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Leadership Development Committee Proposed Rules of the Executive Board 34th District Democratic Organization Draft Version 7 – 4 June 2008

- 1. Rules Subject to By-Laws and State Law.** These Rules of the Executive Board of the 34th District Democratic Organization (“Rules”) are subject to: 1) the By-laws of the 34th District Democratic Organization (the “By-Laws”) as most recently amended; 2) the By-Laws of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee, and 3) Washington state law. In the case of conflict or inconsistency, the Rules shall be superseded by the By-Laws, which shall be superseded by the By-Laws of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee, which in turn shall be superseded by Washington state law. The 34th District Democratic Organization is hereinafter referred to as “the Organization.”
- 2. Rules Adoption and Amendments.** Following preliminary approval by a majority vote of members of the Executive Board of the Organization (“the Executive Board”), these Rules shall be published in the newsletter and on the website for consideration and comment by the members of the Organization (“the Membership”). No earlier than thirty days after such publication, the Executive Board shall take a final vote on approval of these Rules, which shall only become effective upon ratification by a majority vote of the members of the Executive Board. As needed, the By-Laws and Rules Committee shall propose amendments to these Rules, which to become effective must be approved by a majority of the Executive Board following a thirty-day consideration and comment period by the Membership.
- 3. Standing Committees.** The Standing Committees of the Organization are created to ensure ongoing structure, continuity and growth of the Organization for the benefit of the Membership and the people of the 34th Legislative District. The First and Second Vice-Chairs shall serve as chair of at least one of the Standing Committees. The Standing Committees of the Organization, and their purpose and functions are:

 - 3.1 The Finance Committee** assists the Treasurer in the preparation and implementation of the annual budget, audits the financial records of the Organization, and generally oversees the financial health of the Organization. The Treasurer is a member of the Finance Committee.
 - 3.2 The Membership Committee** recruits new members, retains existing members of the Organization, and manages member information and data. The Membership Committee shall serve as the credentialing body for regular and special meetings, and shall certify which members have voting rights at such meetings.
 - 3.3 The Recruitment Committee** shall recruit responsible and able candidates for official positions in the Organization, and shall foster competitive officer elections by encouraging at least two individuals to run for each elected officer position. The Recruitment Committee shall disseminate information to members and the public about the various officer and committee chair positions and report to the membership the candidates willing to run for various offices at least one month before elections are held. However, candidates for elected officer positions need not be identified by the Recruitment Committee to be nominated. The Recruitment Committee shall make

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recommendations to the Chair of the Organization for Standing Committee chair appointments.

- 3.4 **The Program Committee** shall seek speakers and propose topics for discussion at regular and special district meetings, and shall prepare meeting agendas for consideration by the Executive Board to be published in advance in the newsletter and on the website. The Program Committee shall publish a calendar of key events of the Organization (such as the Precinct and District Caucuses, the annual fundraiser, the Summer Picnic, endorsement meetings, etc.) for the upcoming year in the January newsletter and on the website. The Program shall also organize and hold at least one “Issues Forum” each calendar year that shall be open to Membership and all residents of the District.
- 3.5 **The Communications Committee** shall prepare, publish and mail the newsletter and any other mailings or mass communications. The committee shall provide direction and advise the Information Technology Manager in maintaining, modifying, and updating the website of the Organization. The Corresponding Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Information Technology Manager shall be members of the Communications Committee.
- 3.6 **The Fundraising Events Committee** plans and conducts at least one major annual fundraising event for the Organization. The Treasurer and the Chair of the Finance Committee shall be members of this committee.
- 3.7 **The Outreach Committee** plans and executes outreach events, voter registration drives, and other activities to increase the visibility of the Organization and raise political awareness within the various communities of the District.
- 3.8 **The PCO Committee** recruits, trains, organizes and assists Precinct Committee Officers in the discharge of their duties.
- 3.9 **The Young Democrats Committee** recruits Democrats under the age of 36 to join and participate in the Organization, organizes events for young Democrats, and supports the Membership, PCO, and Outreach committees’ efforts.
- 3.10 **The By-Laws & Rules Committee** prepares and recommends modifications of the by-laws and rules to the Executive Board and the Membership.
- 3.11 **The Legislative Action Committee** researches and informs the Membership and the people of the 34th Legislative District regarding proposed legislation placed before any legislative body having jurisdiction within the District.
- 3.12 **The Platform and Resolutions Committee** shall prepare a draft Platform no later than January 31st of each even-numbered year for consideration and ratification by the Membership at the Legislative District Caucus. The proposed Platform shall be published in the newsletter and posted on the website for at least 30 days prior to the members’ ratification vote. Approval of the Platform requires a majority vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the Organization. The Chair of the Legislative Action Committee shall be a standing member of the Platform and Resolutions Committee.
- 3.13 **The Caucus Committee** shall plan, organize and hold the Democratic presidential and state caucus proceedings in the District. The Caucus Committee shall consist of the Precinct Caucus Subcommittee and the Legislative District Caucus Subcommittee. The Caucus Committee shall have two Co-Chairs; one shall serve as the Chair of the Precinct Caucus Subcommittee and the other shall serve as Chair of the Legislative District Caucus Subcommittee.

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3.14 **The Hospitality Committee** supports the social life of the organization by making meetings a welcoming place for all members, their families, and guests, including staffing a welcoming table and providing food and refreshments. The Hospitality Committee shall organize an annual Summer Picnic and annual Holiday Party for the Membership.

4. **Appointment of Standing Committee Chairs.** The procedure for appointment of Committee Chairs is specified in Section 6 of Article IV of the By-Laws.
5. **Standing Committee Chairs as Voting Members of Executive Board.** The Chairs of the Standing Committees shall be voting members of the Executive Board as provided for in Section 3 of Article IV of the By-Laws.
6. **Special Officers.** The Special Officers of the Organization shall be:
 - i. The Parliamentarian (as specified in the By-Laws of the Organization)
 - ii. The Newsletter Editor
 - iii. The Information Technology (IT) Manager
 - iv. The Corresponding Secretary
 - v. The Sergeant-at-Arms

The Special Officers of the Organization shall be non-voting members of the Executive Board. The procedure for appointment of the Parliamentarian is specified in Section 5 of Article IV of the By-Laws. The Chair of the District shall appoint the Newsletter Editor, the IT Manager and the Corresponding Secretary.

7. Rules for Resolutions (to be developed)

(This section will contain rules for passing resolutions by the E-Board and Membership.)

8. Publications and Acceptable Use Policies (to be developed)

(This section will contain acceptable use and publications policies governing the newsletter, websites and listservs.)

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9. Endorsement Rules

(This section was adopted by the Organization in June, 2007 and shall remain in full force and effect unless and until amended or superseded).

1. *Eligibility to Vote or to Speak at an Endorsement Meeting*

To be eligible to vote, or to speak at an endorsement meeting, you must be a member of the 34th District Democrats who votes in the 34th District by the close of the previous month's meeting. Membership in the 34th District Democrats is determined either by payment of annual dues or by being an elected, appointed, or acting Precinct Committee Officer (PCO).

2. *Endorsement Voting Requirements and Ballots*

Endorsements require a vote of 2/3 of the eligible voters present and voting. Abstentions are not considered votes, and will not be counted in determining the number of votes cast. Voting will be by a show of credentials issued to eligible voters before the vote.

3. *Endorsement Procedures – Candidates*

3.1 **Consent/Block Nominations.** To expedite the endorsement process, motions will be entertained to endorse a block of candidates where it is expected that the endorsement of such candidates is assured, such as candidates who have secured Democratic support in the past and are currently running unopposed, or who have insignificant opposition.

3.2 *Nominations*

3.2.1 The chair will entertain nominations and seconds for all races that apply to all or a portion of 34th District voters. A motion for sole endorsement or a motion to close nominations shall be out of order. A motion for "no endorsement" is admissible.

3.2.2 For each motion to endorse, a nomination speech of no more than two minutes and a seconding speech of not more than two minutes will be allowed, as will be two speeches of no more than two minutes duration against the motion. Speakers shall identify themselves before speaking on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate or ballot measure. Eligible voters may cede their time to candidates, but may NOT cede their time to anyone ineligible to vote at the meeting, such as nonresident, nonmember representatives of candidates or for or against ballot measures.

3.3 **Voting.** Each eligible voter will vote by show of credentials for or against one nominated candidate or "No endorsement." If any nominated candidate or "No endorsement" receives 2/3, then that vote passes. If a candidate fails to get 2/3 of the vote, there is no endorsement.

4. *Endorsement Procedures - Ballot Measures*

4.1 *Nominations*

4.1.1 **Ballot Measures** include all initiatives, referenda, levies, and other races without candidates. A Ballot Measure may be nominated for consideration only in the form it would appear on the ballot.

4.1.2 For each motion to consider a Ballot Measure, a speech of no more than two minutes and a seconding speech of not more than two minutes will be allowed for each of three positions: "Support," "Reject," and "Take no position." Eligible voters may NOT cede their time to anyone ineligible to vote at the meeting.

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4.2 *Voting.* Each eligible voter will vote for "Support," "Reject" or "Take no position." If any of the three choices receives 2/3, then that vote passes. If no choice receives 2/3, there is no action.

5. *Primary Endorsement Meeting*

The general membership meeting held in June and (if held) July will consider endorsements for:

5.1 Races and ballot measures on the Primary Election Ballot, and

5.2 Ballot measures on the November General Election Ballot.

6. *General Election Endorsement Meeting*

The general membership meetings held in August and September will consider endorsements for races and ballot measures on the November General Election Ballot.