

**BYLAWS
WASHINGTON STATE
42nd LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 2001**

We, the Democrats of the 42nd Legislative District, State of Washington, believe in the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the constitution of the United States of America – That all power to govern resides with the people. In accordance with the National Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States, we organize and pledge ourselves to promote a truly representative party open to all who support its principles

We further pledge to make every effort to encourage informed participation in the political process and to protect individual rights, civil liberties, our environment, and social and economic justice for all. To this end, we shall work cooperatively with all Democratic organizations.

Article I Name

The name of this organization shall be the Washington 42nd Legislative District Democratic Committee (Hereafter refer to as 42nd District

Article II Purpose

The purpose of this organization is to provide for active participation in the democratic process and to elect 42nd District democrats to office.

Article III Membership and Dues

Section 3.1 Membership shall consist of:

- a) Those persons certified by Whatcom County Auditor as duly elected Precinct Committee Officers (PCO's) in the 42nd District.
- b) Duly qualified appointed Precinct Committee Officers who are certified by the Whatcom County Auditor in accordance with RCW 29.42.050.
- c) Special members of the 42nd District shall be any Democrat residing in the 42nd District and who pays their dues to the Treasurer of the 42nd District.
- d) Non-resident Democrats may become associated members entitled to a voice but no vote and receipt of 42nd District mailing upon payment of annual dues.

Section 3.2 Membership Dues:

Membership dues for all members are due and payable during the calendar month of January each year.

The amount of annual dues shall be established and may be changed by a majority vote of the membership on recommendation of the 42nd District Executive Board.

Section 3.3 No member may use his/her title of office or identify him/herself as representing the 42nd District or any of the subordinate bodies unless authorized by the Executive Board or the membership.

Section 3.4 Following are the membership categories:

- a) Individual
- b) Associate

Article IV Executive Board

Section 4.1 The Executive Board shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, State Committeewoman and State Committeeman. The Chairperson and vice-Chairperson must not be of the same gender.

Section 4.2 Qualification and Manner of Election: Officers shall be elected in January of odd numbered years in a manner that is consistent with Roberts rules of Order, revised and applicable State Democratic Committee Rules. Voting on vacancies that occur midterm, are restricted to duly elected or appointed Precinct Committee Officers.

- a) Nominees must be paid members of the 42nd District.
- b) The Nominating Committee shall consist of no more than five (5) members of the 42nd District and will be appointed in October of even-numbered years and report their nominations to the 42nd District at the November meeting. The Nominating Committee, at its discretion, may place one or more names in nomination for each position. Nominations also will be excepted form the floor at the November and January meetings.

Section 4.3 Terms of office shall be two (2) years.

Section 4.4 The duties of elected officers shall be those usual to such offices and those directed by the State Committee.

Section 4.5 Vacancies in the offices of the 42nd District shall be filled by election at the next meeting following creation of the vacancy after giving elected and appointed Committee members a least 10 (ten) days notice. The Chairperson may declare and office vacant if its incumbent has been absent from two (2) successive regular meetings without giving notice.

Article V Meeting and Voting Procedures

Section 5.1 Meetings:

- a) Regular meetings shall be held no less than every three (3) months. Members shall be given reasonable notice of meeting times and places. All meetings are open to the public and shall attempt to be wheelchair accessible. Meetings shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order revised.
- b) The Chairperson of the Executive Board may call for special meetings. The Chairperson must call a special meeting of the 42nd District upon receipt of a petition signed by no less than twelve percent (12%) of the elected and paid membership (Article III, Section 3.1) of the 42nd district.

Section 5.2 Voting Procedures:

a) Members of the 42nd District, specified in Article III, are entitled to vote on all matters except as specifically provided otherwise in this Section

b) Only duly elected Precinct Committee Officers may elect officers to the 42nd District at the December reorganization meeting.

Appointed and duly elected Precinct Committee Officers may elect officers to fill vacancies that occur midterm.

c) The Secretary shall maintain the following lists of committee members:

(1) Elected and duly appointed Precinct Committee Officers (Article III, Section 3.1) 3.1 (a) and (b))

(2) Special Committee members (Article III Section 3.1 (c))

Section 5.3 A quorum of the 42 District shall consist of those attending a regularly scheduled meeting and who are eligible to vote as specified in Article III Section 3.1 (a), (b) and (c).

Section 5.4 Vacancies:

Nominations of Candidates for filling Partisan vacancies within the 42nd Legislative District. See Appendix A.

Article VI Executive Board

Section 6.1 Voting Membership: The Executive Board consists of the officers of the 42nd District.

Section 6.2 Meetings:

a) Insofar as possible, the Executive Board shall meet at a regular time and place.

b) A record of actions taken by the executive Board shall be kept and be read at the next regular meeting of the 42nd District.

Section 6.3 Duties:

a) The Executive Board shall review the budget.

b) Designate those persons who are authorized to disburse the funds of the 42nd District and to sign checks for such disbursement and shall designate a depository for any funds of the 42nd District.

c) Carry on the business of the 42nd District between regular meetings of that body.

Article VII Committees

Section 7.1 Special Committee: The Chairperson may appoint special committees as necessary to conduct business on behalf of the 42nd District.

Section 7.2 Standing Committee: the Chairperson, with the approval of the elected members of the Executive Board, shall appoint chairperson for the standing committee, of which there will be four (4). Each committee shall consist of no fewer than three (3) members. The Chair shall be a non-voting ex officio member of each committee.

- a) Finance Committee: Assume responsibility for the 42nd District fundraising.
- b) Membership Committee:
 - a. Work to increase the membership of the 42nd District.
 - b. Assist the Chair in the recruitment of PCO's.
- c) Candidates Committee: Identify and/or recruit individuals interested in seeking public elected office.
- D) Affirmative Action Committee: Provide and coordinate issues, projects, plans and programs involving diversity within the 42nd District.

Article VIII Fiscal

- Section 8.1 All funds of the 42nd District shall be deposited by the Treasurer in an approved depository.
- Section 8.2 All disbursements shall be made by check signed by the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or the Treasurer.
- Section 8.3 The Treasurer shall keep such books as are necessary to reflect the receipts, expenditures, assets and liabilities of the 42nd District.
- Section 8.4 the books of the 42nd District shall be audited annually by an auditing committee appointed by the Chairperson. That committee shall report its results to the 42nd District.

Article IX Amendments

- Section 9.1 These Bylaws shall be reviewed at least every two (2) years by a special committee; but may be amended at any regular meeting of the 42nd District provided that the amendment has been read at a prior regular meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Precinct Committee Officers present and voting are required to amend at the second reading of the proposed change.
- Section 9.2 All questions of procedure shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, revised, except in those cases when alternative rules have been specifically provided for in the Bylaws.

Article X Caucus

The 42nd District Caucus shall be held each even numbered year according to rules set by the Washing State Democratic Central Committee.

Appendix A

1. The 42nd Legislative District Chair Shall call a special caucus of the 42nd District precinct committee officers (PCO's) for the purpose of filling legislative district vacancies. The Chair of the 42nd Legislative District shall preside over such meetings.
2. Candidates must be registered voters residing in the 42nd Legislative District and must be otherwise qualified for office.
3. Only duly elected and appointed PCO's within the 42nd Legislative District are eligible to vote. To be eligible to vote, appointed PCO's must have been appointed by the Chair of the Whatcom County Democratic Central Committee as of the most recent regular Whatcom County Democratic Central Committee meeting prior to the occurrence of the vacancy. No proxies or absentee ballots are allowed.
4. The candidate and /or someone speaking on his/her behalf shall make a declaration of candidacy, not to exceed five minutes, from the floor. No person ineligible to be appointed may be nominated. When there are no further declarations of candidacy the issue shall come to a vote.
5. Each PCO shall cast one vote on a provided ballot. Separate nominations and election shall be held for the first, second and third ranked positions. In event that no person receives a majority on the first ballot; the person receiving the least votes shall be eliminated and another ballot taken. On succeeding ballots the same rule shall apply until one person receives the majority of the votes cast for that position.
6. The list of nominees shall consist of three names in rank order.
7. Voting on candidates shall be by signed ballot. Ballots not signed or having more than one vote cast will not be counted.
8. The 42nd Legislative District Chair shall retain custody of the ballots for three months.
9. The 42nd Legislative District Chair shall transmit the candidates' names and their vote totals to the 42nd Legislative District for ratification, and sbusew2uent to ratification, to the Chair of the Whatcom County Council. The candidate's names shall be submitted to the Whatcom County Council in rank order.
10. Notice of the special caucus shall be mailed ten days in advance. The call to the meeting shall include the purpose of the caucus, the vacancy to be filled, time, place, and date of the meeting, and a copy of these procedures. The 42nd Legislative District Committee shall mail the meeting call.
11. In all matter not specifically covered herein, Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall prevail.