

LEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BYLAWS

Article I.

Name, Powers, and Purpose

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Lee County Democratic Executive Committee (LCDEC), which may also be referred to as the County Committee or County Party as set out hereinafter.

Section 2. Powers

The Lee County Democratic Executive Committee shall act as the governing body of the Democratic Party within Lee County. The County Committee, except otherwise provided by law or the State Democratic Executive Committee (SDEC), has sovereign, original, and supervisory power and jurisdiction of all Democratic Party matters throughout Lee County. It is empowered and authorized to prescribe and enforce penalties against the violation of Party fealty including removing or disbarring from Party office, Party nomination, Party privilege or Committee Membership, anyone within its jurisdiction who violates such fealty or its rules or other lawful mandate.

Section 3. Purpose

The purpose of the County Committee shall be to foster Democratic ideals by stimulating active interest in the Democratic Party, to support the Democratic Party's National and State organizations and platforms, to contribute to party leadership development and candidate recruitment/ training, to accept responsibility for Party duties, to provide a constructive role for the volunteer in Democratic politics, and to promote an active base for the County Democratic Party.

Article II.

Membership

Section 1. Composition

The County Committee shall be made up of Democrats, defined as any registered voter who expresses intent to affiliate as a Democrat and has not demonstrated fealty to any other political party or candidate of another political party within the preceding three (3) election cycles, who have been elected by county commission districts; who have been elected to the SDEC and reside within Lee County; who have been elected to the DNC and reside within Lee County; who have been elected as an At-Large members- as defined below- by the County Committee; and who have been otherwise elected as an officer of the County Committee. The County Commission District Members shall be elected in equal parts male and female such that each district shall have a congruent or near congruent number of men and woman elected. They shall serve a term of four years and shall be elected during the Primary of the Midterm Election Cycle, define as the Election Cycle during which the President of the United States is not on the ballot. There shall be 36 such individuals elected by county commission districts in equal distribution.

Section 2. At- Large Members

As the Democratic Party is a Party of inclusion, the County Committee shall make good faith efforts to reflect the voting base of the Democratic Party within Lee County as a whole by allowing for adequate representation of demographics target groups amount its members. Such demographics target groups shall include but are not limited to individuals that identify as Black, White, Hispanic/ Latino, Native American, LGBTQ+, as well as Youth from the ages of 18-35. Each of these groups is entailed to a corresponding percentage of membership on the County Committee as they are a percentage of the Democratic voting base Lee County. If the County Committee does not meet these demographic representation goals by election of the County Commission District Members, it shall appoint At-Large Members by majority vote of the County Committee.

Section 3. Dues

Qualifying fees in an amount set by the membership shall be due and payable upon qualifying for a seat on the County Executive Committee. Any member who has not made payment of their fees shall not be considered in good standing.

Section 4. Attendance

Any member who, without good cause, misses three (3) meeting of the Lee County Democratic Executive Committee shall, upon his/her third absence, have his/her seat vacated. Any member that has not received sufficient notice, as set forth herein, shall not have an absence count against him/her.

Section 5. Voting

All members in good standing shall be eligible to vote. All votes during meeting shall be made openly. The County Committee may use voice votes, standing votes, or roll call votes. The Chair, without objection, shall have discretion over method to use. In the event that there is an objection, with a second, raised to a voice vote, a standing vote or roll call vote shall be implemented by the Chair and recorded by the Secretary.

Article III.

Officers

Section 1. Elected Officers

Elected officers of the County Committee shall be the Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each shall be elected at the Organizational Meeting in August before the Midterm Election in November and hold office for 4 years.

Section 2. Duties

- a. The Chair shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the County Executive Committee. He/she shall call and preside, or designate a temporary presiding officer if the 1st Vice Chair is unavailable, over all meetings of the County Committee and the Executive Board; make appointments to other positions, with the exception of the aforementioned officers, as required; act as official and sole spokesperson of the County Party; stimulate active interest in the political process, provide a constructive role for the active volunteers; contribute to effective leadership development and individual responsibility; liaise with the State Party, elected officials, and the County Party for election-related activities including qualifying candidates and certifying elections. Assist the other elected officers in their duties.

- b. The 1st Vice Chair shall serve at the direction of the Chair. He/she shall preside over meetings if the Chair is unable to do so or is requested by the Chair to do so. The 1st Vice Chair shall take over the duties of the Chair in the absence of that officer. The 1st Vice Chair shall act as liaison between the subcommittees erected by the County Committee or the Chair. The 1st Vice Chair shall, at the direction of the Chair, coordinate between other Democratic Party affiliates including by not limited to College Democrats, Democratic Clubs, high school Democrats, the business community, labor, churches, and other groups to encourage their participation within the County Party. The 1st Vice Chair and Chair shall not be of the same race nor gender.
- c. The 2nd Vice Chair shall serve at the direction of the Chair. He/she shall take over the duties of the 1st Vice Chair in the absence of that officer. The 2nd Vice Chair shall share in the responsibilities of the administrative and executive functioning of the County Party with the Chair and 1st Vice Chair. The 2nd Vice Chair shall be an ex officio member of each of the subcommittees of the County Party.
- d. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all County Committee and Executive Board meetings, conduct correspondence with the membership, maintain the County Committee's records including the official membership list, and be responsible for internal communications. Upon prompt completion of the minutes following each meeting, the Secretary shall provide the Chair with the minutes for approval by the full committee. The Secretary shall also submit a list of all members and officers to the State Committee annually. The list should include email and mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and county commission districts. At the start of each meeting the Secretary shall call the roll and keep an official record of attendance. The Secretary shall provide notice of meeting dates and times to the membership.
- e. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection, receipt, and deposit of all funds received; maintain an accurate record of receipts and expenditures; sign or cosign all checks authorized by the Chair and the Executive Committee; make the record of receipts and expenditures available to the County Committee or when otherwise required by the Chair; provide a summary report of the County Committee's financial status at meetings or as otherwise required by the Chair; provide an annual written report of the County Committee's financial status; make the books and all other financial records available to

the audit committee each year. The Treasurer shall be a member of both the audit and fundraising committees. The Treasurer shall be responsible for filing appropriate Federal and State campaign disclosure reports.

Section 3. Officer Elections

The election of the officers shall be held at the Organizational Meeting. At the meeting, if applicable, all At-Large members shall be seated prior to the election of the officers. No person who intends to serve as Chair may preside over the election of the Chair in which he intends to run. Nominees for each elected office are declared on the floor of the Organizational Meeting. Nominees who receive a majority vote shall be declared elected. If no person receives a majority of votes cast, a run-off shall be held between those two people receiving the greatest number of votes.

Section 4. Appointed Officers

The Chair shall appoint a parliamentarian, who shall serve at his/ her discretion, and any other officers not otherwise specified by these Bylaws as required for the general wellbeing of the organization and the Party.

Article IV.

Meetings

Section 1. General Meetings

During a nonelection year, there shall be a minimum of four (4) general body meetings call by the Chair. The Chair shall designate a reasonable time and place to hold regular meetings.

During an election year, the County Committee shall meet more frequently. There should be monthly meetings three (3) months prior to Primary Elections and there should be monthly meetings three (3) months prior to the General Election.

Section 2. Quorum

A quorum at any general meeting of the County Committee shall be 25 percent (or one fourth) of the total membership in good standing. A quorum of the Executive Board shall be a simple majority of its members.

Section 3. Notice

At least seven (7) days prior to a general meeting at which the following items will be discussed and voted upon, the Secretary shall mail, email, or call notice to each of the Committee Members:

- a. Proposed resolution
- b. Endorsement of candidates and/ or ballot measures
- c. Filling of any vacancies
- d. Proposed amendments to these Bylaws

Article V.

Executive Board of the County Committee

Section 1. Membership

Membership of the Executive Board shall include all the current officers of the County Committee and one member elected from each county commission district. Each county commission district shall meet, elect, and provide notice to the Chair and Secretary the member who will serve on the board. Should a seat on the Executive Board become vacant, the Executive Board shall fill that vacancy with a major vote.

Section 2. Function

The Executive Board shall approve all expenditures and carry out the Committee's business between general meetings in a manner consistent with actions taken at the general meetings, and perform other duties provided in these Bylaws. The Chair shall preapprove any written correspondence on behalf of the Board and the County Committee. The Chair shall convene the Executive Board whenever necessary and proper and shall preside over the meeting of the Executive Board.

Article VI.

Standing Committees

Section 1. Committees

When necessary and proper, the Chair or the County Party shall establish the committees of

Fundraising/Marketing, Communications/Public Relations, Precinct Organization, and Candidate and Volunteer Recruitment and any other committees to achieve the wellbeing of the County Party. The Chair and 1st and 2nd Vice Chairs shall serve as *ex officio* members of each committee. The Treasurer shall serve as an *ex officio* member of any the fundraising committee. Each committee shall have a designated Chair and Recording Secretary.

Article VII.

Candidates for Public Office

Section 1. Qualifying Dates

The County Committee shall not open qualifying before the State Committee opens qualifying and qualifying must end by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday 116 days before the date of the first Primary Election. County qualifying dates are set by vote of the County Committee and shall be publicized through local media outlets and on all online County Party presences.

Section 2. Qualifying Fees

The County Committee shall not impose qualifying fee for elected office greater than two percent (2%) of the salary of the elected office sought by the candidate qualifying. By vote of the County Committee, the qualifying fee shall be set prior to the first day of qualifying each cycle. The County Committee shall refund qualifying fees if a candidate wishes to withdraw on or before the close of qualification for the Primary Election.

Section 3. Declaration of Candidacy

Declaration packets shall be made available to the community by the County Committee. The Chair can designate a member or subcommittee of the County Party to accept and process qualifying forms. Any person appointed shall be properly trained to provide necessary assistance to candidates. The Chair is not required to accept forms personally. The subcommittee should have a designated Notary Public as notarization is required for forms turned in personally. An online option may be provided by the County Party. Only the Chair certifies the final list of qualified candidates to the Probate Judge which must be done 82 days prior to the Primary Election.

Section 4. Challenges

In compliance to State Party rules, qualification of a candidate may be challenged by any qualified elector before the Primary Election, if challenged within seven (7) days of qualifying. Grounds for a challenge include but are not limited to the following:

- a. Eligibility to vote
- b. Lack of residency
- c. Failure to abide by Party rules and Primary Election results in the past
- d. Failure to adhere to the principles and standards of the Democratic Party
- e. Engagement in any illegal activity
- f. Public support of another party's candidates

A challenge must be filed with the Chair and a challenge hearing shall commence no sooner than five (5) days and no longer than ten (10) days after the challenge has been received by the Chair. The Chair shall mail or email a copy of the challenge to the challenged candidate and to each other person affected by or having interest in the challenge. The Chair is authorized to make any order, other than a final order of decision, in any challenge where limitations of time make it impractical for the full committee to hear the matter. A reasonable security for the cost of conducting the challenge can be required of the challenger, and if not received by the Chair within a reasonable time set by him/her, the challenge may be dismissed. The Executive Board of the County Party, with the Chair presiding, shall hear evidence presented by all parties during the final hearing and shall make the final determination after which the Chair shall issue a final order in compliance with the decision of the Executive Board. The order shall be made available to the County Committee, the challenger, the challenged candidate, the State Party, and the general public. The procedure for challenging a candidate that has won the nomination after the Primary Election shall be the same as set out herein for challenging qualifying.

Article VIII.

Affiliation

Section 1. Affiliation

The Lee County Democratic Executive Committee shall act as the official governing body of the

Democratic Party of Lee County with the ability to determine the official platform and stance of the Party within Lee County. Any County Democratic Club or group shall affiliate as an associate member of the County Committee and pay any applicable fees established by the County Committee.

Article IX.

Amendments

Section 1. Notice

Any member wishing to amend these Bylaws shall provide notice to the Chair ten (10) prior to the general body meeting in which they are to be presented. Once the Chair has provided sufficient notice to the County Committee, the amendment may be adopted by two thirds (2/3) vote of the County Committee.

Article X.

Adoption

Section 1. Adoption

These Bylaws shall become effective immediately upon their adoption and shall be the governing document of the Lee County Executive Committee and the Lee County Democratic Party.

Certification.

I, **R. JAMIE LOWE**, HEREBY CERTIFY that I am the duly elected, qualified and acting Chair of Lee County Democratic Executive, and that the above and foregoing Bylaws were adopted as the Bylaws of the LCDEC and the Democratic Party of Lee County as of October 21, 2024, by the Executive Committee of the Lee County Democratic Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this Certificate as of 1/11, 2024. 25



I, **PARKER HAMILTON**, HEREBY CERTIFY that I am the duly elected, qualified and acting Secretary of Lee County Democratic Executive, and that the above and foregoing Bylaws were adopted as the Bylaws of the LCDEC and the Democratic Party of Lee County as of October 21, 2024, by the Executive Committee of the Lee County Democratic Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this Certificate as of 1/11, ~~2024~~ 2025.

