

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

(As adopted by the Committee, July 18, 2022)

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

1. This Committee shall be known as the “Eighth Congressional District Democratic Committee,” 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 “State Party,” respectively. The Party Plan is incorporated in these Bylaws by reference. These Bylaws supplement but do not supersede the Party Plan provision relating to the organization and operation of the District Committee. These Bylaws shall remain in effect subject to amendment by the methods provided herein.
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 and city Democratic Committees within the Eighth District. The District Committee shall ascertain that each county and city committee is elected and organized 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 county or city committee or of officers, pending any appeals.
5. The District Committee shall have the full charge of all matters relating to the nomination process of a Democratic candidate to the United States House of Representatives. The District Committee shall consider that a primary election, as the most democratic of the allowed forms of nomination, is the preferred method of nomination. 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 method shall conform to the Election Laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and to the Party Plan. When a nomination is to be by caucus or convention, 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 the 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 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. If an individual who is gender non-binary is elected, the remaining members of the District Committee shall be gender balanced, e.g., one gender non-binary member, 12 women and 11 men or one gender non-binary member, 12 men and 11 women. The 24 membership positions shall be assigned by highest vote-getters until all positions have been filled; however, to maintain gender balance, no more than 12 members shall identify as women, as men or as gender non-binary.
5. All members of the State Central Committee as designated by the Party Plan who reside within the Eighth District shall be members of the District Committee.
6. Vacancies which occur on the District 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 may be waived by a unanimous vote of District Committee members present. Members so chosen to fill a vacancy shall be voting members of the District 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 as long as the method is not inconsistent with the Party Plan. In choosing a method to choose a recommended nominee, a local Democratic committee may consider precedents followed by its own committee or other local committees but is not bound to follow any particular precedent.
7. The District 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 District 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 District Committee and will provide them notice of the meetings. Recognition of such representatives as non-voting members of the District Committee does not make them members of the State Central Committee.
9. No member of the District Committee shall, in endorsing a candidate for any publicly elected office during the Democratic nomination process, use or allow to be used in relation to an endorsement their membership or position as an officer of the District Committee.
10. During District Committee monthly meetings or other District Committee-sponsored events, members shall maintain an appearance of neutrality relative to the Democratic nomination process for any publicly elected office.

### **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 Vice-Chair for Digital Communications, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other offices as the reorganization meeting deems necessary. The Vice-Chair for Digital Communications, or designees, shall be responsible for managing the digital communications of the District Committee, including all digital assets such as the website and social media accounts.

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 the next meeting, the First Vice-Chair shall act as District Chair at such meeting and until a successor chair is elected. Notice of the meeting shall be made to all members of the District Committee by mail, email, telephone or electronically in a timely manner.

#### **ARTICLE IV – Meetings**

1. The regular meeting of the District Committee shall generally be held on the third Monday of each month.
2. A quorum shall be 20 percent of the entire voting membership, including all at-large and ex officio members. A quorum may be established by in-person presence or videotelephony or by a combination of those methods.
3. All meetings, whether in-person or by videotelephony shall be open to the public. If in-person, the meeting shall attempt to be held in a facility accessible by public transportation and shall be fully accessible to persons with physical disabilities.
4. The use of proxy voting is not permitted in any meeting. Voting by eligible District Committee members by videotelephony shall be considered as if cast in-person. Committee votes may be conducted electronically if the District Committee so determines and if circumstances require.
5. The Secretary shall cause notice of the date, time and location of a regular meeting and a proposed agenda to be given to all members by mail, email, telephone or electronic communications in a timely manner prior to the day on which the meeting will be held. The Secretary shall cause a notice of the meeting, time and method to be published on the District Committee's website and on as many as possible of the Eighth Congressional District jurisdiction websites.
6. Special meetings of the District Committee may be called by the District Chair or by a call signed by 25 percent of the voting members. Notice of the call shall be provided by mail, email, telephone or electronically to all members of the District Committee 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The agenda of 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 of the Eighth 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.

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

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

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

1. Any member who is absent without excused absences from three consecutive meetings may be removed from the District Committee after a hearing before the members of the District Committee as specified in Section 6.8 of the Party Plan. Attendance at meetings as recorded by the secretary shall be dispositive in application of this Article.

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

1. 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, emailed or electronically transmitted to all members, to arrive at least seven days prior to the meeting at which 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 and voting at a meeting of the District Committee.
3. The District Committee or a subcommittee designated by the District Chair shall review the Bylaws in the spring following the quadrennial reorganization of the District Committee and determine if changes to the Bylaws are appropriate and should be proposed to the District Committee. Provided notice, as described in Section 1 of this Article, has been given, new Bylaws may be adopted by a majority vote of the members present and voting at a meeting of the District Committee.