



# 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats Code of Conduct

## Purpose

The purpose for having a Code of Conduct is to encourage fair and substantive issues-oriented meetings, communications, and business in the 34<sup>th</sup> Legislative District that will educate the voter and help to improve the quality of dialogue, increase participation, and build community in the process. As an all-volunteer organization choosing to empower its members, we consider the following:

- Politics throughout the state and nation are subjected to unacceptable levels of negativism and other practices which discourage participation and demean representative democracy.
- Negative politics increases apathy, the number one enemy to democratic politics. We all have a stake in positive political dialogue and increased participation so we can implement progressive policies and elect great candidates, the key purpose of our Party.
- Each member is responsible for fair and ethical organizational practices, particularly our Executive Board members.

## Values

Three core values are fundamental to our society and are widely shared throughout the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats organization: honesty, respect, and responsibility.

**Honesty** – Members are encouraged to share their views, beliefs, and experiences in the dialogues of the district. Members should be committed to an open and public discussion of issues and to presenting their views truthfully and with sincerity and frankness, while respecting those with opposing views.

**Respect** – Members should not use personal attacks, innuendo, stereotyping, or demeaning references to other members in debate, e-mail communication and/or in print or internet media. Members should respect the views of others, and should not use negative prejudicial language based on a member's actual or perceived race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, or association with another person who has any of these actual or perceived characteristics in meetings, debate, e-mail communications, and/or in print or internet media.

**Responsibility** – As members of an organization, whose mission is to elect Democrats and move the Democratic agenda, we each have a responsibility to each other to participate in our activities, contribute to our process, and collaborate for success.

The basic core values of honesty, respect, and responsibility are essential to the democratic process and success of our Party. All members in our organization, especially Executive Board members, should be committed to maintaining this decorum.