

**Bylaws of the Eighth Congressional District  
Democratic Committee of Virginia**

**Revised August 17, 2009**

**ARTICLE I – Name, Authority, Purpose and Duties**

1. This Committee shall be known as the "Eighth Congressional District Democratic Committee," ("EDDC") referred to in these Bylaws as the "District Committee."
2. These Bylaws are adopted by the District Committee under the authority of the Party Plan of the Democratic Party of Virginia, referred to in these Bylaws as the "Party Plan" and the "State Party", respectively, and shall remain in effect subject to amendment by the methods provided. These Bylaws supplement, but do not supersede, the Party Plan provisions relating to the organization and operations of the Congressional District Committees.
3. It shall be the duty of the District Committee to perfect the Democratic organization within the Eighth Congressional District.
4. As provided in the Party Plan, it shall be the duty of the District Committee to ensure the proper performance of the duties of the county Democratic committees within the District. The District Committee shall ascertain that each county and city committee is elected and reorganized at the beginning of each biennium according to the provisions of the Party Plan, and, if those provisions are not complied with, to call and conduct or supervise a new election of the county and city committee or of officers, pending any appeals.
5. The District Committee shall have the full charge of all matters relating to the nominating process of a Democratic candidate to the United States House of Representatives. The District Committee shall decide whether the nomination of such candidate shall be by primary election, assembled or unassembled caucus, or convention. When the District Committee determines that such nomination shall be by primary election, the methods shall conform to the Elections Laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and to the Party Plan. When a nomination is to be by convention or by caucus, the District Committee shall prepare the Call of the Convention or of the caucus, in accordance with the Party Plan.

**ARTICLE II – Membership**

1. The Party Plan states that the State Central Committee shall comprise an equal number of members elected from each of the congressional districts in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. To be members of the District Committee and State Central Committee, twenty persons who are registered voters and reside in the Eighth Congressional District, shall be nominated by the delegates at a District Democratic Convention and elected by the delegates at a State Democratic Convention or by such procedures as the State Party may adopt if there is no state convention.

3. The District Committee shall select one Democratic Member of the General Assembly and three local Democratic Party Chairs, vice chairs, or local committee representatives who reside within the Eighth Congressional District to be members of the District Committee.
4. The 24 elected and additional members of the district committee (chosen pursuant to sections 2 and 3 of this Article) shall be equally divided by gender.
5. All members of the State Central Committee as designated by the Party Plan who reside within the Eighth Congressional District shall be members of the District Committee.
6. Vacancies which occur on the Committee shall be filled by a vote of the remaining members of the Committee at the next regularly scheduled District Committee meeting. Notice of the vacancy or vacancies must be provided seven days prior to the meeting. Notice can be waived by a unanimous vote of the Committee members present. Members so chosen to fill a vacancy shall be voting members of the Committee subject to confirmation by the State Central Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Each local Democratic committee may choose its own method to select a proposed nominee to fill a vacancy in its membership on the Committee so long as the method chosen is not inconsistent with the State Party Plan. In choosing a method to fill such a vacancy, a local Democratic committee may consider precedents followed by its own committee or other local committees, but is not bound to follow any particular such precedent.
7. The Committee shall actively engage in outreach to various communities and should reflect the diversity of the Eighth Congressional District.
8. In addition to the representatives of Democratic organizations that are already members of the State Central Committee, the Committee shall consider representatives of the Virginia Young Democrats, The Virginia Democratic Women's Caucus, and other caucuses and constituency groups at its discretion, to be non-voting members of the Committee and will provide them with notice of meetings. Recognition of such representatives as non-voting members of the Committee does not make them members of the State Central Committee

### **ARTICLE III – Officers**

1. After the election of members at the district convention, the previous District Chair of the District Committee, or a person designated by the previous District Chair, shall convene a reorganization meeting of the District Committee, the agenda to include the election of a Chair, referred to in these Bylaws as the "District Chair", a First Vice Chair, a Second Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.
2. All officers of the District Committee must also be members of the District Committee.
3. Vacancies among officers shall be filled by election by the members of the District Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting. If the office of the District Chair is vacant or if the District Chair does not attend that next meeting, the First Vice Chair shall act as District Chair until and at such meeting. Notice of the meeting shall be made to all members of the District Committee by mail, email, or telephone call in a timely manner.

#### **ARTICLE IV – Meetings**

1. The regular meeting of the District Committee will generally be the third Monday of each month.
2. A quorum shall be 30% of the entire voting membership, including all at large and ex officio members.
3. All meetings shall be open to the public and shall be held in a facility which is accessible by public transportation and fully accessible to persons with physical disabilities.
4. The use of proxy voting is not permitted in any meeting.
5. The Secretary shall cause notices of the date, time and location of a regular meeting and a proposed agenda to be given to all members by mail or telephone call in a timely manner prior to the day on which the meeting will be held.
6. Special meetings of the District Committee may be called by the District Chair or by a call signed by 25% of the voting members. Notice of the call shall be provided by mail, email, or telephone call to all members of the District Committee ten days prior to the date of the meeting. The agenda at any special meeting shall be limited to the items stated in the call of the meeting.
7. The District Chair shall notify the chairs of the county and city Democratic committees within the District of the details of all regular meetings, special meetings and changes in regular meetings as soon as possible, with special attention to the timely subsequent notification of the members of the local committees.
8. Committee votes may be conducted by email, if the committee so determines and if circumstances require.

#### **ARTICLE V – Committee Operations**

1. The Committee shall adopt a plan and budget after its reorganization meeting.
2. The Committee shall elect a member of the State Resolutions Committee and the State Outreach Committee after its reorganization meeting.

#### **ARTICLE VI – Removal from the District Committee**

Any member who is absent without excused absences from three consecutive meetings, may be removed by the District Committee after a hearing before the members of the District Committee as specified in Section 6.8 of the Party Plan.

#### **ARTICLE VII – Parliamentary Authority**

Where not inconsistent with these Bylaws, or with the Party Plan, Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the meetings of the District Committee.

## **ARTICLE VIII – Amendments**

1. Prior to the consideration of any amendments to these Bylaws, written notice of the amendments shall be mailed to all members to arrive at least seven days prior to the meeting at which the amendments are to be considered.
2. Provided the required notice has been given, these Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present ~~of~~ and voting at a meeting of the District Committee.
3. The Committee shall review the bylaws in the spring of each gubernatorial election year, and determine if any amendments are appropriate.