

# HALL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BYLAWS

## ARTICLE I

### Name

1.1 The name of this organization shall be the **Hall County Democratic Committee**, herein referred to as “the Committee.”

1.2 The Executive Committee shall be comprised of Committee members as outlined in Article IV and otherwise as provided herein.

## ARTICLE II

### Governing Authority and Duties

2.1 The Committee shall be the governing authority of the Democratic Party in Hall County, Georgia.

2.2 Duties of the Committee shall be:

- a. To promote development of Party organizations and activities;
- b. To seek and encourage qualified candidates for public office;
- c. To support Democratic nominees;
- d. To perform such primary and election functions as required by law;
- e. To maintain appropriate records;
- f. To promote and add logistical support to the State Affirmative Action Program;
- g. To perform such other duties as may be required by the State Committee;
- h. To elect State Committee members;
- i. To determine Party Districts and Apportionment;
- j. To encourage voter registration and voter participation in elections;
- k. To encourage honest and accurate reporting of election results;

- l. To inform the electorate of the facts when misinformation and/or false information is being publically disseminated regarding elections or candidates; and,
- m. To raise funds for any or all the above purposes.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### Membership, Committee Districts, and Election of Members

3.1 Any person over the age of 18, who resides in and is registered to vote in Hall County, and who shall declare himself or herself to be a member of the Democratic Party, shall be entitled to membership in the Democratic Party of Hall County.

3.2 Any member qualified to be a member of the Hall County Democratic party is eligible to be elected to the Committee.

3.3 The Committee shall have 4 districts coinciding with county commission districts, with 3 members per district. The Committee shall also have 9 at-large members, as well as a representative from each Caucus as established by Section 8.3 of these bylaws, if such Caucus is so established.

3.4 Election of Committee Members shall be as provided in these Bylaws.

3.5 One half of the district committee posts and one half of the at large posts shall be elected in gubernatorial election years and one half shall be elected in presidential election years. In the very first election after organizing, all the posts shall be elected. One half of the posts shall end in the next gubernatorial election year, and the other one half shall end in the next presidential election year.

3.6 Committee members are to be elected either by a general primary ballot or a party district caucus. If elected by general primary ballot, the Committee may set reasonable fees for qualification.

3.7 Whether the election of regular members shall be by primary election or caucus shall be decided in the odd-numbered year preceding the election. If the

Committee fails to officially select a method, then caucus shall elect regular members.

3.8 Where the caucus method is selected or by default, such caucus shall be held within 45 days following the general primary. If the Committee does not officially set a time and place, the county chair shall set the time and place of the Caucus.

3.9 Where the general primary ballot method is selected, the same procedures and rules as those for other county elected officials shall prevail, except that the Committee may set reasonable fees for the qualification of Committee candidates.

3.10 Whether the election is by caucus or general primary ballot, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected without the necessity of a run-off.

3.11 Whether the election is by caucus or general primary ballot, public notice of the election shall be given by posting the notice on the Hall County Democratic Party website, by notifying all Committee members by email, and may be provided by posting in the county courthouse, and/or publishing the same in a newspaper of general circulation.

3.12 Members shall take office on the first day of the first month after their election, and shall serve for 4 years, unless affected by reapportionment.

3.13 To fill vacant positions, elections to the Committee may be held as needed.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Officers and Executive Committee**

4.1 The Committee shall elect officers no later than December 31 of even-numbered years, to take office January 1 of the following year, or immediately following the election, whichever is earlier. The new Chair shall immediately upon taking office notify the State Committee Chair and appropriate Congressional District Chair of his/her election.

4.2 The Committee shall elect from its membership a Chair, 3 Vice Chairs, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. One of the Vice Chairs shall be a Committee member who is on the Hall County Elections Board if practical. When possible, at least one of the Vice Chairs shall be of the opposite gender of the Chair. The person receiving the majority of votes for election to an office shall be declared elected. Committee members not present in person, by Zoom, or other electronic means when a vote for officers is made, may vote by email. At the discretion of the Executive Committee any email vote may be required to have an electronic postmark 48 hours before the meeting when the vote is scheduled. Votes must be sent by email to the Officer Nominating Committee Chairperson or the Chairman.

4.2.1 The Committee has established the position of Ex Officio member of the Executive Committee for the immediate past Chair. The Ex Officio member may vote only with the consent of the other members of the Executive Committee

4.3 Officers shall serve 2-year terms.

4.4 The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers and shall act on behalf of the Committee between Committee meetings. A Quorum for Executive Committee meetings or actions shall be 3 members, one of whom shall be the Chair or a Vice Chair.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Vacancies and Removal**

5.1 All vacancies in County Committee posts or officers shall be filled by election by the remaining Committee members, provided at least three such members remain. In such case, the newly elected members shall take office immediately upon election.

5.2 County Committee members and officers may be removed by the County Committee for cause, with reasonable notice to such member, and with the opportunity of the member to be heard. In order to remove a member as 2/3 vote of the County Committee members present is required and a 40% quorum of Committee members must be present.

5.3 Any person subject to removal shall receive a written notice of the alleged reasons for removal reasonably in advance of any vote for removal.

5.4 The removal procedure shall be conducted by a subcommittee appointed by the County Committee Chair. Where the Chair is the subject of the removal procedure, the subcommittee shall be appointed by a majority of the other County Committee Officers.

5.5 The person to be removed shall have the right to be informed of all persons who will be witnesses against him/her and who will testify in support of the charges against him/her, at least ten days before a hearing on said charges before the full County Committee.

5.6 The person to be removed shall have the right to counsel and to present all witnesses, documents and arguments in support of his/her position. The subcommittee which has tendered the charges may likewise have counsel and present witnesses, documents, and arguments in support of its position .

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Committee Functions, Records and Certification**

6.1 The Committee shall maintain records of all financial transactions, kept on a calendar-year basis, and a list of unpaid obligations. Financial records shall be audited each year with a report provided to the committee no later than the March meeting following the end of the organization year. A Finance subcommittee may be established to assist the Treasurer with records and other documentation.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Meetings and Voting**

7.1 Regular Meetings: The Committee shall meet regularly at least once each quarter. The Committee Chair may call special meetings. Where meetings are not held in a previously designated time and place, all members shall be provided written or electronic notice at least 10 days in advance.

7.2 Emergency Meetings: Emergency meetings may be called by the Chair upon 5 days' notice or upon such other notice as the circumstances may require.

7.3 Quorum: A quorum for conduct of Committee business shall be 33% of the Members, unless otherwise required in these Bylaws.

7.4 No person shall be entitled to more than one vote. Secret ballot shall be permissible only when electing Committee members and State Convention Delegates. Proxies may be allowed in extraordinary circumstances upon approval of the Executive Committee.

7.5 All meetings of each body of the Committee shall be open to the public unless the Committee votes to go into Executive Session or into Strategic Planning Session or as otherwise provided herein.

7.6 Unless otherwise provided for, Robert's Rules of Order (most recently revised edition) shall govern the conduct of all meetings. A copy of such Rules shall be available to the Chair and/or Parliamentarian during all meetings

7.7. Covid-19 Special Provisions. The Executive Committee shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are consistent with the advice of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Georgia Department of Public Health, and the office of the Governor.

7.8. With consideration to the advice of the CDC, the National Institute of Health and other National and State agencies and departments, in person meetings and all requirements of in person meetings are at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

7.9 The Executive Committee, in consultation with recognized scientific authority, shall determine if any particular meeting is to be conducted in person, by Zoom or otherwise as is reasonable under the circumstances.

7.10 It shall be the duty and obligation of each Committee member to provide to the Secretary and to each other, all contact information, including but not limited to: mailing address, cell phone and/or telephone number, and e-mail address so as to ensure that the correct and current contact information is available and is

current.

7.11 If reasonably necessary, meetings may be held by electronic means and called by the Chair or a Vice Chair upon reasonable electronic notice to all Committee members or members of the Executive Committee, as the case may be. Such notice shall primarily be given by e-mail to the e-mail addresses provided by each member to the Committee.

7.12 Notwithstanding any other notice provision, particularly written or in person delivery, delivery by e-mail to the e-mail address of any Member shall be considered as perfected for any and all purposes of these Bylaws by giving electronic notice to the last known e-mail address provided to the Committee by such member.

7.13 Any meeting may be hosted by any member of the Committee or as otherwise agreed by the Executive Committee. Any meeting may be attended by Zoom or similar video method, and, may be attended by telephonic means. A Quorum shall be as provided in Section 7.3.

7.14. Voting in Zoom or electronic meetings shall be by oral announcement or by a show of hands, as is consistent with the medium in use at the time. The Chair shall announce the results, shall confirm that the count of the results is correct and the Secretary shall state the result to be entered into the minutes and in the absence of objection, shall record the same in the minutes of the meeting. If any objection is made, such Objection shall be determined in accord with Robert's Rules of Order.

7.15 Because of the previous difficulties with electronic hacking and invasion of Zoom meetings, particularly with respect to invited guest speakers, all electronic meetings SHALL NOT be open to the general public, but shall employ a "waiting room" approach and non committee members may then be admitted to the meeting at the discretion of the Committee. Non Committee members, with advance approval of the Committee, may be specifically invited to attend meetings, including properly credentialed members of the news media. If it reasonably appears to the Chair or Vice Chair that any member is engaged in disruptive behavior, such member may be muted.

7.16. In the event of Covid or other restrictions and in the case of an emergency, electronic emergency meetings may be called for the Committee and/or the Executive Committee upon whatever reasonable notice may be necessary in consideration of the emergency or other situation.

7.17. Secret ballots are preferred but may not be possible during electronic meetings unless the entire Committee members present shall concur and, in such event, the Committee shall determine the process and procedure for such secret voting, counting and recording.

7.18. Disruption of in person meetings. While meetings of the Hall County Democratic Party and of the Hall County Democratic Committee are generally open to the public, instances of intentional disruption will not be tolerated. Attendance of any person at any meeting is conditioned upon good behavior and order. Should any person, including any Committee member, become disruptive such that in the opinion of the Chair or acting Chair, the conduct of meeting is being disturbed and/or interrupted, the person shall be warned to cease and desist immediately. If such person shall not immediately cease and desist, such person is deemed disorderly and a trespasser and shall be removed from the meeting location. Law enforcement may be summoned to restore order and/or remove the person or persons causing the disruption.

17.19. All persons, not Committee members, that attend any in person meeting may be required to sign a certification that they will obey the common rules of respect and order and agree not to engage in disruptive behavior. Such persons may also be required to consent, in writing, to be removed from any meeting if, in the sole opinion of the Chair of the meeting, such person's behavior has become disruptive.

17.20. All Committee members at all meetings shall conduct themselves with proper decorum and respect for others at all times.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Committees and Caucuses**

8.1 The Committee shall provide for an Affirmative Action Subcommittee. That



subcommittee may be known as the Affirmative Action and Multicultural Subcommittee

8.2 The Chair or the Committee may establish any other committees either deems necessary. It is the mission of the Committee to establish at least the following Subcommittees as time, staffing and resources may permit:

- a. Candidate Recruitment, Development and Outreach;
- b. Technology and Social Media;
- c. Communications and Messaging;
- d. Finance;
- e. Fund Raising;
- f. Membership;
- g. Minority Outreach;
- h. Affirmative Action and Multicultural;
- i. Political Organizing;
- j. County Events; and
- k. Young Democrats.

8.3 Caucuses shall be established in accord with these Bylaws.

8.4 A caucus is a constituent group formed upon the request of 4 Committee members in writing and presented to the Executive Committee. A Caucus shall be established by a 2/3 vote of members present at a meeting to consider the establishment of a Caucus. The Caucus shall have a statement of purpose contained in its presentation to the Executive Committee and/or a Mission Statement.

8.5 Each caucus shall elect a chair and vice chair and shall notify the Executive Committee of its representative on the County Committee.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **General Provisions**

9.1 There shall be no discrimination in the conduct of Committee affairs on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, color, handicap, national origin,

gender identification or age.

9.2 The committee is prohibited from endorsing one Democratic Party candidate over another in a primary election or special election.

9.3 No Committee member shall use his or her office to support: (1) any particular Democratic candidate in a contested Democratic primary election, or (2) any candidate who has Democratic opposition in a special election.

9.4 No Committee member shall publicly support a candidate other than the Democratic nominee in a General Election, if there is a Democratic nominee in such General Election.

9.5 The endorsement of, support of, or contribution to a candidate of another party or to an opponent of the Democratic nominee may result in the expulsion of such person from the Committee.

9.6 Any contributions to a candidate for public office by this Committee, if any, shall be accompanied by a cover letter, which shall state in substance, "This contribution is made on the express condition that, after election, you remain a member of the Democratic Party. Your acceptance and/or use of this contribution is your acknowledgment and contract that should you win election, yet, at any time prior to the end of your term, change parties or leave the Democratic Party, you will repay these amounts."

9.7 The Committee shall seek reimbursement of any contribution, whether real or in-kind, made to a candidate who qualifies for office as a Democrat and, after qualification, switches to another party. The Committee may require the candidate to sign an agreement to reimburse if a candidate who qualifies for office as a Democrat and, after qualification, switches to another party, or disavows the Democratic Party.

9.8 The Committee may recognize and allow affiliation of such county organizations as it deems appropriate.

9.9 Committee members are encouraged to make contributions to the Hall County Democratic General Fund each calendar year. Committee members are encouraged

to make in-kind contributions of the Hall County Democratic Committee as needed for the operation, maintenance and preservation of the Hall County Democratic Headquarters.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **Amendments**

10.1 These bylaws may be amended or revised for clarification at any Committee meeting by a 2/3 vote of those present, provided at least 10 days written or electronic notice of said amendments or revisions has been provided to all members.

Adopted June 26, 2007 and July 24, 2007  
Amended May 8, 2014; June 23, 2014; July 11, 2016, February 8, 2021, and  
January 9, 2023