

BY-LAWS OF THE DORCHESTER DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Adopted 1998, Amended 2007

I. NAME.

The organization's name shall be the "Dorchester Democratic Club"

II. OBJECT AND PURPOSE.

- A. To promote the Democratic Party through registration, voting, social gatherings, educational activities and other publicity.
- B. To organize the Democratic Party at precincts district and State levels.
- C. To promote, endorse and support democratic candidates in general elections.

III. MEMBERSHIP.

- A. Any registered Democrat is eligible for membership upon application and payment of dues provided he or she has not been removed pursuant to paragraph D below, within the past 2 years.
- B. A member automatically ceases to be in good standing upon registering with election officials as a member of another political party, or failing to pay club dues within 2 months after being billed therefore, or becoming ineligible to vote in governmental elections. Only a member in good standing is eligible to serve as an Officer, Director,, or committee chair.
- C. No member is authorized to speak for the Club without specific authority from a majority of the Board of Directors.
- D. Except as provided in paragraph B above, no member in good standing may be removed from membership unless all of the following actions are taken.
 - 1. A removal petition signed by at least ten (10) members in good standing must be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration. The petition must identify the accused and particularize the factual allegations that are said to violate these By-Laws.
 - 2. If a majority of the Board of Directors votes that the alleged violation is sufficiently serious for the member's removal, an Officer must present the petition to the general membership at the next meeting.

3. Such petition will be deemed denied unless approved by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members in good standing who are present at such meeting.

IV. DUES.

- A. Annual membership dues shall be \$10.
- B. The Board of Directors may reduce or waive a member's dues in case of financial hardship. The Board need not report this action to the membership.
- C. The membership, by majority vote, may establish reduced rates for special and deserving groups, such as student chapters of the Club.
- D. The Membership Chairman shall be responsible for sending all membership and dues notices.

V. FISCAL YEAR.

The fiscal year shall end March 31st. The fiscal year runs from April 1 through March 31.

VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

- A. The Board of Directors shall consist of:
 1. The four (4) elected officers of the Club.
 2. The immediate Past President, who shall serve ex-officio.
 3. Five (5) Directors, elected from the membership.
- B. Meetings. The Board of Directors shall, upon notice to each director, and designated in Dorchester County by the President, meet at least nine (9) times a year. Board meetings shall be held the third Monday evening each month unless otherwise determined by the Board. Meetings of the Board shall be open to the general membership. The president may invite non-members of the Club to attend as she or he deems appropriate.
- C. Quorum. Five (5) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting of the Board. Unless otherwise indicated, a quorum shall be necessary for the transaction of business, and the act of a majority of the Board present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of the Board.
- D. Qualifications of Directors. Only voting members in good standing shall be eligible for nomination to the Board. All Directors shall be registered

Democrats. The Directors shall be elected by voting members of the Club in good standing at the election.

- E. Term of Office: Directors shall be elected by membership for two-year terms. No Director shall serve more than two consecutive full terms in the same office, or more than eight consecutive years on the Board. Two (2) Directors shall be elected each even year, and three (3) Directors shall be elected each odd year.
- F. Board Voting. The Board shall normally vote in regular or special meetings but the President also has the authority to poll Board members by telephone or email when, in the President's opinion, circumstances warrant. The President must bring before the general membership at its next meeting any matter transacted at the Board meetings which requires membership vote.

VII. OFFICERS.

- A. Designations. The officers of the Club shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. These four (4) Officers shall constitute the Executive Committee and are the governing board for the Club. Elected Officers shall have specific functions as stated in Section E, below.
- B. Qualifications. Only voting members in good standing shall be eligible for nomination to an elected office. All officers shall be registered Democrats. The officers shall be elected by voting members of the Club in good standing at the election.
- C. Term of Office: Officers shall be elected by membership for two-year terms. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive full terms in the same office, or more than eight consecutive years on the Executive Committee. The President, and Secretary shall be elected each odd year. The Vice President and Treasurer shall be elected each even year.
- D. In the event of the President's death, disability, or resignation, the Secretary shall immediately call a special meeting of the Board of Directors, at which a successor shall be elected from among the Officers and Board members, to serve until the next election. The voting shall be by a secret ballot. In the event of the death, disability or resignation of any elected officer other than President, the Board shall select the names of candidates from among voting members of the Club in good standing to fill the vacancy until the next election. The name or names shall be presented to the Board for confirmation or selection at the meeting immediately following the one at which the vacancy is announced.
- E. Duties of Officers: The duties of the Club Officers shall be as follows:

1. President: Shall preside at all meetings of the Club membership and the Board of Directors; may designate such committees as appropriate; shall appoint an Audit Chair, Membership Chair, and a Nominating Chair; shall be a member of all Committees except the Nominating Committee; shall appoint a different Chair for each committee who may but need not be a member of the Board of Directors; shall prepare a newsletter prior to each meeting and deliver it to the Membership Chairman for mailing to the general membership; shall co-sign all checks with the Treasurer.
2. Vice President: Shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President and shall perform such other duties as are delegated or designated by the President.
3. Secretary: Shall record the substance of all business transacted during the meetings of the Club; shall be the custodian of all records of the Club; and shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President and Vice President. Shall pass on all Club records to his/her successor.
4. Treasurer: Shall be in charge of and responsible for all funds of the Club; shall have authority to co-sign all checks with the President; shall render financial reports at the Board meetings and all membership meetings. Shall chair the Finance Committee. The Treasurer's books shall be audited each March by an Audit Committee, which shall render its report at the April general membership meeting.

VIII. MEETINGS AND QUORUMS

- A. Quorum. Ten (10) voting members shall constitute a quorum at any membership meeting or special meeting of the Club. Five (5) voting members shall constitute a quorum of the Board of Directors.
- B. Election Meetings. There shall be one (1) Election Meeting of the members of the Club each fiscal year. Notice shall be sent to voting members at least two (2) weeks in advance.
- C. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Club membership may be called at the request of the President, or any four (4) members of the Executive Board, or any fifty members of the Club. Such requests shall be directed in writing to the President and the Secretary. Notice of special meetings of the Club shall be sent at least two (2) weeks in advance to the voting membership. Only subjects specified in the notice shall be considered at the special meeting.

- D. Vote Required for Action. Unless otherwise provided herein, when a quorum is present at any meeting of the Club membership, the vote of the majority of the members present shall decide any question brought before such meeting.
- E. Membership Meetings. The Club shall hold a general membership meeting each quarter beginning in April, followed by meetings in July, October, and January.

IX. ELECTIONS

- A. Each member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote. Only members in attendance at meetings when such vote is taken are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy, mail, or agent is prohibited.
- B. Eligibility; Required Vote. The eligible voters at any election shall consist of voting members in good standing (as defined in Article III. Any eligible Club member may hold office (as defined in Article VI, Section D and Article VII, Section B). Those nominees receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected.
- C. Positions Nominated. The Nominating Committee shall nominate a slate of candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director, as appropriate for each voting year (as defined in Article VI, Section D and Article VII, Section B).
- D. Ballots; Distribution. An Election Committee, comprising the Secretary, Membership Committee Chair, and Nominating Committee Chair shall have charge of the distribution, collection and tabulation of the ballots. Ballot will be distributed at the start of the April Membership Meeting.
- E. Election; Commencement of Term. Ballots will be distributed and collected at the beginning of the April Membership Meeting. The results of the election shall be announced at the meeting, and the newly elected officers and board members shall begin their terms of Office immediately.
- F. Following the election and prior to commencing their official duties, newly elected officers and directors shall affirm: "I shall diligently perform the duties of [Office] in the Dorchester Democratic Club."

X. NOMINATIONS

Nominating Committee: At the January general membership meeting, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee Chair. Including the Chair, the committee shall have seven (7) members selected as follows:

1. The Board of Directors shall appoint three (3) persons from the general membership at their Board meeting just prior to the January membership meeting;
 2. The President shall appoint one (1) other member;
 3. The general membership shall elect three (3) other members.
- A. Nomination Procedure. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall cause the membership to be notified that signed suggestions for offices to be filled, naming candidates and qualifications, will be accepted up to three (3) weeks before the Business/Election Meeting in April each year.

The Nominating Committee shall meet and consider names submitted by the membership together with the names presented by members of the committee. Each person selected shall meet the requirements for office designated in Articles III and VII and shall signify to the Nominating Committee her or his consent to stand for office.

On or before February 25th of each year, the Nominating Committee shall report to the Board candidates for each office to be filled, with a brief description of pertinent information about each candidate. The Secretary shall immediately email or send by mail to the membership the names of persons nominated for each office.

- B. Additional Nominations. A petition signed by fifty (50) eligible voters nominating any eligible person who has given her or his permission may be presented to the Secretary within five (5) working days after the February mailing of the Slate of nominees. Such petition shall be sufficient to place such a person in nomination for any office. The Secretary shall immediately notify the Board for its inclusion on the ballot.

XI. PARLIAMENTARY RULES.

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern in all cases not in conflict with the By-Laws of this Club.

XII. AMENDMENTS.

Any three (3) members of the Board or any twenty five (25) voting members of the Club may propose amendments to the By-Laws in writing to the President. After review, the President shall submit such proposed amendments to the Board with recommendations. All proposed amendments approved by the Board shall be submitted to the Club membership at the next Business Meeting or at a special meeting called as soon as practicable for that purpose. Notice of such meeting, together with information on such copy of such notice shall be emailed/mailed during that time. A two-thirds vote shall be sufficient to amend the By-Laws, provided that a quorum is present at the meeting.