



Report of the Oklahoma Democratic Party State Constitution and Bylaws Committee

The State Constitution and Bylaws Committee met on May 21, 2023; on May 24, 2023; and on June 3, 2023; to consider submissions of amendments, additions, and deletions to the Oklahoma Democratic Party Constitution and the Oklahoma Democratic Party Bylaws. The committee accepted recommendations from the precincts, counties, congressional districts, and individual members that make up the Oklahoma Democratic Party. The following summary lists the amendments that were considered:

1. Changing the time for precinct meetings to allow a 7-day window in Bylaw 1
2. Removing the limit on which counties can choose to hold precinct conventions adjacent to county conventions in Bylaw 1
3. Clarifying that a county/CD vice-chair can call a central committee meeting in the chair's absence in Bylaws 4 and 6
4. Allowing for electronic voting as a method of counting "tallied votes" in Bylaws 9 and 38
5. Changing the term "Latinx" to "Latine" in the Bylaws index, Bylaw 56, and Constitution Article V § 2
6. Changing the language used to match current community preferences in Constitution Article V § 4
7. Changing the requirement for state affirmative action officers to be two male and two female people, instead requiring that "gender parity" be considered in Constitution Article V § 5
8. Adding a requirement that county and district officer positions consider "geographic parity" in Constitution Article III § 2
9. Creating a new auxiliary organization, the Oklahoma Democratic County Chairs Association, in a newly numbered Bylaw 50, and adding both an urban and a rural county representative from that federation to the State Central Committee in Constitution Article VI § 3
10. Allowing county officers from counties that have multiple congressional districts to be delegates to the CD convention in which they are registered in Constitution Article II § 5
11. Amending the state convention bid process by requiring the state convention to be held in Oklahoma County in Bylaw 01. The committee feels that the current bid process allows for financial and logistical flexibility and is appropriate, and so this amendment is NOT recommended for adoption.
12. Adding a restriction that county party chairs and vice-chairs cannot be married in Constitution Article III § 2. The committee feels that the benefit of having a fully organized county party outweighs any cost that might come from such an arrangement, and so this amendment is NOT recommended for adoption.

The committee recommends that the following amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws be adopted by the Oklahoma Democratic Party in convention assembled, and the chair so moves.

Amendments to the Constitution of the Oklahoma Democratic Party

- Article II, Section 5: Congressional District Conventions is amended by substituting a clause in subsection A.1 with new text regarding the delegation of county convention officers.
 - Current text: “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.”
 - Amended text: “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.~~ in which they are registered to vote.”
 - Clean amended text: “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 in which they are registered to vote.”

- Article III, Section 2: County Party Officials is amended by adding a mandate on geographic parity in the same manner as gender parity.
 - Current text: “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.”
 - Amended text: “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. Consideration shall be given to geographic parity.”
 - Clean amended text: “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. Consideration shall be given to geographic parity.”

- Article V, Section 2: Minority Groups is amended by replacing the word “Latinx” with the word “Latine”.
 - Current text: “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.”
 - Amended text: “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/Latine, 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.”

- Clean amended text: “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/Latine, 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.”

- Article V, Section 4: Transgender Individuals is amended by substituting new language in the section that better reflects the language used by the transgender community.
 - Current text: “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.”
 - Amended text: ~~“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.~~ For all purposes, including for gender parity, a transgender individual shall be counted as the gender they identify with, rather than their gender assigned at birth. They shall be referred to with their self-identified personal pronouns.”
 - Clean amended text: “For all purposes, including for gender parity, a transgender individual shall be counted as the gender they identify with, rather than their gender assigned at birth. They shall be referred to with their self-identified personal pronouns.”

- Article V, Section 5: Statewide Affirmative Action Officials is amended by removing specific references to men and women and replacing those references with a mandate on gender parity.
 - Current text: “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.”
 - Amended text: “At its ~~biannual~~ biennial organizational meeting, the State Convention shall elect to the State Central Committee ~~two (2) men and two (2) women,~~ four (4) members; each must be members of minority groups [Article V: ~~§3~~2] underrepresented in the Party. Consideration shall be given to gender parity.”
 - Clean amended text: “At its biennial organizational meeting, the State Convention shall elect to the State Central Committee four (4) members; each must be members of minority groups [Article V: §2] underrepresented in the Party. Consideration shall be given to gender parity.”

- Article VI, Section 3: State Central Committee is amended in conjunction with a new Bylaw 50 (see Bylaws) by adding a new subsection E listing two representatives of the County Chairs Association, one urban and one rural, and subsequent relettering.
 - Current text: N/A
 - Amended text: “Two (2) members of the County Chairs Association, one (1) of which shall be the chair of a county party with nine (9) or more delegates to the State Convention, and one (1) of which shall be the chair of a county party with fewer than nine (9) delegates to the State Convention [Article III: §2].”
 - Clean amended text: “Two (2) members of the County Chairs Association, one (1) of which shall be the chair of a county party with nine (9) or more delegates to the State Convention, and one (1) of which shall be the chair of a county party with fewer than nine (9) delegates to the State Convention [Article III: §2].”

Amendments to the Bylaws of the Oklahoma Democratic Party

- The Bylaws Index is amended by replacing the word “Latinx” with the word “Latine” in the title of Bylaw 56.
 - Current text: “Bylaw 56: Oklahoma Latinx Democratic Federation”
 - Amended text: “Bylaw 56: Oklahoma Latin~~x~~e Democratic Federation”
 - Clean amended text: “Bylaw 56: Oklahoma Latine Democratic Federation”

- Bylaw 01: The Organizational Meetings is amended by changing the time for precinct meetings to allow a seven (7) day window and by removing the limit on which counties can choose to call precinct meetings consecutively with county meetings, all in subsection A, and by correcting the lettering of the subsections.
 - Current text: “The Precinct Committees shall meet on the third Thursday in March at 7 p.m.; however, the County Central Committee of a county, with ten (10) or fewer total delegates, may vote to call precinct meetings on the same date specified in Bylaw 1: §B, for the County Convention at a time prior to the County Convention, and shall mail a call for both the precinct and county meetings on the date required for precinct calls in Bylaw 2.”
 - Amended text: “The Precinct Committees shall meet on the third Thursday in March at 7 p.m. or any day within +/- seven (7) days of the required meeting date; however, the County Central Committee of a county, ~~with ten (10) or fewer total delegates~~, may vote to call precinct meetings on the same date specified in Bylaw 1: §B, for the County Convention at a time prior to the County Convention, and shall mail a call for both the precinct and county meetings on the date required for precinct calls in Bylaw 2.”
 - Clean amended text: “The Precinct Committees shall meet on the third Thursday in March at 7 p.m. or any day within +/- seven (7) days of the required meeting date; however, the County Central Committee of a county may vote to call precinct meetings on the same date specified in Bylaw 1: §B, for the County Convention at a time prior to the County Convention, and shall mail a call for both the precinct and county meetings on the date required for precinct calls in Bylaw 2.”

- Bylaw 04: County Central Committee Call is amended by clarifying the responsibility for calling a meeting.
 - Current text: “A meeting of the County Central Committee may be called by the County Chair.”
 - Amended text: “A meeting of the County Central Committee may be called by the County Chair, or by the County Vice-Chair in the absence of the Chair [Bylaw 44: §B].”
 - Clean amended text: “A meeting of the County Central Committee may be called by the County Chair, or by the County Vice-Chair in the absence of the Chair [Bylaw 44: §B].”

- Bylaw 06: Congressional District Central Committee Call is amended by clarifying the responsibility for calling a meeting.
 - Current text: “A meeting of the Congressional Central Committee may be called by the District Chair.”
 - Amended text: “A meeting of the Congressional District Central Committee may be called by the District Chair, or by the District Vice-Chair in the absence of the Chair [Bylaw 45: §B].”
 - Clean amended text: “A meeting of the Congressional District Central Committee may be called by the District Chair, or by the District Vice-Chair in the absence of the Chair [Bylaw 45: §B].”

- Bylaw 09: Elections is amended by removing language regarding roll call of counties and clarifying the role of electronic tallying, all in subsection E.
 - Current text:

“Elections - all elections – unless otherwise directed – shall be by tallied vote

E.1. The elections of the State Chair, Vice-Chair, and elected DNC members must be by a roll call of the counties unless only one person is nominated, in which case the sole nominee shall be declared elected by acclamation; no nominating or seconding speeches are to be given, and no vote taken.”
 - Amended text:

“Elections - all elections of officer positions – unless otherwise directed – shall be by tallied vote, whether manual or electronic.

E.1. The elections of the State Chair, Vice-Chair, and elected DNC members must be ~~by a roll call of the counties~~ tabulated by county as well as individually unless only one person is nominated, in which case the sole nominee shall be declared elected by acclamation; no nominating or seconding speeches are to be given, and no vote taken.”
 - Clean amended text: “Elections - all elections of officer positions – unless otherwise directed – shall be by tallied vote, whether manual or electronic.

E.1. The elections of the State Chair, Vice-Chair, and elected DNC members must be tabulated by county as well as individually unless only one person is nominated, in which case the sole nominee shall be declared elected by acclamation; no nominating or seconding speeches are to be given, and no vote taken.”

- Bylaw 38: Procedure is amended by removing language limiting how delegates can be counted.
 - Current text: “Voting shall be by voice vote except as otherwise provided. However, if a credentialed delegate moves for “division of the assembly” and the motion is seconded, the Chair shall proceed to a tallied vote of those delegates displaying their credentials, either by a show of hands or by having the delegates stand.”
 - Amended text: “Voting shall be by voice vote except as otherwise provided. However, if a credentialed delegate moves for “division of the assembly” and the motion is seconded, the Chair shall proceed to a tallied vote of ~~those~~ credentialed delegates displaying their credentials, either by a show of hands or by having the delegates stand.”
 - Clean amended text: “Voting shall be by voice vote except as otherwise provided. However, if a credentialed delegate moves for “division of the assembly” and the motion is seconded, the Chair shall proceed to a tallied vote of credentialed delegates.”

- A new Bylaw 50: Oklahoma Democratic County Chairs Association is created in conjunction with the amended Constitution Article VI § 3, with subsequent bylaws being renumbered.
 - Current text: N/A
 - Amended text: “There shall be an Oklahoma Democratic County Chairs Association, which shall be composed of all duly certified County Chairs [Article III: §2A], [Bylaw 11: §A].”
 - Clean amended text: “There shall be an Oklahoma Democratic County Chairs Association, which shall be composed of all duly certified County Chairs [Article III: §2A], [Bylaw 11: §A].”

- Bylaw 56: Oklahoma Latinx Democratic Federation is amended by changing the word “Latinx” to “Latine” in the title and body.
 - Current text:

“Bylaw 56: Oklahoma Latinx Democratic Federation
There shall be an Oklahoma Latinx Democratic Federation, which shall be composed of all recognized Democratic clubs that meet the Federation’s requirements for membership and choose to affiliate with said Federation.”
 - Amended text:

“Bylaw 56: Oklahoma Latin~~x~~e Democratic Federation
There shall be an Oklahoma Latin~~x~~e Democratic Federation, which shall be composed of all recognized Democratic clubs that meet the Federation’s requirements for membership and choose to affiliate with said Federation.”
 - Clean amended text:

“Bylaw 56: Oklahoma Latine Democratic Federation
There shall be an Oklahoma Latine Democratic Federation, which shall be composed of all recognized Democratic clubs that meet the Federation’s requirements for membership and choose to affiliate with said Federation.”