

PICKENS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

Bylaws

Adopted June 17, 2008; amended October 22, 2017

ARTICLE I.

Name

1.1 The name of this organization shall be the Pickens County Democratic Committee.

ARTICLE II

Governing Authority and Duties

2.1 The Committee shall be the governing authority of the Democratic Party in Pickens County.

2.2 Duties of the Committee shall be

- To promote development of Party organizations and activities,
- To seek and encourage qualified candidates for public office,
- To support Democratic nominees,
- To perform such primary and election functions as required by law,
- To maintain appropriate records,
- To promote and add logistical support to the State Affirmative Action Program,
- To raise funds for the above purposes,
- To perform such other duties as may be required by the State Committee,
- To elect State Committee members,
- To determine Party Districts and Apportionment.

ARTICLE III

Membership, Committee Districts, and Election of Members

3.1 Any person over the age of 18 who resides in and is registered to vote in Pickens County and who shall declare himself or herself to be a member of the Democratic Party shall be entitled to membership in the Democratic Party of Pickens County.

3.2 Any member of the Pickens County Democratic Party is eligible to be elected to the Committee.

3.3 Committee members shall be elected to posts in each of three districts.

District A shall conform to the boundaries of County Commission District 1 (the western portion of Pickens County) and shall have six (6) members.

District B shall conform to the boundaries of County Commission District 2 (the eastern portion of Pickens County) and shall have six (6) members.

District C shall consist of the district used for election of the County Commission Chairman (the entirety of Pickens County) and shall have twelve (12) members.

3.4 Election of Committee Members.

3.4.1 One-half of the Committee posts in each district shall be subject to election in Gubernatorial election years, for terms of four (4) years; and one-half shall be subject to election in Presidential election years, for terms of four (4) years. Each candidate shall select the specific post he/she wishes to contest.

However, in the 2008 Presidential election year and in any other Gubernatorial or Presidential election year in which the Committee votes to reapportion districts, all Committee posts shall be subject to election, with half the posts to be filled in each district having terms of four (4) years and half the posts to be filled in each district having terms of two (2) years. Where there are candidates for fewer than the full number of posts in a district, the specific posts to be filled, whether having four-year or two-year terms, shall be as selected by the candidates.

3.4.2 Committee members are to be elected either by a General Primary Ballot or a Party District Caucus. If elected by General Primary Ballot, the Committee may set reasonable fees for qualification.

3.4.3 Whether the election of Committee members shall be by primary election or caucus shall be decided in the odd numbered year preceding the election. If the Committee fails to officially select a method, then Committee members shall be elected by Caucus.

3.4.4 Where the Caucus method is selected, such Caucus shall be held within 45 days following the General Primary. If the Committee does not officially set a time and place, the County Chair shall set the time and place of the Caucus.

3.4.5 Where the General Primary ballot method is selected, the same procedures and rules as those for other county elected officials shall prevail, except that the Committee may set reasonable fees for the qualification of Committee candidates.

3.4.6 Whether the election is by Caucus or General Primary ballot, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes for a district post shall be elected without the necessity of a run-off.

3.4.7 When the election is by General Primary ballot, public notice of the election shall be given by posting the notice in a prominent place in the County Courthouse and by publishing the same in a newspaper of general circulation in the County at least once a week for the four weeks preceding the closing of qualifications for such office. When the election is by Caucus, public notice of the election shall be given by posting a notice in a prominent place in the County Courthouse and by publishing the same in a newspaper of general circulation in the County at least once a week for the period between the date a decision is made on the time and place of the Caucus and the Caucus date.

- 3.4.8 Only a Pickens County Democratic Party member who resides in and is registered to vote in a particular district may serve as a Committee member for that district or vote to elect Committee members for that district.
- 3.4.9 The Committee Chair shall appoint chairs of Party District Caucuses.
- 3.5 Committee members shall take office on the first (1st) day of the first (1st) month after their election and shall serve for the term specified in Section 3.4.1 unless affected by reapportionment.
- 3.6 Non-voting Ex Officio Committee members may be appointed to the Committee by the Executive Committee.
- 3.7 Dues shall be voluntary. The suggested annual contribution shall be twenty dollars (\$20). No member will be denied participation for failure to pay.

ARTICLE IV

Officers and Executive Committee

- 4.1 The Committee shall elect officers at the next meeting following the election of Committee members. Such officers shall take office immediately following their election. The new Chair shall upon taking office notify the State Committee Chair and appropriate Congressional District Chair of his/her election.
- 4.2 The Committee shall elect from its membership a Chair, two (2) Vice-chairs, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. When possible, at least one of the Vice-Chairs shall be of the opposite gender of the Chair. The person receiving the majority of votes for election to an office shall be declared elected.
- 4.3 Officers shall serve two-year (2-year) terms.
- 4.4 The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers and shall act on behalf of the Committee between Committee meetings.

ARTICLE V

Vacancies and Removal

- 5.1 All vacancies in Committee posts or officers shall be filled by election by the remaining Committee members, provided at least three such Committee members remain. Vacant Committee posts shall not count as "members" as the term is used in these Bylaws.
- 5.2 If a Committee member or officer is unable to participate in the business of the Committee, said member or officer should resign the position. This will not affect eligibility to be re-elected at a later date.
- 5.3 Committee members and officers may be removed by the Committee for cause, with reasonable notice, and with the opportunity to be heard, by a 2/3 vote of the Committee, provided a 40% quorum is met.
- 5.4 Any person subject to removal shall receive written notice of the alleged reasons for removal.

- 5.5 The removal procedure shall be conducted by a subcommittee appointed by the Committee Chair. Where the Chair is the subject of the removal procedure, the subcommittee shall be appointed by a majority of the other Committee Officers.
- 5.6 The person to be removed shall have the right to be informed of all persons who will be witnesses against him/her and who will testify in support of the charges against him/her, at least ten days before a hearing on said charges before the full Committee.
- 5.7 The person to be removed shall have the right to counsel and to present all witnesses, documents and arguments in support of his/her position. The subcommittee which has tendered the charges may likewise have counsel and present witnesses, documents, and arguments in support of its position.

ARTICLE VI

Committee Functions, Records, and Certification

- 6.1 The Committee shall maintain records of all financial transactions, kept on a calendar year basis, and a list of unpaid obligations. Financial records shall be audited each year with a report provided to the Committee no later than the March meeting following the end of the organization year.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings and Voting

- 7.1 **Regular Meetings**

The Committee shall meet regularly at least once each quarter. The Committee Chair may call special meetings. Where meetings are not held in a previously designated time and place, all members shall be provided written notice at least 10 days in advance.
- 7.2 **Emergency Meetings**

Emergency meetings may be called by the Chair, or by at least three (3) of the officers, upon five (5) days notice.
- 7.3 **Quorum**

A quorum for conduct of Committee business shall be twenty (20) percent of the Committee members, unless otherwise required in these Bylaws.
- 7.4 **No person shall be entitled to more than one vote. Secret ballot shall be permissible only when electing Committee members and State Convention Delegates.**
- 7.5 **All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public unless the Committee votes to go into Executive Session.**
- 7.6 **Unless otherwise provided for, Robert's Rules of Order most recently revised shall govern the conduct of all meetings.**
- 7.7 **E-mail Voting.**
 - 7.7.1 **When the Committee Chair determines that**

- (a) a "yes" or "no" decision on a matter is needed between regular meetings,
- (b) the matter is not so complex or of such significance that an emergency meeting is needed, and
- (c) a decision on the matter must be made by the full Committee,

the Chair may pose the matter to Committee members for a vote by e-mail. All Committee members with a valid e-mail address of record for Committee business shall be so notified, and any Committee member who does not have such a valid e-mail address shall be notified by telephone.

When telephone notification is necessary, a voice message (recorded or to a person) left for the Committee member shall be deemed to be notification. When telephone calls are unanswered on three consecutive calendar days, the attempts to reach the Committee member shall be deemed to satisfy the requirement for notification.

7.7.2 If

- (a) at least a simple majority of all Committee members respond by e-mail or by telephone no later than the third calendar day following the sending date of the e-mail and
- (b) at least two-thirds of all responding Committee members vote "yes" or two-thirds vote "no" on the matter,

the matter shall be deemed to be decided and shall be recorded in the minutes of the next regular meeting. Because the voting is not visible to Committee members, a report of the vote of each Committee member shall be made available at the next regular meeting and, upon an approved motion, shall be recorded in the minutes.

ARTICLE VIII

Committees

- 8.1 The Chair shall provide for an Affirmative Action Subcommittee and any other standing subcommittees deemed necessary by the Committee. The Chair may appoint *ad hoc* subcommittees as he/she deems necessary.

ARTICLE IX

General Provisions

- 9.1 There shall be no discrimination in the conduct of Committee affairs on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, color, handicap, national origin, or age.
- 9.2 The Committee and affiliates are prohibited from supporting a Democratic candidate who has opposition during a primary or Democratic opposition during a special election.
- 9.3 No Committee member shall use his or her office to support (1) any Democratic candidate in a contested Democratic primary election or (2) any candidate who has Democratic opposition in a special election.

- 9.4 No Committee member shall publicly support another candidate other than the Democratic nominee in a General Election.
- 9.5 The endorsement of, support of, or contribution to a candidate of another party or to an opponent of the Democratic nominee may result in the expulsion of such person from the Committee.
- 9.6 Any contributions to a candidate for public office shall be accompanied by a cover letter, which shall state in substance, "This contribution is made on the express condition that, after election, you remain a member of the Democratic Party. Your acceptance and/or use of this contribution is your acknowledgement and contract that should you win election yet at any time prior to the end of your term change parties or leave the Democratic Party, you will repay these amounts."
- 9.7 The Committee shall seek reimbursement of any contribution, whether real or in-kind, made to a candidate who qualifies for office as a Democrat and, after qualification, switches to another party.
- 9.8 The Committee may recognize and allow affiliation of such county organizations as it deems appropriate.

ARTICLE X.

Amendments

- 10.1 These Bylaws may be amended at any Committee meeting by a 2/3 vote of those present, provided at least 10 days written notice of said amendments has been provided to all members.