

Mission Statement And Bylaws of Women Empowered Democratic Organization of Bergen County (WE DO)

Mission Statement

WEDO (Women Empowered Democratic Organization) of Bergen County is a women's political group dedicated to empowering women through involvement in the political process. Our primary mission is to educate and mentor women seeking to run for office and build a strong grassroots community of Democratic women who want to play an active role in local government, while being supportive of the causes of the Bergen County Democratic Organization. This will be accomplished by recruiting, educating, and supporting our members who will be a voice for women involved in the government and politics of the 70 municipalities of Bergen County.

Bylaws

Article I - Membership

A. Eligibility

1. Membership shall be open to any female who lives or works in Bergen County who is a registered Democrat in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey and to any elected official representing Bergen County on any level.

B. Admission

Application for membership shall be submitted on a form in general use by the Organization and shall be accompanied by advance payment of annual dues. Members shall pay dues as determined by the Executive Board in accordance with Article VIII and upon payment thereof shall be considered a member in good standing.

1. Any member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote in accordance with membership qualifications.
2. Any member whose payment of dues is delinquent in accordance with Article VIII shall lose good standing status if dues are not paid in full.

C. Expulsion

1. Any member of the Organization may be suspended or expelled from membership for misrepresenting the Organization, for conduct that impairs the welfare or reputation of the Organization or its members, or for violation of any Bylaws rules or regulations.
2. The Executive Board shall inform such member the reasons for said suspension and the member will be offered the opportunity to attend the next Executive Board meeting and will have the right and opportunity to rebut the Board's proposed discharge. If the member sufficiently defends their disputed behavior, no further action will be taken.

If the Executive Board decides against said member, it shall inform the membership at its next meeting of its decision and its recommendation. The members shall vote on the proposed suspension or expulsion. If approved by a simple majority of the members present, the suspension or expulsion shall take effect immediately. If said member is not present at the meeting, notice of the members' action shall be mailed or emailed to said member within one week.

Article III - Meetings

A. Annual, Regular and Special Meetings

1. The annual membership meeting for the election of Officers and Trustees, presentation of annual reports, establishment of dues and any other Organization business shall be held at a time and place selected by the Executive Board.
2. A majority of the Executive Board shall be necessary to constitute a quorum at a regular or special meeting for the transaction of business.

Article IV - Officers and Executive Board

A. The officers of the Organization shall consist of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, two Advisors, and Immediate Past President. The Immediate Past President will be a non-voting member. Officers shall be elected for a term of three years.

B. The Executive Board shall consist of the officers listed above.

C. Duties of Officers and Executive Board

1. All officers and members of the Executive Board shall serve for three-year terms and shall serve without compensation. All officers and members of the Executive Board must be members in good standing and shall serve without compensation.
2. The President shall preside at regular and special meetings of the Organization and appoint all standing or temporary committees. The president shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
3. The First Vice President shall manage all programming events and activities. The Second Vice President shall manage all membership related tasks. Both Vice Presidents shall assume the responsibilities of the President in the event of absence, incapacitation, resignation or removal, and assume responsibility of any other officer as the need arises until the President appoints a replacement.

4. The Secretary will keep the minutes of the Organization and Executive Board, file any certificates required by statute, give and serve notices and other correspondence to members, and present communication addressed to the Organization at meetings.
5. The Treasurer shall have care and custody of all monies belonging to the Organization; cause the money of the Organization to be deposited into authorized accounts in an insured banking institution and shall be one of the officers authorized to sign checks or drafts. The Board President can also be a signatory on the account(s).
6. The Advisors shall act as support to the Officers.
7. The Executive Board shall have charge of the property and business of the Organization with authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the General Membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the Organization. It shall offer advice and counsel in all matter of Organizational policy of membership and investigate all complaints concerning membership and investigate all complaints concerning the conduct of a member inimical to the welfare of the Organization.
 - A. Vacancy of Officers
 1. In the event of a vacancy in any office other than that of the President, the President shall appoint a successor to such vacancy until the next general election.
 2. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the First Vice President shall assume responsibilities of the President until the next general election and appoint a Vice President until the next general election. If the First Vice President does not want to assume responsibilities of the President then the Second Vice President shall assume that role.

Article V - Nominations and Elections

A. Nominations

1. Nominations shall be made from the floor at the June general membership meeting.
2. Only members in good standing for one complete year may participate in nominations.
3. Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail.

B. Elections

1. The election of officers shall take place at the June membership meeting.
2. Elections shall be by secret ballot if more than one candidate has been nominated.
3. Only members in good standing for one complete year may participate in elections.
4. Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail.

Article VI - Committees

A. The Standing Committees are:

1. Membership Committee
2. Fundraising Committee
3. Public Relations Committee
4. Legislation/Policy Committee
5. Training Education Committee
6. Outreach Committee
7. Bylaws Committee

B. Other Committees

1. The Executive Board may establish temporary or special committees at any time for the efficient operation of the Organization.

C. Committee Appointments

1. The Chairpersons of the Standing Committees shall be appointed by the President following the election of officers.
2. The Chairpersons of temporary or special committees shall be appointed by the President at any time and serve at the discretion of the President.
3. Chairpersons may appoint committee members with the approval of the majority of the Executive Board.
4. All Chairpersons and committee members must be members in good standing and serve without compensation.
5. No committee Chairperson shall enter into any contract or incur any indebtedness or financial obligation of any kind, except under the authority of the Executive Board.

Article VII - Endorsements

- A. The Organization will only endorse candidates running on the regular Democratic line for the November General Election.

B. The Organization shall not endorse any candidate until after the June Primary. This rule shall also apply to any special Primary.

Article VIII - Financial Administration

A. The Fiscal Year

1. The Fiscal Year shall commence on January 1st and end on December 31st.

B. Dues

1. Dues will be determined by Executive Board and will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting.
2. Recurring member dues must be paid by February 15th.
3. First time member dues must be paid by the June general membership meeting and will be due again in February of the following year.

C. Contributions to Candidates

1. In keeping with the organization mission of empowering women through involvement in the political process, the WE DO of Bergen County's Continuing Political Committee shall donate to women members in good standing who:
 - a. Are candidates for public office on the municipal level.
 - b. Are candidates for public office on the county level.
 - c. Are candidates for public office on the state level.
 - d. Are candidates for public office on the federal level.
2. Contribution amount is at the discretion of the executive board.
3. Contributions to other Democratic candidates can be recommended to the membership by the Executive Board but is not mandatory. The donation or in-kind services to be contributed to any candidate will be decided by the Executive Board based on eligibility of funds.
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Article IX - Bylaws and Amendments

Any member in good standing may propose a bylaw amendment to the Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee shall propose to the Executive Board any amendments it deems appropriate and/or necessary. The Executive Board shall review

the proposed amendments and, if it approves of them, shall distribute them to members a minimum of five (5) calendar days before the next general membership meeting. The amendments shall be effective immediately upon approval by a simple majority of members in good standing.