

Proposed Amendments to the
CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS
of the
**DOUGLAS COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**
as submitted by the
INCLUSION TASK FORCE

Members:

Chairman Kris J Pierce, Vice Chair Terri Alberhasky, Minority Representative Ted Johnson, Minority Representative Stacy Henry, Ken Riter, Diane Battiato, Archie Godfrey, Kelly Butts, Michelle McElligott, Willie Williams, Cornelius Williams, Dee Austin, Anthony Hadley, Jerry Hall, Rebecca Valdez,

Objective: To establish County Caucus Organizations and revamp the positions of the Minority Representative in order to broaden representation and diversity within the structure of the Douglas County Democratic Party, the Constitution and Bylaws need to be amended.

Proposed amendments to the Constitution:

Amend the Articles IV and V by additions (**in bold**) and deletions (struck through **and in bold**) as shown:

ARTICLE VI – ORGANIZATION OF THE PARTY

Section 2. COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE

- A. A committee, called the Central Committee, shall exist between sessions of the Conventions and shall have duties as assigned by the Convention, this Constitution or the County Bylaws. The Central Committee shall be comprised of the count party officers, ~~and~~ representatives of the several Nebraska Legislative Districts in Douglas County **and from any County Caucus Organization (CCO) that this Constitution of the Bylaws may provide.** ~~These~~ **The** representatives **from the Legislative Districts** shall be elected in Legislative District caucuses at each Convention. **The Chair of each County Caucus Organization shall be the representative of the CCO to the Central Committee.**

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

Section 1. Party Officers

- A. Officers of the Douglas County Democratic Party shall be: Chair, Vice Chair (opposite sex of the Chair), Secretary, Treasure ~~and two Minority Representatives (one female, one male), African American Representative, Latino Representative, and the Diversity Representative (must gender balance against the African American and Latino Representatives).~~

Add a new Article VII titled and reading as shown:

ARTICLE VII – COUNTY CAUCUS ORGANIZATIONS

- A. **In order to broaden representation of minority and traditionally under-represented communities within the Douglas County Democratic Party, County Caucus Organizations (CCO) are recognized, are organized and will function as provided in this Constitution and/or the Bylaws.**
- B. **The Democrats in the County which are members of a recognized CCO shall be represented on the Central Committee by the Chair of each recognized CCO. Each CCO Chair shall be elected by a majority vote of the members of the County Caucus Organization.**
- C. **A Chair of a CCO may not simultaneously serve in any other elected position of the Douglas County Democratic Party.**

Renumber “Article VII – Bylaws” and Article VIII – “Amending This Constitution” to account for the new article as shown:

ARTICLE VIII – BYLAWS

ARTICLE IX – AMENDING THIS CONSTITUTION

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws:

Amend Bylaw I by addition of Section 6 as shown (in **bold**):

I – COUNTY CONVENTION

Section 6. County Caucus Organizations (CCO)

A. Before the convening of the County Convention, but on the same day of the County Convention, the recognized CCO shall meet for the purpose of conducting elections for the positions of County Caucus Chair and County Caucus Secretary.

B. The CCO must have at least 10 members present at the County Convention for the purpose of elections and recertification of their Caucus. If a CCO does not have the minimum number of members to facilitate a recertification, the CCO may recertify per the Constitution and Bylaws of this organization.

C. The Secretary of the CCO will report the election results to the County Convention and the election of the CCO shall be ratified by the certified delegates of the County Convention.

Amend Bylaw II by addition of new Section 3 and renumbering subsequent sections as shown (in **bold**):

II – COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Section 3. County Caucus Organizations

A. The following “County Caucus Organizations” (CCO) are recognized and shall have one (1) member on the Central Committee once the CCO is certified as directed by these Bylaws: (i) African-American, (ii) Latino, (iii) Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual- Transgender (LGBT), (iv) Women, (v) Disability, (vi) Labor, (vii) Veterans and (viii) Young Democrats.

B. For a CCO to be certified, each CCO must meet the following criteria; (i) must have ten or more active members, (ii) must hold monthly meetings each month prior to each scheduled Central Committee meeting, (iii) must be recommended by the Rule and Organization Committee and (iv) must be approved by the Central Committee.

C. In order to remain a recognized and certified CCO in good standing, the CCO must; (i) hold regular meetings of its membership each month prior to the Central Committee meeting, (ii) support Democratic candidates for election, (iii) recruit Democratic candidates for public office from their Community, (iv) maintain attendance requirements by the Caucus Chair, (v) make reports to the Central Committee on the CCO’s activities and (vi) promote the Douglas County Democratic Party within in their Community.

D. Additional County Caucus Organizations – A new CCO may be formed and organized by (i) fulfilling the criteria for such formation and organization as stipulated by the Committee on Rules and Organization of the County Party, (ii) apply for recognition as a CCO to the Committee on Rules and Organization, (iii) received a recommendation by the Committee on Rules and Organization to the Central Committee and (iv) by a majority vote the by Central Committee.

E. A CCO shall lose it recognition and certification as a member of the Central Committee when its representative to the Central Committee, the Caucus Chair, violates the attendance policy by accruing three (3) unexcused absences.

Section 3 4. COMMITTEES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Section 4 **5**. SPECIAL MEETINGS

Section ~~5~~ **6**. QUORUM

(NOTE – no changes are made to the bodies of the new sections 4, 5 and 6.)

Amend Bylaw III by addition of the new Sections 5, 6 and 7 (all in **bold**), deletion of existing Section 5 “Minority Representatives” (not shown), and restating and renumbering existing Section 6 “Executive Committee” as shown (additions in bold; deletions ~~struck through~~):

III – COUNTY OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 5. AFRICAN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE

A. The African American Representative must meet the following additional credential; be a blooded member of a recognized racial minority defined as Black (all as defined in 48 C.F.R. Chapter 1, Part 19, subpart 10.001) and shall not also serve simultaneously as the African American Caucus Chair.

B. The African American Representative shall be the organization’s liaison to the African American Community and shall strengthen the relationship between the Party and this Community.

C. The African American Representative shall work with the Chair of the African American Caucus and leaders of the African American Community to form the AAC-DCDP Coalition. This Coalition shall focus on the working together on the concerns and goals of the African American community in Douglas County.

D. The African American Representative shall have duties as assigned to them by this Constitution, the Bylaws or County Chair.

Section 6. LATINO REPRESENTATIVE

A. The Latino Representative must meet the following additional credential; be a blooded member of a recognized racial minority defined as Hispanic (all as defined in 48 C.F.R. Chapter 1, Part 19, subpart 10.001) and shall not also serve simultaneously as the Latino Caucus Chair.

B. The Latino Representative shall be the organization’s liaison to the Latino community and shall strengthen the relationship between the Party and this Community.

C. The Latino Representative shall work with the Chair of the Latino Caucus and leaders of the Latino Community to form the LC-DCDP Coalition. This Coalition shall focus on the working together on the concerns and goals of the Latino Community in Douglas County.

D. The Latino Representative shall have duties as assigned to them by this Constitution, the Bylaws or County Chair.

Section 7. Diversity Representative

A. The Diversity Representative must meet one of the following additional credentials; be a blooded member of a recognized racial minority defined as Asian-Pacific, Asian-Indian or Native American (all as defined in 48 C.F.R. Chapter 1, Part 19, subpart 10.001) or a member of a religious minority as being non-Christian and including agnostics and atheists or a member of the Disability or LGBT Communities. This member’s primary credential may not be as a member of a blooded racial minority defined as African American or Latino and may not also serve

simultaneously a the Chair of any CCO.

B. The Diversity Representative must gender balance the collection of the African American and Latino Representative.

C. The Diversity Representative shall be the organization's liaison to the widely diverse community of Douglas County and these underrepresented communities of Douglas County and shall strengthen the relationship between those communities and the Party.

D. The Diversity Representative shall work with the Chairs of all the CCO and leaders of various community organizations to form the DC Diversity Coalition. This Coalition shall focus on the working together on the concerns and goals of diversity throughout our community in Douglas County.

E. The Diversity Representative shall have duties as assigned to them by this Constitution, the Bylaws or County Chair.

Section 6 8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. The members of the Executive Committee shall be the Officers of the Party.

A B. The duties of the Executive Committee shall be: *(i)* take actions as directed by the County Convention, the Constitution or these Bylaws; *(ii)* hire and supervise any employees of the Party; *(iii)* and in accordance with the wishes of the Count Central Committee.

Amend Bylaw IV by addition in Section 1, paragraph C and the addition of new Section 3 all as shown (in **bold**):

IV – VACANCIES

Section 1. COUNTY OFFICERS

C. Vacancies in the position of Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, ~~and Minority Representative~~ **African American Representative, Latino Representative and Diversity Representative** shall be filled at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the County Central Committee following the announcement of the vacancy in the following manner: *(i)* announcement of said vacancy shall be sent to all Central Committee members at least seven (7) days prior to action on said vacancy; *(ii)* by nomination of the remainder of the Executive Committee and/or nomination by any member of the Central Committee; *(iii)* by a majority vote of those present and voting of the Central Committee certifying such nominee to be elected to office effective immediately.

Section 3. COUNTY CAUCUS ORGANIZATION CHAIR

A. Vacancies in the position of any County Caucus Chair shall be deemed to exist when declared by the County Secretary at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Central Committee for any of the following reasons: *(i)* three (3) cumulative unexcused absences within the period between County Conventions; *(ii)* resignations; *(iii)* change in party affiliation; *(iv)* removal from office.

B. Vacancies shall be filled at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Central Committee following the announcement of said vacancy in the following manner: *(i)* announcement of said vacancy shall be made at the next regularly scheduled meeting after the vacancy is known; *(ii)* by a majority vote of the membership of the County Caucus in which a minimum of 10 members are in attendance and *(iii)* a majority vote of those present of the Central Committee certifying such election to be elected as Caucus Chair effective immediately.

C. The County Chair, or the Chair's designee, shall have the authority to grant an excused absence.

Amend Bylaw V by the addition of new Section 3 as shown (in **bold**):

V – REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Section 3. County Caucus Organization Chair

A. Upon petition of twenty-five percent (25%) of the members of the Central Committee or 10 members of the CCO of which the Caucus Chair is a member, a meeting to consider removal of a Chair of a CCO shall be called. The grounds for removal shall be violation of the County Constitution, these Bylaws and/or conviction of a felonious crime against the State of Nebraska and/or the United States of America. A three-fourths (75%) majority of those members in good standing of the Central Committee present shall be required to affect a removal, which shall be effective immediately.