

# **BYLAWS**

2013-2014

## **BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

### **ARTICLE I: TITLE**

The name of this organization shall be the Benton County Democratic Central Committee; hereafter, called the Central Committee or BCDCC.

### **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

As the policy making body of the Benton County Democratic Party, the purpose of the Central Committee shall be to maintain an efficient county organization in order to elect Democrats to public office.

The Central Committee shall foster and promote the Principles of Democracy as set forth in the Charter of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington, as revised. We encourage public participation in all levels of government with the goal of promoting the general welfare.

### **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the Central Committee shall consist of:

1. Benton County Democratic Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) elected or appointed in accordance with Washington State Law. (RCW -- Revised Code of Washington).
2. Elected Officers of the Central Committee
3. Members of the Executive Board
4. Acting Democratic Precinct Committee Officers (Article IV, section 3)
5. Democratic club/organization presidents, or their designees, who reside within Benton County.
6. Chairs and members of Standing and Special committees.
7. The Democratic Fourth Congressional District Representative.
8. Democratic Legislative District Chairs, or their designees, who reside in Benton County.
9. Democratic officeholders elected to partisan offices that reside in Benton County.

### **ARTICLE IV: PRECINCT COMMITTEE OFFICERS AND ACTING PRECINCT COMMITTEE OFFICERS: THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Precinct Committee Officers (PCO) are elected or appointed according to Washington State law.
2. Appointed PCO must reside in the precinct they represent. There shall be no more than one appointed PCO per precinct.
3. An Acting PCO may be appointed to fill the position of a PCO in a precinct in which he/she does or does not reside. The number of Acting PCOs per precinct shall not be limited. Acting PCOs must be residents of Benton County.
4. Elected, Appointed and Acting PCOs are encouraged to:
  - a. Inform themselves of the current basic issues and items contained in the Benton County and the Washington State Democratic platforms
  - b. Canvass their precincts for the purpose of identifying and registering Democratic voters.

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- c. Assist in the Get out the Vote (GOTV) activities sponsored by the Central Committee.
  - d. Aid and support Democratic Principles and candidates
  - e. See that their precinct caucuses are conducted in accordance with the pertinent rules.
  - f. Support all Central Committee sponsored activities.
5. Appointed and Acting PCOs shall have the same rights and responsibilities as Elected PCOs except when in conflict with Washington State law.

### **ARTICLE V: OFFICERS, THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The elected officers of the Central Committee shall be: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, State Committeeman (SCM) and State Committeewoman (SCW). Their duties and responsibilities are delineated in the BCDCC Policy Guide.

### **ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The Executive Board, which shall assist the Chair in implementing the programs and policies of the Central Committee. Members of the Executive Committee of the Benton County Democrats shall include: Elected officers of the Central Committee, Chairs of all of the Standing committees, immediate past chair, and the Democratic chairs or their designees of the Legislative Districts, which reside in Benton County. Non-Voting members of the BCDCC Executive Committee shall be one (1) appointed representative each from the FCDCC, the 16th LDCC, the 9th LDCC, the 4th CDCC, and the Tri-City Democrats Organization.

### **ARTICLE VII: STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Standing and Special committees, and the chairs' duties and responsibilities, are delineated in the BCDCC Policy Guide.

### **ARTICLE VIII: FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE**

The Chair, with confirmation of the Executive Board, shall appoint a person from Benton County to serve as a representative from the Central Committee to the Fourth Congressional District Democratic Committee Organization, if active.

### **ARTICLE IX: CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

1. All Central Committee and Executive Board meetings shall be open to the public. Non-members may be granted the courtesy of speaking at the discretion of the Chair. However, voting on issues raised shall be restricted to the membership only. The Central Committee shall meet at least once a month, except when it votes to suspend the following regular meeting. No more than four regular meetings shall be suspended per year. The date, time and place of the next meeting shall be decided upon as a regular order of business.
2. Special meetings may be called by the Chair or by the Executive Board, provided that due notice is mailed to each member of the Central Committee at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting date. An emergency meeting may be called

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without the ten-day notice provided that a good faith effort is made to notify all central committee members prior to the meeting.

3. The quorum requirement for all meetings of the Central Committee shall be 20% of eligible central committee members, but not less than 10 members. The quorum requirement for the Executive Board shall be seven (7) members. Once a quorum is established, the Central Committee or Executive Board Chair need not entertain a quorum call until all business included in the adopted agenda has been transacted (Reference WSDCC Bylaws Article II.D.5.b.)
4. The Central Committee shall adopt policies and rule changes or resolutions by a simple majority vote when the item for consideration has been published in the BCDCC Newsletter at least ten days before the meeting at which it is to be considered. Resolutions, policies, or rules that have not been presented in the newsletter shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote in order to be brought to the floor for consideration.

### **ARTICLE X: PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The latest revision of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the meetings of the Central Committee and Executive Board where applicable and when not in conflict with these bylaws.

### **ARTICLE XI: ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

1. The adoption of Bylaws requires a majority vote. Adoption of bylaws shall be an agenda item of new business for the Organization meeting following the election and certification of PCOs on even numbered years.
2. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, including proxies, at any regular meeting of the Central Committee, provided the proposed amendment(s) is mailed to all members at least ten (10) days before the meeting.

### **ARTICLE XII: CENTRAL COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION**

The Central Committee organizational meeting shall take place in December or January following each state general election held in even-numbered years. At the organizational meeting, the Central Committee shall elect officers and any representatives it is authorized to send to other Democratic Party organizations.