

# **2023 [Proposed] Rules for Legislative District Reorganizational Meeting**

## **Statutory Authority: Calling of LD Biennial Reorganizational Meetings:**

As provided in RCW 29A.80.061, the KCDCC Chair shall, within 45 days after the statewide general election in each even- numbered year, for the purpose of electing a Legislative District Chair for each district located primarily within the County, issue calls for separate meetings of all elected precinct committee officers in each such district.

As provided in Article IX.C of the Washington State Democratic Party (WSD) bylaws, each such meeting shall be scheduled to occur in the December or January immediately following the even-year general election and shall serve as the organizational meeting of the respective Legislative District Organization, in which certain officers in addition to the Chair are elected. Each such meeting shall be conducted in accordance with WSD and KCDCC rules.

### **Section 1.      *Virtual Meeting Rules.***

The 36th District Democrats' Standing Rules for Conducting Virtual Meetings shall be in effect for the 36th's reorganization meeting. However, if there is any conflict between these rules and the Standing Rules for Conducting Virtual Meetings, then these rules take precedence.

### **Section 2.      *Appointments.***

The meeting shall be called to order by a Temporary Meeting Chair, who shall be either the KCDCC Chair or his/her designee. The Temporary Meeting Chair:

- a. shall have appointed a Credentials Committee to administer sign-ins for the District's Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs); this committee shall be comprised of members of the home district, to the greatest extent possible
- b. shall also appoint, for the meeting, a Secretary, Parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Tally Chair and Committee; and
- c. shall preside until a District Chair has been elected.

### **Section 3.      *Agenda, Meeting Rules, & Bylaws.***

After adoption of the Agenda and meeting Rules, the body may adopt amendments to bylaws for the District Organization if it is the will of the body. Bylaws may be postponed, either to later in the meeting or to a subsequent meeting; however, until and unless such time as the District Organization amends bylaws for the 2023-2024 biennium, its existing bylaws are acknowledged as remaining in effect.

Regardless of whether bylaws amendment occurs, the body may adopt standing rules for the District Organization.

### **Section 4.      *Elections.***

#### **Section 4.1.    *Elected PCO Votes.***

Only District-resident PCOs elected in August 2022 — including those elected by virtue of being the only candidate to file in a precinct — shall be eligible to vote on the adoption of bylaws or in elections for:

- a. District Chair;
- b. Vice-Chair (i.e., the office considered to be the Vice Chair of the organization for WSD purposes, even if the actual title is different; e.g., "First Vice-Chair" or "Vice-Chair for Pierce County");
- c. Representatives to the State Committee of differing genders;
- d. Representatives and Alternates to the KCDCC Executive Board of differing genders.

#### **Section 4.2.    *Membership Votes.***

If there exist officer positions or subsequent business on which non-PCO members of the District Organization may vote, and such voting members exist (even if only potentially via renewal of membership with immediate voting rights pursuant to District rules):

- a. a District Credentials Committee to process membership renewals and issue credentials to eligible non-PCO members present shall be formed as per District rules, or, if District rules do not address such matter, shall be appointed by the District Chair upon his/her election; and
- b. upon completion of the last officer election prior to those officer elections and subsequent business that non-PCO members may vote on:
  - i. the meeting shall, if necessary, recess to allow completion of membership renewals and credentialing for all non-PCO members present at that time, following which
  - ii. the District Credentials Committee shall report on the non-PCO members, which shall include the total number of such members credentialed; provided, however, that credentials issued to non-PCO members must be visually distinct from those issued to PCOs, and any ballots issued to non-PCO members must be visually distinct from those used for elections where only PCOs are allowed to vote.

#### **Section 4.3.    *Process for Nominations.***

The process for nominating and electing all positions shall include the following:

- a. Call for nominations.
- b. Closing of nominations.
- c. One-minute nomination speech for each candidate, in which the order of speeches is determined by the order of nomination (*see Section 4.7*).
- d. One-minute seconding speech for each candidate.
- e. Speakers for all races may be PCOs, candidates, or other residents of the Legislative District willing to publicly declare themselves as Democrats.

#### **Section 4.4.    *Nominations Before Start of Meeting.***

Candidates for elected officer positions may self-nominate before the start of the reorganization meeting by submitting a statement of candidacy (not to exceed 500 words) at least 48 hours in advance. The statements of candidacy shall be provided to PCOs in advance of the meeting, and the names of candidates who self-nominate in advance shall be listed on the website and in meeting materials which may include social media of the 36th District Democrats. For officer positions subject to a gender rule (i.e., Chair, Vice-Chairs, State Committee Members, and County Committee Members), the statement of candidacy shall state the gender of the nominee.

**Section 4.5. *Floor Nominations.***

Candidates may also self-nominate from the floor during the reorganization meeting. For officer positions subject to a gender rule (i.e., Chair, Vice-Chairs, State Committee Members, and County Committee Members), the statement of candidacy shall state the gender of the nominee.

**Section 4.6. *Nominations Determine Ballot and Speech Order.***

Candidates nominated before the start of the meeting shall appear in meeting materials in the order nominated and speak in the order nominated. Candidates nominated from the floor shall speak in the order nominated and following those candidates nominated before the start of the meeting.

**Section 4.7. *Same Candidate Nominated for Multiple Positions.***

A candidate may be nominated for more than one office, but may only hold multiple offices if the bylaws allow the positions to be held concurrently.

**Section 4.8. *Declining nominations.***

A candidate may voluntarily decline their nomination.

**Section 4.9. *Uncontested candidates.***

Uncontested candidates may be elected by acclamation. For contested elections, a vote is required.

**Section 4.10. *Voting Mechanism.***

When PCOs vote for organizational officers (e.g., chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, state committeepersons), they do not have to vote by signed ballot as required by the WSD Charter VII.G.2, PROVIDED that there is a mechanism to ensure the eligibility of those who cast ballots; e.g., a check-off list, sign-in-sheet, or ballot receipts.

**Section 5. *PCO Appointments.***

Persons approved by the body to be appointed to fill a PCO vacancy do not actually become PCOs until appointment by the County Chair, and no such appointment shall be effective prior to adjournment of the reorganization meeting. This does not preclude such persons being treated as members of the District Organization immediately upon approval if District rules so allow.

## **Section 6.      *Governing rules.***

District rules, i.e., the District Organization's bylaws, special rules of order, standing rules, and designated parliamentary authority—or, lacking such, the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised— shall govern all other aspects of the meeting.

## **REFERENCES**

**WSD Bylaws IX.B:** In any legislative district organization, only elected precinct committee officers and precinct committee officers appointed after the organizational meeting shall vote for district chair, the vice chair of a different gender than the chair who will act in place of the chair in the event of unavailability of the chair, two state committee members of differing genders, and any representative the legislative district organization is authorized to send to other Party organizations, and on the adoption or amendment of bylaws. Legislative district organizations may allow other Democrats to participate in all other functions, including voting in the election of additional vice-chairs.

**WSD Bylaws IX.C:** Each legislative district organization shall be organized according to state law, the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington, and other provisions pursuant to the authority of the Charter. The legislative district organization shall be organized in accordance with rules passed by the county central committee in those counties in which there are two or more complete legislative districts. In legislative districts where counties have not provided for legislative district organization meetings, the SCC Chair shall do so. Its organizational meeting shall take place in December or January following each state general election held in even-numbered years. At the organizational meeting, the legislative district organization shall elect a chair, a vice chair of a different gender than the chair who will act in place of the chair in the event of unavailability of the chair, two state committee members, and any representatives it is authorized to send to other Party organizations. The legislative district organization shall have a minimum of four (4) regular meetings a year.

### **RCW 29A.80.061**

Legislative district chair — Election — Term — Removal.

Within forty-five days after the statewide general election in even-numbered years, the county chair of each major political party shall call separate meetings of all elected precinct committee officers in each legislative district for the purpose of electing a legislative district chair in such district.

The legislative district chair may be removed only by the majority vote of the elected precinct committee officers in the chair's district.