduces the authority of the County Convention or Central Committee to a lower power, provided, however, that either can elect, by majority vote, to delegate authority to any subdivision or unit of the County Party at its discretion and may rescind such delegation at any time.
- C. Adopt such procedural rules as deemed appropriate, provided, that such items are consistent with this Constitution and supporting Bylaws, and any rules established by the State Party;
- D. Establish, by resolution, directives and policies to govern the activities of the County's Precinct Committees and the County Central Committee when the County Convention is not in session;
- E. Issue letters of reprimand or censure for violation of Party rules;
- F. Act in a proactively manner to ensure that State delegate spots allocated to the county be used to encourage full participation by those groups — including youth — frequently underrepresented in the Oklahoma Democratic Party [Article V: §2]; and
- G. Adopt a plan delegating the election of State Delegates to two (2) or more ad hoc groups within the County Convention. Each group shall elect its proportionate share based on the number of votes held by that group's members compared to the total number of votes by all such groups.

### **Section 3: County Central Committees**

The County Central Committee shall act for and on behalf of their County Convention when it is not in session, except for those matters exclusively vested in the County Convention by this Constitution and supporting Bylaws. County Central Committees shall have the authority to:

- A. Call meetings of the County Convention, by a majority vote;
- B. Nominate Democrats to positions on those county and precinct election boards to which the County Democratic Party may be entitled by State law;
- C. Propose bylaws, procedural rules, and resolutions to the County Convention;
- D. Establish standing committees, advisory committees, and ad hoc committees;
- E. Implement resolutions adopted by the County Convention, not having the power to abrogate any such duly adopted resolutions; and
- F. Raise, disburse, and deposit any such funds in an account in the name of the county party.

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### **Section 4: Congressional District Conventions**

The Congressional District Convention shall be the governing body — directing all Democratic Party activities — within a congressional district, operating at the directions of the State Convention and Central Committee, and shall have the authority to:

- A. Provide leadership and direction to the county parties within their jurisdiction;
- B. Adopt such procedural rules as deemed appropriate, provided, that such items are consistent with this Constitution and supporting Bylaws, and any rules established by the State Party;
- C. Establish, by resolution, directives and policies to govern the activities of county parties, the Congressional District Convention, and the Congressional District Central Committee when the Congressional District Convention is not in session; and
- D. Issue letters of reprimand or censure for violation of Party rules.

### **Section 5: Congressional District Central Committees**

The Congressional District Central Committee shall act for and on behalf of their Congressional District Convention when it is not in session, except for those matters exclusively vested in the Congressional District Convention by this Constitution and supporting Bylaws. Congressional District Central Committees shall have the authority to:

- A. Call meetings of the Congressional District Convention, by a majority vote;
- B. Propose bylaws, procedural rules, and resolutions to the Congressional District Convention;
- C. Appoint a committee to conduct comprehensive audits of the financial affairs of each county party in the district. Such committee shall be appointed by January of even numbered years and a final report issued by April of odd numbered years;
- D. Establish standing committees, advisory committees, and ad hoc committees;
- E. Implement resolutions adopted by the Congressional District Convention; and it shall not have the power to abrogate such resolutions; and
- F. Raise, disburse, and deposit any such funds in an account in the name of the Congressional District.

### **Section 6: State Convention**

The State Convention shall be the supreme governing body of the Democratic Party of Oklahoma, all congressional district parties, county parties, Democratic clubs, and federations of Democratic clubs. All Democratic organizations shall be subordinate to the State Convention and shall operate under and at its direction. The State Convention shall:

- A. Have the exclusive authority to amend this Constitution and supporting Bylaws;
- B. Have the ultimate authority to establish procedural rules as deemed appropriate, provided, that such items are consistent with this Constitution and supporting Bylaws;
- C. Have the authority to establish, by resolution, directives and policies to govern the activities of of all Democratic organizations is the State of Oklahoma, including the development of a State Party Platform, which shall consist of all resolutions submit to and approved by the State Convention body;
- D. Have the authority to overrule the State Central Committee on any decision; and

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- E. Raise, disburse, and deposit any such funds in an account in the name of the State Party.

### **Section 7: State Central Committee**

The State Central Committee shall act for and on behalf of the State Convention when it is not in session, except for those matters exclusively vested in the State Convention by this Constitution and supporting Bylaws.

The State Central Committee must:

- A. Approve an annual budget, the additional disbursement of funds not covered within the approved budget, and approval of any loan taken out in the name of the Democratic Party;
- B. Conduct an annual review — by a qualified, detached, and impartial committee — of the financial acts and activities of the Party and all controls. The review shall include a review of the bank statements, monthly reconciliations, tests of a representative sample of income and expenses, federal and state compliance, and taxes. Said report shall be made available to any Democrat upon reasonable request;
- C. Assist Democratic nominees in all aspects of campaigning;
- D. Act as evangelists for the Democratic message to Party membership, Democratic organizations and their members, and the general public; and
- E. Take such other action as specifically directed by this Constitution and supporting Bylaws.

The State Central Committee shall have the authority to:

- F. Call meetings of the State Convention when necessary;
- G. Propose bylaws, procedural rules, and resolutions to the State Convention for consideration;
- H. Draft and adopt a plan to govern the Presidential Delegate Selection process pursuant to the direction of the National Democratic Party;
- I. Provide leadership and direction for/to all Democratic organizations within the State;
- J. Establish both long and short-term goals — and plans for achieving them — for the Party;
- K. Implement such policies as may be established by the State Convention by resolution; and it shall not have the authority to abrogate any such resolutions;
- L. Establish ad hoc committees to advise and implement policies;
- M. Establish a State Party office;
- N. Propose/request workshops for Democratic candidates, campaign staff, and Party officials;
- O. Order an audit — financial or otherwise — of any Democratic organization whenever deemed appropriate; any costs of such audit shall be borne by the State Party;
- P. Appoint a committee — or committees — to conduct audits of the financial affairs of each congressional district party. The committee(s) shall be established by March of even numbered years and shall make a report by May of odd numbered years;
- Q. Determine the location of a meeting of the Biannual State Organizing Convention, from among bids submitted by the State Chair, County Central Committee(s), and/or Congressional District Central Committee(s) from Oklahoma; and

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- R. Take other actions not authorized herein, as may be deemed appropriate, to further the goals and policies of the Oklahoma Democratic Party but are not otherwise in conflict with this Constitution and supporting Bylaws of the Oklahoma Democratic Party.

### **Article VIII: Appeals**

#### **Section 1: Resolution of Conflicts**

In any instance of conflict between the State Party rules and the rules of any state federation, county party, club, district party, or precinct committee, the state party rules shall prevail. If in the event of a disagreement over the interpretation or application of any such rule or procedure that may arise the state central committee shall have all the powers of the state assembly in considering and deciding all controversies when the State Convention is not in session or if the body refers the appeal to it for a decision.

#### **Section 2: Appellate Procedure**

Upon the receipt of a written appeal to the State Central Committee, the State Chair with the advice and consent of the State Central Committee, shall attempt to mediate a settlement; or appoint an appellate committee, to review and investigate the grounds of the appeal and make a recommendation to the State Central Committee.

#### **Section 3: State Central Committee Review**

Upon the receipt of the recommendation of the appellate committee, and upon being fully informed of the grounds and circumstances of the appeal, the State Central Committee shall vote to uphold, overturn or modify the decision of the lower body.

#### **Section 4: Conciliation**

Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the appellate committee from attempting to resolve any dispute between the parties involved. Should the parties resolve their differences, they may enter into an agreement as to the action they will take or refrain from taking and, with the approval of the appellate committee make that recommendation to the State Central Committee.

#### **Section 5: Reprimand**

The State Central Committee may issue letters of reprimand to officers for violation of Party rules. Said letters shall be mailed, electronically or otherwise, to the delegates of the committee from which the officer was elected.

#### **Section 6: Supreme Authority**

The decision of the State Central Committee may be appealed at the next regular meeting of the State Convention.

### **Article IX: Policy Rules**

#### **Section 1: Five Basic Elements:**

1. As an organization, the Oklahoma Democratic Party (ODP) has the right to decide its membership policies and is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination and harassment, in which all people feel comfortable and accepted. We

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expect all our members to embrace our values of equity and equality and conduct themselves accordingly with those values. We strongly believe that 'no means no,' and adopt a zero-tolerance policy for harassment of any kind. All public meetings at all levels of the Oklahoma Democratic Party shall be open to all members of the Oklahoma Democratic Party regardless of race, gender, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic status or philosophical persuasion, except members with a documented history of abusive behavior, bullying, groping, assault, sexist and/or racist remarks, enabling, harassing, creating a hostile environment and/or being banned from party events. The Oklahoma Democratic Party is a private organization, and registration is not guaranteed by voter registration. No test of membership in, or any oaths of loyalty to, the Oklahoma Democratic Party shall be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Oklahoma Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, economic status or philosophical persuasion.

2. The Oklahoma Democratic Party on all levels shall support the broadest possible membership without discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, economic status or philosophical persuasion.
3. The time and place for all public meetings of the Oklahoma Democratic Party on all levels shall be publicized fully and in a manner where all interested persons may find, understand, and act upon the information in a timely manner. Such meetings must be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.
4. The Oklahoma Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in a manner where all interested persons may find, understand, and act upon the information in a timely manner, a full description of the procedures for selection of the officials and representatives of the Oklahoma Democratic Party on all levels. Publication of these procedures should be done in such a fashion that all prospective and current members of the Oklahoma Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in the selection process at every level of the Oklahoma Democratic Party.
5. The Oklahoma Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in a manner where all interested persons may find, understand, and act upon the information in a timely manner, a complete description of the qualifications for all positions as officials and representatives of the Oklahoma Democratic Party. Such publication shall be done in a timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within the Oklahoma Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.

### **Section 2: Unit Rule**

No convention or committee of the Oklahoma Democratic Party shall require any member to cast a vote or be recorded as voting contrary to that person's preference.

### **Section 3: Equal Division**

In the selection, election or appointment of members to conventions or committees there shall be gender parity, in so far as mathematically possible.

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### **Section 4: Exceptions to Gender Balance**

- A. To aid in the representation of under-served counties, the State Central Committee may authorize flexibility in gender balance requirements for precinct and/or county party officers:
  - A.1. In a county allocated ten (4) or fewer State Convention delegates (including officers); and
  - A.2. In a county where (because of regular gender balance requirements) there are vacancies remaining among a majority of the top three Precinct Committee Officials throughout precincts in the respective county, vacancies remaining among County Central Committee members, and/or vacancies remaining among State Convention Delegates from that county — all after the election results of the most recent respective County Convention have been submitted to the State Democratic Party.
- B. For a county that meets the requirements set forth in this section, the State Central Committee may authorize the respective County Central Committee to fill those vacancies without regard for gender balance. The State Central Committee shall review the authorization every two years, on or about the anniversary date of the authorization, to determine if the respective County Central Committee has worked to promote balanced gender representation among precinct officials, county party officials and state delegates. After this review, the State Central Committee may revoke or may renew the grant of this type of gender balance flexibility among precinct and county party offices. The flexibility may be authorized by the State Central Committee for no more than eight (8) consecutive years.

## **Article X: State Presidential Electors**

### **Section 1: Selections**

The State Party Chair with the approval of the State Central Committee shall select the nominees for Democratic Presidential electors.

### **Section 2: Distribution**

There shall be one nominee selected from each congressional district and two selected at-large.

### **Section 3: Announcement**

The names of the nominees shall be announced at the State Presidential Delegate Selection Convention called to select delegates to the Democratic National Nominating Convention.

### **Section 4: State Officers**

The State officers shall be empowered to take such further acts as may be necessary to have the names of the nominees placed on the ballot.



## **Article XI: Auxiliary Organizations**

### **Section 1: Review**

- A. An organization functioning within the State of Oklahoma cannot purport to represent the Oklahoma Democratic Party or use the words “Democrats” or “Democratic” in its name unless it shall have obtained a letter of recognition from the State Central Committee.
- B. The State Central Committee shall review a written request for a letter of recognition within ninety (90) days of the submission of the request. In the case of a Democratic club or a state federation of Democratic clubs, said request must include submission of club or state federation bylaws, membership lists, or other reports.
- C. The State Central Committee shall not refuse to issue a letter of recognition to any organization except for good cause, which shall be stated in writing.

### **Section 2: Clubs**

- A. Any group of registered Democrats may establish a Democratic club to promote the Oklahoma Democratic Party, its principles, and its nominees. A Democratic club may affiliate with the appropriate, recognized state federation of Democratic clubs, but it shall not be required to do so.
- B. A Democratic club shall not restrict its membership or its officers because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, economic status, or philosophical persuasion.
- C. Whether or not a Democratic club is affiliated with a state federation of Democratic clubs, a club shall adopt a set of bylaws which shall be the governing document for the club. The club shall submit the bylaws to the State Central Committee for approval. The review process by the State Central Committee shall not exceed ninety (90) days after the submission of the bylaws. The approval of the bylaws of a club shall result in the issuance of a letter of recognition of the club. The State Central Committee shall not issue a letter of recognition to any club whose bylaws have been rejected by the State Central Committee.
- D. No later than February 15 of each year, a Democratic club shall submit a list of its officers and members (with addresses, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers) to: 1) the party secretary of the county in which the club is located, 2) the chair of any federation of Democratic clubs of which the club is a member, and 3) the Oklahoma Democratic Party Secretary.
- E. No later than February 15 of each year, a Democratic club shall submit a financial report (including, but not limited to, annual income and expenses, a list of funds controlled by the club, a list of signatories for any accounts controlled by the club) to: 1) the vice-chair of the county in which the club is located; 2) the chair of any federation of Democratic clubs of which the club is a member, and 3) the Oklahoma Democratic Party Treasurer.

### **Section 3: State Federations**

- A. A state federation of Democratic clubs must be recognized by the State Central Committee and established in the Oklahoma Democratic Party Bylaws.
  - A.1. In order to receive a letter of recognition from the State Central Committee, a state federation of Democratic clubs shall submit a written request to the State Central Committee that includes: 1) the bylaws of the state federation and 2) a list

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of federation officers and officers of affiliated Democratic clubs. The review of the request by the State Central Committee shall not extend past the next central committee meeting, provided the request and information is submitted at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. The approval of the request for recognition shall result in the issuance of a letter of recognition of the state federation.

A.2. A state federation of Democratic clubs with a letter of recognition from the State Central Committee shall have provisional status, until such time as the state federation is established in the Oklahoma Democratic Party Bylaws.

A.3. To be established in the Oklahoma Democratic Party Bylaws, a state federation of Democratic clubs must be listed in the appropriate section of the Party bylaws by following the amendment procedure for the Party bylaws.

- B. A state federation of Democratic clubs that has been granted provisional status shall have the same rights and representation granted to a state federation established in the Oklahoma Democratic Party Bylaws.

- B.1. Provisional status is granted for no more than two (2) years after the issuance of a letter of recognition from the State Central Committee or until such time as the state federation is established in the Oklahoma Democratic Party Bylaws.

- B.2. Upon the completion of two (2) years of provisional status without establishment in the Oklahoma Democratic Party Bylaws, a state federation of Democratic clubs with provisional status may be granted an additional two (2) years of provisional status by a majority vote of the State Central Committee. Provisional status may only be renewed once.

- C. A state federation of Democratic clubs shall not admit as an affiliate any Democratic club that is not currently recognized in accordance with Article 11: §2 of the Oklahoma Democratic Party Constitution.
- D. If there is a vacancy filled or a change of officers, notification shall be made within fourteen (14) days to the ODP Secretary.
- E. No later than February 15 of each year, a state federation of Democratic clubs shall submit a financial statement (including, but not limited to, annual income and expenses, a list of funds controlled by the club, a list of signatories for any accounts controlled by the club) to the Oklahoma Democratic Party Treasurer.
- F. Any amendment of the bylaws of a state federation of Democratic clubs shall be reported, in writing, to the State Central Committee within ninety (90) days of the adoption of the amendment(s).
- G. A state federation of Democratic clubs which is established in the Oklahoma Democratic Party By-laws as of July 1, 2019 shall be exempt from the recognition procedure established in this section of the Oklahoma Democratic Party Constitution.

## **Article XII: Amendments**

### **Section 1: Notice**

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at any regularly called meeting of the State Convention provided that any proposed changes be received by the State Constitution & ByLaws Chair no later than 21 days prior to the State Convention.

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### **Section 2: Constitution**

Amendments to the Constitution shall require the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting at a regularly called meeting of the State Convention.

### **Section 3: Bylaws**

Amendments to the Bylaws shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting at a regularly called meeting of the State Convention.

### **Section 4: Floor Amendments**

A proposed amendment to this Constitution or the supporting Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members of the State Convention present and voting. Amendments made from the floor must be reasonably related and germane to the subject matter of the section sought to be amended.

### **Section 5: Effective Date**

All amendments to this Constitution and supporting Bylaws shall become effective immediately unless otherwise stated after the amendment.

### **Section 6: Record**

The State Secretary shall make and preserve a verbatim transcript of the motions and debate on any proposed amendment to this Constitution and supporting Bylaws.