

The Bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party

ARTICLE V COUNTY DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. Membership:

1.1 Elected Members:

1.1.1 Definition: Elected members shall be defined as those persons elected pursuant to Article V, Section 1.1.4 and those elected by the county Democratic Executive Committee to fill vacancies in precincts or districts. Once a person is elected in a precinct or district, even if that person should move out of that precinct or district and be appointed at-large or to fill a vacancy in the precinct or fill a vacancy in the precinct or district into which he or she moved, for the purpose of eligibility to seek office, such person shall be classified as an elected member for the duration of that term. If a vacancy does not exist in the precinct or district where the member moves, a special at-large status shall be created for that member not to be counted against the total number of appointed members available to that county.

1.1.2 Precinct System: The elected membership of the county Democratic Executive Committee shall consist of a man and a woman from each precinct who are registered Democrats, and who reside in, are registered to vote in, and are elected from the precinct they are to represent. Should the Democratic registration of any precinct total more than one thousand (1,000) as of January 1 of a year in which qualifying for election to county Democratic Executive Committee occurs, an additional one (1) man and one (1) woman are entitled to be elected to represent all such precincts. They shall be elected by a plurality vote on the First Primary Ballot of each presidential election year. At any time a precinct totals one thousand (1,000) registered Democrats or when new precincts are created, additional County Democratic Executive Committee positions may be created. Such positions shall be filled by the county Democratic Executive Committee according to its procedure for filling vacancies.

1.1.3 Optional Precinct System: In a county consisting of fewer than two hundred (200) precincts, the elected membership of the county Democratic Executive Committee shall consist of a man and a woman from each precinct who are registered Democrats, and who reside in, are registered to vote in, and are elected from the precinct they are to represent. Should the voter registration of any precinct total more than one thousand (1,000) as of January 1 of a year in which qualifying for election to county Democratic Executive Committee occurs, the county Democratic Executive Committee may, by amendment to its Bylaws, and upon immediate notification to the Supervisor of Elections of that county by certified mail, and upon immediate notification to the State Chair by certified mail, elect an additional one (1) man and one (1) woman to represent all such precincts. They shall be elected by a plurality vote on the first primary ballot of each Presidential election year. At any time a precinct totals one thousand (1,000) registered voters or when new precincts are created, additional county Democratic Executive Committee positions may be created. Such positions shall be filled by the county Democratic Executive Committee according to its procedures for filling vacancies.

1.1.4 District System: In a county consisting of more than one hundred (100) precincts, the elected membership of the county Democratic Executive Committee may, by a majority vote of all county Democratic Executive Committee members prior to December 31 of each year before the year in which an election for the office of President of the United States is to be held, consist of a man and a woman who are registered Democrats, and who reside in, are registered to vote in and are elected from election districts. The chair of the county Democratic Executive Committee shall notify the State Chair of such decision by certified mail. The Florida Democratic Party shall request, no later than December 31, 1983 and every fourth year thereafter, the Supervisor of Elections of that county, with approval of the board of County Commissioners, or the body having ultimate responsibility for the conduct of elections within the county, to provide for election districts as nearly equal in number of registered voters as possible. Such districts shall be created in accordance with the following requirements:

(1) The election districts shall have as equal a number of precincts as possible.

(2) The number of registered voters in any election district shall not vary by more than ten percent (10%) of the average number of registered voters in all election districts.

(3) No precinct shall be divided in the formation of districts.

(4) A district shall be composed of contiguous precincts.

County Democratic Executive Committees adopting district systems pursuant to this Section shall file notice of same with the State Chair, the Florida Department of State, and its board of County Commissioners, or the body having ultimate responsibility for the conduct of elections within the county. Said body shall forthwith direct the Supervisor of Elections, or other appropriate official within the county, to complete such formalities as may be necessary to conduct elections within the county, to complete such formalities as may be necessary to conduct elections within such districts.

1.1.5 Election of Members: County Democratic Committee members shall qualify and be elected to office at such times and in such manner as provided by Florida Statutes.

1.1.6 Term of Office: Elected members of the county Democratic Executive Committee shall take office on the first day of the month following each presidential general election and shall serve for a term of four (4) years.

1.1.7 Attendance: The State Chair, First Vice Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Florida Democratic Party shall be exempt from the attendance requirements of the county Democratic Executive Committee to which they may belong.

1.2 Automatic Members:

1.2.1 Definition: Automatic members shall be defined as those who are members by virtue of Florida Statutes or those who are members by virtue of county Democratic Executive Committee bylaw provision naming county Democratic elected officials, presidents of duly chartered Democratic Clubs, or presidents of chartered local

Democratic caucus chapters who reside in said county. Such members shall serve for the duration of their term of office. Automatic members shall enjoy voting privileges, however, they shall not serve as officers of the county Democratic Executive Committee.

1.2.2 Attendance: Automatic members shall not be required to meet attendance requirements. Automatic members shall not be computed when determining a quorum.

1.3 Appointed Members:

1.3.1 Definition: Membership of a county Democratic Executive Committee may include an additional ten percent (10%) of the total elected membership to which entitled. These members shall be appointed by the county Democratic Executive Committee chair and approved by a majority vote of the membership of the county Democratic Executive Committee present and voting. Appointed members shall be registered Democrats residing in the county. Appointed members shall serve at-large and shall enjoy voting and other privileges and responsibilities of membership except holding office. Selection of appointed members shall be made in order to achieve political, economic, or minority balance within the county Democratic Executive Committee.

1.3.2 Term of Office: The term of office for appointed members shall be one (1) year commencing with the date of appointment, however, it shall expire immediately prior to the commencement of the organizational meeting of the next committee. Said members may be appointed. 1.3.3 Special At-Large Status: At any time after the election of officers, a county Democratic Executive Committee may allow, at the request of a Democratic Party elected official from the county, state, or national Democratic Party level, a special at-large status for that person. Such positions shall not be included in a county Democratic Executive Committee's appointed membership quota. If the elected official is an elected member of the county Democratic Executive Committee, a vacancy would be created in the district or precinct that he or she represents. Said vacancy shall be filled in accordance with that county Democratic Executive Committee's bylaws.

1.4 Vacancies: An office shall be deemed vacant when a member accumulates three (3) unexcused absences in any one (1) calendar year. Vacancies on a county Democratic Executive Committee shall be filled by action of the county Democratic Executive Committee within sixty (60) days in accordance with Florida Statutes. After a vacancy has existed for sixty (60) days, it may be filled by the State Chair. Those persons appointed to fill precinct or district vacancies must be registered Democrats residing within the precinct or district that they are appointed to represent. An absence is excused for reason of illness, business, out-of-town or other reasonable excuse, with prior notification to an officer.

SECTION 2. Officers:

2.1 Term of Office: Terms of office are for four (4) years, unless otherwise provided for in a county Democratic Executive Committee's bylaws.

2.2 Vacancies: In the event of a vacancy in the office of county Democratic Executive Committee chair, a meeting shall be held within forty-five (45) days, upon written notice to members of at

least fifteen (15) days, to elect a new chair. Notice of vacancy shall be sent by certified mail to the State Chair within ten (10) days of said vacancy. Vacancies on a county Democratic Executive Committee shall not be filled by action of the county Democratic Executive Committee within the period from the time the county Democratic Executive Committee chair position is declared vacant until the election of a new Democratic Executive Committee chair to replace the previous chair. In the event that a vacancy in the office of county Democratic Executive Committee chair is filled by a person of the same sex as the county Democratic Executive Committee vice chair, or vice versa, the requirement that they be of the opposite sex shall be waived for the unexpired term.

2.3 Leave of Absence: Any officer of a county Democratic Executive Committee seeking the Democratic nomination for public office shall take a leave of absence from the county Democratic Executive Committee office commencing at the time of opening a campaign account for said public office and extending for the duration of the campaign. The vacancy created shall be filled by the county Democratic Executive Committee for the interim period.

SECTION 3. Meetings:

3.1 Failure to Call: In the event a meeting is not called for a period of two (2) calendar quarters, the chair of the congressional district in which the county Democratic Executive Committee is primarily located, or the congressional district vice chair at the direction of the congressional district chair, shall call a meeting for the purpose of reorganization upon written notice of at least two (2) weeks to all members of the membership list on file with the county Supervisor of Elections. The State Chair shall be notified by certified mail.

3.2 Organizational Meeting: Each county Democratic Executive Committee shall hold an organization meeting, called by the county Democratic Executive Committee chair of the preceding committee, within thirty (30) days after said committee members take office.

3.2.1 Agenda: The organizational meeting shall be called to order by the county Democratic Executive Committee chair who shall chair the meeting until the election of the new chair who shall then assume the chair. The order of business shall be as follows:

- (1) Invocation
- (2) Pledge of Allegiance
- (3) Roll Call
- (4) Credentials Report
- (5) Election of Chair
- (6) Election of State Committeewoman
- (7) Election of State Committeeman
- (8) Election of Vice Chair
- (9) Election of Secretary
- (10) Election of Treasurer
- (11) Election of Any Other Officers

SECTION 4. Voting: Voting shall be one (1) vote for each member.

4.1 Voting by Appointed Members: The term of office for appointed members expires prior to the commencement of the organizational meeting occurring within thirty (30) days following the election of precinct committeemen and precinct committeewomen, therefore, appointed members shall not vote for officers at the organizational meeting. In the event an office becomes vacant during the term, appointed members shall have voting privileges.

SECTION 5. Policy and Procedure:

5.1 Committees: County Democratic Executive Committees shall establish the following committees to further the goals and policies of the Florida Democratic Party:

5.1.1 Affirmative Action Committee which shall work in conjunction with the Florida Democratic Party Affirmative Action Committee.

5.1.2 Young Democrats Committee which will work with the Florida Young Democrats.

5.2 Membership Lists: The names and addresses of the members of county Democratic Executive Committees, as well as the officers of same, shall be furnished to the State Chair immediately after the organizational meeting. Changes in membership shall be furnished in writing to the State Chair within ten (10) days. A complete and updated membership list shall be sent to the State Chair by January 31 of each year.

5.3 Records: Minutes shall be kept of all meetings and shall be presented at the next meeting for approval. Copies shall be sent to the State Chair within twenty (20) days following such meetings.

5.4 Annual Audit: There shall be annual audits of the financial condition of every county Democratic Executive Committee for each calendar year ending December 31 in compliance with applicable Florida Statutes and conducted by qualified examiners who shall not be members of the county Democratic Executive Committee. Audits shall be conducted in substantial compliance with standard accounting procedures. Copies shall be retained by the chair of each county Democratic Executive Committee for the examination of any member thereof and copies shall be furnished to the Supervisor of Elections and to the State Chair prior to April 1 of the ensuing year. The State Chair may have a qualified examiner conduct an audit of a county Democratic Executive Committee for any reason at the expense of the Florida Democratic Party.

5.5 FDP Policy Manual: The FDP shall make available to each County DEC a Policy Manual containing current standardized guidelines and practices for Party operations.

SECTION 6. Finances: A county Democratic Executive Committee receiving Party assessment fees shall submit a campaign plan detailing the expenditure of such fees to the State Chair and the Budget and Finance Committee for approval.

6.1 Distribution of Funds: The distribution of county Democratic Executive Committee funds among members is forbidden. A county Democratic Executive Committee may reimburse its members for actual travel expenses incurred at regular or special meetings in those cases where the meeting is more than thirty (30) miles in each direction from the member's home. Payment

is then authorized at the accepted mileage rate reimbursed to State Executive Committee members and shall be paid out of county Democratic Executive Committee funds.

SECTION 7. Party Assessment Fees: Party assessment fees shall be two percent (2%) of the annual salary of the office sought by the respective candidate. All assessments shall be remitted to the Florida Democratic Party and distributed as described herein. Any county Democratic Executive Committee that endorses, or intends to endorse, certify, screen, or otherwise recommend one (1) or more candidates for nomination shall forfeit all party assessments which would otherwise be returned to that county Democratic Executive Committee and such assessments shall be remitted instead to the Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee. The State Chair shall return the two percent (2%) party assessment fee to the appropriate County Democratic Executive Committee upon the State Chair's determination that the County Democratic Executive is in compliance with all Florida Statutes and all Florida Democratic Party Charter, rules, and bylaws.