

BYLAWS OF THE HUDSON DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

Article I - NAME

This organization shall be known as the Hudson Democratic Town Committee, hereinafter called the Committee.

Article II - PURPOSES

This Committee is organized and constituted under authority of and in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, and shall have as its purposes the following: to foster and advance the ideals and aims of the Democratic Party; to work and organize for the success of the Democratic candidates of the District, County, State and Nation; to do all things necessary and incidental to the building and strengthening of the Democratic Party in Massachusetts and within the Town of Hudson.

Article III - MEMBERSHIP

- A. The Hudson Democratic Town Committee shall consist of not more than thirty five (35) [or the number designated and reported to the Massachusetts Secretary of State prior to Presidential Primary elections] registered Democrats in the Town of Hudson who shall have been elected at the Presidential Primary for a term of 4 years, together with members appointed to the Committee per Section B, lifetime Committee members per Section C, and ex-officio Committee members per Section D.
- B. At any meeting the Committee may appoint registered Democrats in the Town of Hudson as members in addition to its elected members by majority vote of the members present, provided that the number of elected members plus the number of these appointed members does not exceed the total allowed by law as on file with the Secretary of State's Office. These voting members' terms also expire at the next election.
- C. The elected position of a current member of the Committee who has served on the Committee for 20 or more years shall be vacated and the member becomes a lifetime voting member of the Committee with all the same rights and privileges of elected and appointed members.
- D. Members of the Massachusetts State Democratic Committee who are residents of the Town of Hudson are ex-officio voting members of the Committee.
- E. Lifetime and ex-officio members of the Committee do not count toward the total number of members allowed by law, and their names shall not appear on the ballot at the Presidential Primary unless the number of names with the inclusion of those names does not exceed the total allowed by law as on file with the Secretary of State's Office.
- F. The Committee may, by majority vote of the members present at any meeting, authorize the appointment of associate members. Associate members must be registered Democrats in the Town of Hudson. Associate members shall not have the right to vote but shall have the right to speak and such other powers and duties as the Committee may determine.
- G. Membership in the Committee shall be terminated at such time as a member of the Committee changes residence from the Town of Hudson, or is no longer a registered Democrat in the Town of Hudson, or deceases.
- H. Any member of the Committee may resign at any time by notifying the Chairperson or the Secretary in writing.
- I. Any member may be removed in conformity with Article XIII of these bylaws.
- J. Vacancies in membership shall be filled by vote of the Committee per Section B. Associate members, if any, shall be the candidates first considered for filling the vacancies.

Article IV - EXECUTIVE BOARD

- A. The Committee, following the election of its members, shall meet and organize within thirty days.
- B. The officers of the Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Affirmative Action and Outreach Advisor. The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson may not be of the same sex. These officers shall be elected at the Committee organizational meeting and shall serve for a term of two years, at the end of which a reorganization with new elections for officers shall be held no later than April 15th.
- C. The officers of the Committee shall comprise the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall have the power to act upon all matters pertaining to the Committee arising between the meetings of the Committee. A majority vote of the members present at the next meeting may overrule any action taken by the Executive Board.
- D. In the event that any of the above named officers resigns or ceases to be a Committee member per Article III, Sections G-I, their office(s) shall be declared vacant and shall be filled at the next regular meeting of the Committee.

Article V - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson shall, in addition to the duties required by law, preside at all meetings of the Committee and shall have general charge and supervision of all Committee activities. He/She shall have the power to appoint all standing committees and such other special committees as are created from time to time. He/She shall have the power to call all special meetings of the Committee and all regular meetings at such time or times as may seem to her/him to be advisable, subject only to the vote of the Committee in fixing the number of regular meetings to be held during the course of the year.

VICE CHAIRPERSON

The Vice Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Committee in the absence of the Chairperson. She/He shall perform all duties and have the powers of the Chairperson in the case of her/his temporary absence.

SECRETARY

The Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of the Committee and shall issue notice by mail to each member of each meeting of the Committee at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting. Within ten (10) days after the organization of the Committee or any change in the officers or the membership of the Committee the Secretary shall file with the Office of Campaign and Political Finance, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Secretary of the Democratic State Committee, and the Town Clerk, a list of the officers and members of the Committee.

TREASURER

The Treasurer shall have the custody of all funds belonging to the Committee and shall pay all orders subject to the approval of the Chairperson and shall procure and file vouchers for all such payment. No expenditures of funds of the Committee shall be made by the Treasurer outside the regular activities or expense thereof except upon the approval of a majority of the Committee at a special or regular meeting. She/He shall submit a report of the financial condition and transactions of the Committee at all regular meetings. A detailed report shall be provided at least annually. Additionally, the Treasurer will file reports with the appropriate state and local offices with regard to fundraising.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND OUTREACH ADVISOR

The Affirmative Action and Outreach Advisor shall be responsible for developing strategies and activities to expand participation in the Committee of the Party's Affirmative Action target groups. The Affirmative Action and Outreach Advisor shall also be responsible for submitting public notices to newspapers, etc. at least two weeks before an upcoming Committee sponsored event.

Article VI - QUORUM

One-fourth of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any and all business.

Article VII – ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

- A. Yearly dues for members and associate members may be set at any organizational or re-organizational meeting by two-thirds vote of the members present, otherwise the yearly dues remain unchanged.
- B. Dues are payable to the Treasurer by May 15th of each year of membership except in the case of hardship.
- C. Failure to pay dues shall not be grounds for loss of rights or removal of membership in the Committee.

Article VIII - ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business at meetings shall be as follows:

1. Calling the roll of officers and members and announcement of quorum.
(A sign-in sheet may be used in lieu of roll call.)
2. Reading the minutes of the previous meeting.
3. Treasurers Report.
4. Reports of officers and committees.
5. State Committee Reports.
6. Reading of communications addressed to the Committee.
7. Old or unfinished business.
8. New business.
9. Announcement of the time and place of the next regular meeting.
10. Adjournment.

The order of business may be waived by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting.

Article IX - MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Committee shall be held at least four (4) times in non-election years and six (6) times in election years with at least one meeting per quarter.

Article X - CALLING A MEETING WITHOUT CONSENT OF CHAIRPERSON

- A. In the event of a refusal of the Chairperson to call a meeting of the Committee, three (3) members of the Executive Board may, in writing, order the Secretary to call a meeting of the Committee within two weeks.
- B. Seven (7) members of the Committee can request a meeting by a petition in writing to the Secretary, and the Secretary shall call such meeting within two weeks.

Article XI - RULES OF ORDER

Robert's Rules of Order, Modern Edition, shall govern the meetings of the Committee except as provided otherwise in these Bylaws.

Article XII - CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS

- A. These Bylaws may be altered, amended, deleted, or replaced in part or in whole at any regularly called meeting, provided the proposed Bylaw change has been sent to all members fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting, and provided that the proposed Bylaw change was tentatively accepted at the preceding regularly called meeting. A majority of the members present and voting shall be necessary to accept the proposed change in the Bylaws. If the proposed change in the Bylaws is not accepted as published it may be modified per Section B, republished, and resubmitted for approval at the next regularly called meeting.
- B. Proposed Bylaw changes must be in writing, signed by the elected member proposing the changes, and is in the hands of the Chairperson before the call to order of the meeting at which such proposal is to be acted upon. Bylaw change proposals that contradict the provisions of the Massachusetts Democratic State Party Charter or Bylaws cannot be considered. The proposed Bylaw change, possibly modified, must be tentatively accepted by a majority vote of the members present and voting in order to be published and considered for final acceptance at the following regularly called meeting.
- C. Unless and until altered, amended, deleted, or replaced by the voting members of the Committee, these Bylaws shall continue in effect from year to year, and no formal motion shall be necessary at any meeting of the Committee in order that they continue in force.

Article XIII - REMOVAL OF MEMBERS

- A. Members and officers pledge themselves, as elected officials, to perform diligently and honorably their duties or resign. Members of the Committee may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the members present following a hearing on the question of removal as specified herein.
- B. The causes for consideration of removal from the Committee are as follows:
 - 1. Failure to attend at least half of the regularly scheduled Committee meetings during any calendar year.
 - 2. Public support for or financial contribution to a non-Democratic Party opponent of a nominee of the Democratic Party which nominee publicly supports the platform of the Democratic Party as adopted at the most recent state and national Democratic conventions.
 - 3. Unauthorized use of the Democratic Party's, or this Committee's, name or resources.
 - 4. Conviction after appeals are exhausted of a criminal offense other than a misdemeanor.
 - 5. Continual disruption of the meetings of the Committee.
- C. The proposed hearing on the question of removal shall be approved by a majority of the Executive Board.
- D. The Chairperson shall give the member an opportunity to resign before notice of the hearing on the question of removal is given to the membership of the Committee.
- E. The notice of the hearing on the question of removal shall be sent to all members of the Committee with the announcement of the meeting at which the hearing will be held.
- F. A member removed under this Article shall have thirty (30) days to appeal to the Judicial Council of the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee, and the vacancy shall not be filled in such case until the final decision of the Judicial Council is delivered.