

TENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

BYLAWS

The Tenth Congressional District Democratic Committee is chartered by the Democratic Party of Virginia (DPVA) through the Party Plan, which designates that its State Central Committee shall be comprised of an equal number of members elected within each of Virginia's Congressional Districts and in addition, designated at-large ex-officio members. Many guidelines for the operation of the Congressional District Committees are contained in the Party Plan. To further specify the procedures of the committee as it relates to the Tenth Congressional District, these bylaws are created.

Article I - Name

This Committee shall be known as the "Tenth Congressional District Democratic Committee," referred to in these bylaws as the "District Committee."

Article II - Authority

1. The Committee adopts these bylaws to govern its procedures by the authority of the DPVA Plan and to supplement the provisions of that Party Plan with particular respect to the organization of Congressional District Committees.
2. These bylaws shall remain in effect unless amended as provided in Article VIII.

Article III - Purpose

1. The District Committee shall have entire charge and full control of all matters relating to the nominating process of the Democratic Congressional candidate. The District Committee shall decide whether the candidate shall be nominated by primary election, assembled or unassembled caucus, or convention. Whenever the District Committee determines that such nomination shall be by the Primary method, then such Primary election shall be held in conformity with the Party Plan of the Democratic Party and the applicable election laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Whenever such nomination is to be made by convention, the District Committee shall prepare the Call-to Convention or to the caucus, in accordance with the Party Plan.
2. The District Committee has the responsibility to see that all city and county committees within its district are performing their duties. It must ascertain that each local committee reorganizes itself in the six-week period (December 1 - January 15) preceding January 15 of each even numbered year. Whenever a local committee fails to perform its duties or fails to elect and reorganize itself in the prescribed time frame, or fails to request and receive an extension in compliance to the Party Plan, the District Committee must call and conduct the reorganization and election of a new committee for that jurisdiction, pending appeal by the offending committee to the State Steering Committee.
3. The District Committee shall actively engage in outreach to various communities and should reflect the diversity of the Tenth Congressional District.

Article IV - Membership

1. As authorized by the Party Plan, the District Committee is composed of twenty (20) persons who are registered voters and reside in the District who are nominated by the District convention, and elected at the State Convention held the same year as the one in which the Governor of Virginia is elected, each member to serve a term of four (4) years. Whenever the statewide candidates are selected by primary and the State Central Committee decides not to conduct a

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convention, the twenty (20) members of the District Committee shall be elected by such procedures as the State Party may adopt.

2. In addition, there may be ex-officio members of the District Committee
 - a. The Tenth District Democratic Member of Congress is a member of this Committee.
 - b. Any statewide elected official who is a member of the Democratic Party and resides in the Tenth District is a member of this Committee.
 - c. Any statewide elected DPVA official, Democratic National Committee member, Young Democrats President, President of the Democratic Women's Caucus residing in the District is a member of this District Committee.
3. The District Committee, upon its organization and each two years thereafter, shall elect one Democratic member of the General Assembly and three county or city representatives. A "county or city representative" shall be a resident of the congressional district who is (a) a county or city committee chair or vice chair, (b) a magisterial district chair, (c) a ward chair or (d) a county or city committee member proposed by his or her county or city committee to the district committee. The additional members identified in this section shall be members of the Central Committee. Members so chosen shall be counted in determining a quorum and shall be voting members of the District Committee as soon as elected by the District Committee. The Central Committee shall make confirmation of the election of the General Assembly member and the county or city representatives. If for any reason a Democratic member of the General Assembly or a county or city representative cannot fill these positions, the District Committee shall fill them. If for any reason such additional members vacate the office(s) they hold which entitle them to this membership, then the seat(s) shall become vacant.
4. The 24 elected and additional members of the District Committee shall be equally divided by gender.
5. Vacancies on the Committee shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Committee attending a regularly scheduled District Committee meeting.
 - a. The chair shall provide notice of the vacancy or vacancies at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting, and
 - b. shall make reasonable efforts to notify each county and city committee chair of any existing vacancy.

Article V - Officers

1. At its reorganizational meeting the District Committee shall elect a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.
2. Vacancies among the Officers shall be filled by the membership as required.

Article VI - Meetings

1. The reorganizational meeting of the District Committee shall take place at a time and place designated by the previous Chair of the District Committee or, in the absence of specific action by the previous Chair, on the Thursday following the District Convention, which elects the membership of this District Committee. Notice of at least seven days shall be required to all City/County Chairs and District Committee members if a date different than the following Thursday is chosen for the reorganizational meeting.

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2. Regular meetings of the District Committee shall be held at least six times per year according to a schedule adopted by the District Committee, or, in the absence of specific action by the Committee, on the second Saturday of every other month. In so far as possible, the times and places designated shall be publicly announced by the District Committee.
3. Special meetings may be called or regular meeting dates changed by giving the members ten (10) days' notice by email, in writing, by phone or by any other means of direct communications acceptable to the members, or by agreement of the full membership.
4. The Chair may call a special meeting of the District Committee or a special meeting of the District Committee may be called at the written request of a majority of the members of the District Committee if a signed call is filed with the secretary of the District Committee at least ten (10) days before the proposed meeting date. The agenda at any special meeting shall be limited to the items stated in the call of the meeting, unless agreed by unanimous consent.
5. A quorum shall consist of the participation of forty percent (40%) of the entire membership.
6. Any member missing three consecutive meetings of the District Committee without sufficient cause shall be removed from the District Committee after a hearing and pending an appeal to the State Steering Committee, as provided in the party Plan.
7. All meetings of this District Committee are open to the public as observers, unless the District Committee specifically votes otherwise, as is required by the Charter (Section 12) of the National Democratic Party.
8. The time and location of all meetings, whether regular or special, shall be publicized on the District Committee's Web site in sufficient time for all interested parties to be notified, or sent by electronic means.
9. If necessary, special meetings can be held by conference call or other electronic meeting mechanisms. The electronic meets shall not substitute for regular in-person meetings (as specified in paragraph VI.2 above).
10. In accordance with the National Democratic Party Plan, votes shall not be taken by secret ballot
11. The use of Proxies at any District Committee meeting is prohibited.

Article VII - Rules

Except where otherwise specifically provided for herein, or in the DPVA Plan, the most recent revision of "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern the procedure at all District Committee meetings.

Article VIII - Amendments

1. All proposed amendments to these bylaws shall be made available in writing to all members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which they are to be introduced for District Committee action. This may be done by sending a paper document, an electronic document, or a link to an electronic document.
2. All amendments to these bylaws shall be adopted by affirmative vote of a majority of the total District Committee on the roster as voting members or by two-thirds of all Committee members present and voting.

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