

# **THE BY-LAWS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC CHAIRS ASSOCIATION**

## **ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the North Carolina Democratic Chairs Association (hereinafter referred to as the Association), and exists as an auxiliary organization of the North Carolina Democratic Party.

## **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

The object of the Association shall be to give the Chairs of each County Democratic Party organization an opportunity to work more closely together and share their ideas, programs and projects; to provide an avenue for better communication and coordination between County and District Democratic Parties; and to promote laws and policies to strengthen the role of County and District Parties.

In addition, the Association may form one or more political party committees of the Democratic Party to engage in activity in connection with federal, state and/or local elections, including fundraising, training and other programs for the benefit of, and forms of assistance to, County and District Democratic Parties and Democratic candidates. Political party committees established hereunder shall register and report in accordance with applicable law.

## **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

The Chair of each organized Democratic County Party shall be members of this organization. The State Chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party, or his or her designee, and each Democratic Congressional District Chair, or his or her designee, shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Association.

Members of this organization may retain associate members status after their tenure as a County, District, or State Chair provided they pay \$25.00 per year to defray the costs associated with such membership. Associate members may not vote but may attend general sessions.

## **ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS**

The officers shall be a President, an Executive Vice President, three Regional Vice Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Their authority and duties shall include those indicated by their respective titles and as may from time to time be assigned or delegated to them by the general membership.

The President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by vote of the membership. The President shall be a sitting County Chair. The Regional Vice Presidents shall be elected by a caucus of the members of the Association from their region (West, Central, and East as further defined by list or map at the end of these Bylaws).

The officers shall hold office for a period of two years. Elections shall be held at the first regular meeting following the District Convention of each odd numbered year.

In the event of the temporary absence of the President, the Executive Vice President shall serve as the interim President during the absence. In the event that the President ceases serving as a County Chair or in the event of the President's death or resignation, the Executive Vice President shall succeed said office until the next meeting of the Association when an election for the office of President shall be held. That meeting shall take place no later than six months after the vacancy occurred. Vacancies in the office of President must be filled by a vote of the members at a meeting of the Association.

Vacancies in all other offices shall be filled by a vote of the Executive Committee or the appropriate regional caucus. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, vacancies in offices other than that of the President may be filled between meetings of the Association as provided in Article VIII.

#### ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall consist of the following:

A. The elected officers

B. Two (2) people from each of the three regions. These regional members shall be elected by a caucus of the members of the Association from their region at the same time as the other officers are elected. Each region shall elect one male Chair and one female Chair to represent it on the Executive Committee.

C. The immediate past President of this Association, without regard to their current standing as a County or District Chair.

D. In the event that a member of the Executive Committee, other than the officers, ceases to be a County or District Chair during his/her elected term as a member of the Executive Committee, said position shall become vacant at the time such person ceases to be a County or District and such vacancy shall be filled as provided by these By-Laws.

The Executive Committee shall have such duties and authority as the name implies. It shall meet at least quarterly and shall be the highest authority to conduct Association business between meetings of the Association.

## ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

There shall be a Rules & By-Laws Committee and a Resolutions Committee appointed by the President. Each Committee shall consist of 5-7 members who shall function for the term of the President. Both Committees shall have at least one member from each of the three regions.

Any proposal submitted by a member shall be referred to the appropriate Committee for consideration. The Committee may, at its discretion, bring items to the full Association for a vote with or without a recommendation.

## ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

Meetings shall be held at the call of the President or a majority of the Executive Committee but not less than semi-annually. The presence of forty (40) members shall constitute a quorum.

## ARTICLE VIII. VOTING AND NOTICES

Each member shall have one vote. In the event that a member is absent, he or she may designate the other representative from his or her County to cast a proxy ballot. Such ballot may be instructed or unrestricted at the discretion of the absent member. Notice of semi-annual meetings must be provided to members at least 30 days in advance.

When the Executive Committee determines that a vote is necessary between meetings of the Association to fill a vacancy in an office other than that of President or for other purposes, the vote may be conducted via mail, fax, email, or conference call provided that members are allowed to register instructed proxies and that the name of each member and the name of their County is recorded with his or her vote.

## ARTICLE IX. FINANCES

Such dues as are from time to time provided by action of the Executive Committee or the Association shall be assessed against the relevant party organizations. At the direction of the Executive Committee or the Association, additional activities may be undertaken to raise funds. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of Association funds and shall periodically make reports to the Association and the Elections Boards as may be required by law.

## ARTICLE X. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The same rules of parliamentary authority shall govern this Association as adopted by the North Carolina Democratic Party.

## ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting by two-thirds vote of those present and voting, provided notice has previously been given in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the commencement of the regular meeting; may be amended without notice at any meeting provided two thirds of all the Counties vote in favor; or may be amended by a mail, fax, email, or conference call vote of two thirds of all Counties.

The Regions of the Association

