

# **Bylaws of the Vermont Democratic Party as Amended on July 19, 2025**

## **ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSE**

The name of this organization is the "Vermont Democratic State Committee," herein known as the "State Committee." The purpose of the State Committee is to promote the interests, ideals, Platform, and principles of Vermont Democrats, operate the Vermont Democratic Party ("Party") pursuant to 17 VSA §2310, support the election of Democratic candidates, ensure the adoption of a party platform, represent Vermont Democrats in the Democratic National Committee, and coordinate, encourage, and assist in the organization of Democratic town and county committees.

## **ARTICLE II - PARTICIPATION**

Any person who is a Vermont registered voter and who supports the purposes of the State Committee may participate fully in all Party activities and is eligible to be elected to any Party office, unless limited by language elsewhere in these Bylaws. Discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, economic status, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, ethnic identity, disability, national origin, or color in the conduct of the State Committee affairs is prohibited by Democratic Party principle and policy and by Vermont statute.

## **ARTICLE III - STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The State Committee is composed of the elected State Committee officers, the National Committeeman and Committeewoman, and from each county the County Chair and two State Committee members elected from the County Committee. No more than two of the three members from each county shall be of the same gender. Each county shall also elect First, Second and Third Alternates to replace absent State Committee members from their county at State Committee meetings. Alternates need not be gender-specific. All members and alternates shall serve for two years following their election to the State Committee or until their successors are elected. Alternates shall be given all notices and announcements given to members of the State Committee, and shall be eligible for nomination, election, and service on the Executive Committee. Alternates shall have full speaking rights at State Committee meetings, regardless of whether or not they have voting rights at that meeting. [see 17 VSA §2310]

The State Committee may remove any member, as well as alternates and members of the Executive Committee, for cause by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all those present and voting, at any regular or special meeting, provided that a statement of the reason(s) and listing the name(s) of the member requesting the removal shall have been sent by electronic or first-class mail to all State Committee members at least 10 days before any action is taken by the State Committee. This statement shall be accompanied by a notice of the time when, and the place where, the State Committee is to take action on the removal request. The State Committee member shall be given an opportunity to be heard and the matter considered by the State Committee at the time and place mentioned in the notice.

All members of the State Committee and Executive Committee shall identify any potential conflicts of interest created by any financial relationship they may have with the Party as vendor, consultant, and/or employee, and shall recuse themselves from discussions and/or votes as appropriate.

The members of the Executive Committee not listed above that are described in Article IX shall, upon their approval by the full State Committee, where necessary, become non-voting, ex officio members of the State Committee.

#### ARTICLE IV - ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS, NOTIFICATION OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

The newly elected members of the State Committee shall meet before December 15 of odd numbered years, at which time the National committee man and woman and the newly elected County Chairs and two Committee members from each county (or their alternates) shall elect officers for the next two years [see 17 VSA §2301-09 for details on Town and County reorganization]. The sitting Chair of the State Committee shall name an hour and place of meeting on a day not less than 15 days after the day set for the first meeting of the County Committees of the party, at which time the members-elect of the State Committee shall meet and perfect an organization for the ensuing two years. The Chair of the State Committee shall notify all members-elect of the State Committee in writing, at least ten days before the day set for the meeting. For all other State Committee notifications, the State Committee Chair shall notify all Committee members and alternates by electronic mail at least 10 days before the meeting date. For those members and alternates who inform the Chair that they lack access to email, the Chair will send them notification by letter bearing a non-metered postmark at least 10 days before the meeting. [see 17 VSA §2312]

The members of the Executive Committee nominated pursuant to Article IX shall be approved at the first State Committee meeting following the organizational meeting. All members of the Executive Committee except the At Large members shall serve until their replacement is nominated and approved by the State Committee.

At the organizational meeting, the members present shall elect by majority vote the State Committee officers, in the order listed in Article VI. In the event of a contested election to any office, the vote shall be by written ballot. In a contested election, if no candidate receives a majority of the votes, then the candidate with the fewest votes shall be eliminated and voting conducted again among the remaining candidates, until a candidate does receive a majority vote. Results of the elections shall be announced by the presiding officer conducting the elections.

No one person shall hold more than one State Committee officer position listed in Article VI.

#### ARTICLE V - DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Election of a National Committeeman and National Committeewoman shall occur at the quadrennial State Convention, as referenced in Article XXVIII, in accordance with all state convention rules. The terms of office for the National Committeeman and National Committeewoman shall begin on the day after the Democratic National Convention, and shall

continue for a term of four years, culminating on the final day of the following Democratic National Convention.

2. Vacancies on the Democratic National Committee which occur during the interval between State Conventions shall be filled by an election by the State Committee. The Chair shall schedule the election at the earliest meeting possible for which sufficient notice can be given. Election shall occur by written ballot and be by majority vote. Results of the election shall be announced by the presiding officer conducting the election. The person chosen to fill the vacancy shall assume office when confirmed by the National Committee, and shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

3. A member of the National Committee may resign by giving written notice to the Chair of the State Committee and the Chair of the National Committee. A resignation so tendered shall be effective immediately upon receipt.

4. A member of the National Committee shall be removed after any three (3) consecutive absences from VDP State Committee meetings. Any member so removed may be a candidate in the election to fill the vacancy.

## ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS

The State Committee officers are the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Officers need not be members of the State Committee at the time of their election, but become members, with full voting rights, upon their election by the State Committee. The State Committee shall endeavor to achieve gender equity in the makeup of officers to comply with the requirements of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) for voting membership. Officers shall hold office for two years or until their successors are elected. Officers who are also County Chairs/Representatives and/or Executive Committee members retain all privileges of both positions, except that they only get one vote and do not get replaced by an alternate.

## ARTICLE VII - VOTING

Except where otherwise provided herein, all matters shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the members and relevant/voting alternates present or attending by electronic means and voting. No member may be bound by his or her county committee to vote for or against any measure or the designation of any candidate.

Except otherwise specified, any reference in these Bylaws to “written ballot” shall be defined as a recorded vote on paper or using an electronic recording device.

No votes by proxy shall be allowed. Alternates shall be awarded the right to vote when one or more of the Committee members from a county are not present at the time of the vote. When more alternates are present than Committee members are absent, the votes of absent members shall be awarded to the alternates in order of their designation as First, Second, or Third Alternate. Changes in the designation of Alternates can only be made through a vote of their County Committee.

When votes are conducted by voice vote or show of hands, any State Committee member or alternate may request for the vote to be taken by roll call or recorded ballot instead. If that request is sustained by ten (10) other members and/or voting alternates, the Secretary shall conduct the vote and record the results. Results shall be included in the Minutes of the meeting, and also be accessible to any Member or Alternate immediately after the vote is conducted. Results of elections shall be announced by the presiding officer conducting the election.

When written ballots are used for elections and Party activities, the voted written ballots shall include the name of the voter and shall be made available for inspection by any State Committee member or alternate upon request to the Chair. Such request shall be made less than seven (7) days after the actual vote. In the case of virtual/electronic voting, the Secretary shall ensure that appropriate visual/printed records are retained to allow inspection, if requested.

For elections to fill vacancies on the State Committee (including officers), in the case of contested elections with multiple candidates, the process outlined in Article IV shall be used to determine the winner. (Also see Article XXI.)

## ARTICLE VIII - QUORUM

A quorum for the transaction of business of the State Committee shall consist of not less than fifty percent (50%) of the voting members of the State Committee or their appointed replacement alternate. At the start of every State Committee meeting, the Secretary of the State Committee shall certify the number of members (and alternates to non-attending members) who are in attendance and entitled to vote, and announce whether or not a quorum is present.

## ARTICLE IX - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall consist of the following members:

- A. Officers of the State Committee;
- B. Vermont's representatives on the Democratic National Committee;
- C. A representative nominated by each of any Vermont Democrats serving in the US Senate or the US House;
- D. A representative nominated each by the leader of the State House and State Senate Democratic caucuses at the time of the biennial organizational meeting, as described in Article IV;
- E. A representative nominated by the highest-ranking statewide officer elected in the preceding general election whose first-listed party identification was Democratic (as determined in the following order: Governor, Lt. Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor, Attorney General);
- F. A representative of Vermont's labor community, nominated by three leaders of the state's labor community that are selected by the Chair, who shall be identified by the Chair when the nominee is offered to the State Committee for approval;
- G. A representative of youth nominated by the Vermont College Democrats or Young Democrats;
- H. The Chair of the Vermont Democratic Party Affirmative Action Committee, named in accordance with the Vermont Delegate Selection Plan approved by the DNC in the course of our participation in the quadrennial Presidential delegate selection convention, or the Chair's designee;

- I. The two immediate past Chairs of the State Committee, unless they have been removed under the conditions of Article III, who shall serve until the next biennial reorganization, and,
- J. Four members of the State Committee elected at the first meeting after the biennial organizational meeting, as described in Article IV. The State Committee shall elect at-large members on a single written ballot and the four candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected. The terms of these At-Large members shall expire when their membership on the State Committee ends, or when their replacement is elected by the State Committee, whichever comes first.

The terms of the members identified in subsections C., D., and E. shall expire when the successors of the named elected officials take office, should the office-holder in question change. Their replacement nominations shall be considered by the State Committee at the regularly scheduled State Committee meeting immediately following their nomination.

The State Committee must approve all nominated Executive Committee positions listed, as well as the seating of the immediate past Chairs on the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to act for the State Committee when necessity demands and time does not permit calling a meeting of the State Committee, provided that the actions of the Executive Committee are submitted to the State Committee for ratification or rejection at its next meeting; and that State Committee members and alternates are alerted by either email or telephone of Executive Committee Meetings contemporaneously with Executive Committee members. Minutes of Executive Committee meetings, including attendance, shall be kept and distributed to the State Committee once approved.

The Executive Committee shall act as an advisory body to the State Committee Chair; review the State Committee Chair's annual action plan before presentation to the State Committee; review nominations for the annual David Curtis/Phil Hoff Leadership Awards ("Curtis/Hoff Awards"); and recommend and review budgets, financial reports and audits and authorize borrowing money in accordance with Article XVII. The Executive Committee may not modify the Bylaws, reverse decisions of the State Committee, approve any budget or endorse any candidate. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of at least 50% of the membership.

Notices of Executive Committee meetings shall be sent to all State Committee members and alternates, and members of the Executive Committee, a minimum of 24 hours before meetings are to take place.

Members of the Executive Committee who are also County Chairs/Representatives retain all privileges of both positions, except that they only get one vote and do not get replaced by an alternate.

## ARTICLE X - STATE COMMITTEE CHAIR

The State Committee Chair ("Chair") shall be the elected executive officer of the Committee. The duties of the Chair are to:

1. Preside at all State Committee meetings;

2. Ensure full funding for all budgets approved by the Executive Committee and State Committee by serving as the State Committee's chief fundraiser, and to build and maintain strong working relationships with donors and allied organizations;
3. Ensure that electronic notice of all State Committee meetings be sent to all State Committee members and alternates no more than thirty days and no less than 10 days prior to a meeting, and notice for all Executive Committee meetings, as required. The notices shall include the meeting agenda;
4. Ensure that electronic notice of all State Committee meetings regarding post-primary nominations for candidates for seats that have not been filled by the primary process be sent to all State Committee members and alternates as early as possible while complying with meeting requirements described in 17 VSA §2386.b;
5. Ensure that the Platform and quadrennial state conventions are held in accordance with the legal requirements of the state;
6. Ensure that any reports required by state and federal law are filed within the specified time;
7. Work with the Secretary to ensure the maintenance of a list of the names, phone numbers, email addresses, and postal mailing addresses of the members of all county and town committees making up the Democratic Party of Vermont, including officers, and to pass this list to the successor in office, who shall preserve this list and add to or subtract names as needed to keep the list current. The Chair shall make only the names on the list available for examination or copying (paper or electronic) by any town, county, and/or state committee member upon request. The Chair may, in addition to the list required by this provision, make available such further contact data regarding members of county and town committees of the Democratic Party of Vermont as the Chair, in consultation with the Executive Committee, shall deem appropriate;
8. Present an annual “Action Plan” to the Executive Committee by January 31 of each year for review and discussion, and to the State Committee by March 15 for review and approval;
9. Appoint an Executive Director, with the approval of the Executive Committee;
10. Appoint a Parliamentarian, whose principal duty is to advise the Chair, the State Committee, and the Executive Committee of parliamentary procedure at meetings;
11. Appoint members of standing subcommittees of the State Committee, as provided in Articles XXII and XXIII;
12. Give timely notice to all Democratic town and county chairs of the dates of the biennial re-organizational meetings and of their statutory and other requirements;
13. Form a special subcommittee to oversee the organization of and rules governing the quadrennial Presidential delegate selection convention;

14. Recognize caucuses or councils to focus on issues of interest to specific populations within the State Party (see Article XXIV);
15. Maintain communications with Party officers to review operational and financial matters; and,
16. Perform such other duties as are imposed by law (See 17 VSA §§ 2301-2320).

#### ARTICLE XI - VICE CHAIR

The Vice Chair shall be vested with all the powers and shall temporarily perform all the duties of the Chair in the absence, resignation, or disability of the Chair. The Vice Chair shall perform such other duties as the Chair, with input from the State Committee, may assign.

#### ARTICLE XII - SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY

The Secretary shall be the official recording officer of the State Committee and the Executive Committee, and shall ensure that a complete and accurate record of the Committees' meetings, including meeting minutes, are kept and filed with the Party office.

The draft minutes shall be available to any member of the State Committee upon request five working days following the date of any meeting, and shall be sent by electronic mail to all Committee members and alternates along with the notice of the next State Committee meeting. For those State Committee members who inform the Chair that they lack access to email, the Secretary will prepare hard copies of draft meeting minutes to be mailed by letter bearing a non-metered postmark at least 5 days before the meeting. The Secretary shall take similar action for other communications described in these Bylaws.

The Secretary shall take steps necessary to determine and record in the Minutes attendance at State Committee meetings, whether quorum requirements are met, and to confirm Committee members' eligibility for voting, meeting participation, and any other related issues (see Article VIII).

The Secretary shall include the Bylaws of all County Committees in the State Committee's records. It is the responsibility of County Chairs to ensure that the Secretary has a copy of the county committee's Bylaws, and to send copies of any adopted amendments to the Secretary no later than 10 days after their adoption.

The Secretary shall perform such other duties as the State Committee may assign.

An Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary in the performance of their duties, and serve as interim Secretary if the Secretary is unable to perform the duties of the office.

#### ARTICLE XIII - TREASURER AND ASSISTANT TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the State Committee and shall be responsible for the custody and supervision of all its funds; ensure that all debts and obligations of the Party are paid; provide the State Committee with an annual statement of the financial position of the

Party; provide the State Committee a financial report at each State Committee meeting or quarterly, whichever is more frequent; and serve as chair of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee. The Treasurer shall also work with staff to ensure that all required federal and state financial reports are filed in a timely and accurate manner.

An Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in the performance of their duties, and serve as interim Treasurer if the Treasurer is unable to perform the duties of the office.

#### ARTICLE XIV - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director shall serve under the direction of the Chair and shall assist the Chair in their duties and perform other such duties as the Chair directs. The Executive Director shall also perform such other duties as the Executive Committee may assign.

#### ARTICLE XV - DUTIES OF STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The immediate governance and direction of the affairs of the Vermont Democratic Party are vested in the State Committee. Some of the specific duties of members of the Committee are:

1. To promptly answer all communications from the Chair or any other elected or appointed officer of the Committee;
2. To aid the Chair in communicating with all county committee members in their respective counties, and to inform the State Committee of any actions taken by their county committee that pertains to matters before the State Committee;
3. To aid the county committee in their counties and assist the county chair in organizing the respective towns in the county;
4. To attend all meetings of the State Committee and report the results of any meetings to their county committee; and,
5. To inform their county chair and committee alternates of their inability to attend any State Committee meeting at the soonest possible date.

#### ARTICLE XVI - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall run from January 1 through December 31.

#### ARTICLE XVII - BORROWING MONEY

For expenditures within the approved budget and during the fiscal year, the Executive Committee may authorize total borrowing not to exceed the greater of 1/12 of the approved budget or \$50,000. During the fiscal year, the Chair and the Treasurer, acting jointly, may authorize borrowing not to exceed \$10,000. The Treasurer shall report to the Executive Committee and the State Committee all loans at the next meetings of those Committees following the negotiation of any loan and, in addition, shall report on the status of all existing loans in each report as required by the Treasurer in Article XIII.

## ARTICLE XVIII - CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES

The Executive Committee may authorize direct monetary contributions to Democratic candidates or candidates endorsed by the State Committee. The Treasurer shall report all such contributions to the State Committee at its next meeting following the authorizing of contributions. Contributions must comply with all applicable campaign finance laws.

## ARTICLE XIX - MEETINGS

The Chair in consultation with the Executive Committee shall determine meeting times. Meetings on a bi-monthly basis are preferred but in no event shall there be less than one meeting during each quarter of the calendar year. Other meetings of the State Committee may be called at any time by the Chair and shall also be called by the Chair upon the written request of eight State Committee members. Notice of all State Committee meetings shall be sent by electronic mail at least 10 days prior to said meeting to all State Committee members and alternates and shall state time, place and business to be transacted.

Questions of parliamentary procedure, if not herein provided for, shall be decided in accordance with the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order. Any ruling of the Chair may be appealed as provided by § 24 of Robert's Rules of Order.

## ARTICLE XX - RESIGNATIONS

Any State Committee member or officer may resign at any time. Such resignation shall be made in writing and shall take effect at the date and time specified therein, or if no time is specified, shall take effect upon receipt by the Chair or Secretary who shall record the resignation, noting the date and hour of its reception.

## ARTICLE XXI - FILLING OF VACANCIES

Any vacancies among the officers of the State Committee or members of the Executive Committee shall be filled by election at a meeting duly called for that purpose or at the next regular meeting of the State Committee, except for the vacancy of the Chair. The timing and method of election shall be determined by the Chair. In the case of the resignation of the Chair, the election of an Interim Chair to serve the remainder of the Chair's term shall take place at least 30 days after the State Committee is notified of the resignation. Any vacancy in the elective membership of the State Committee shall be filled from the county in which the vacancy occurs by vote of the appropriate county committee. Persons elected shall serve for the balance of the unexpired term of the vacancy.

In the instance of the resignation of the Chair, the election of an Interim Chair to serve the remainder of the Chair's term shall not trigger the language in Articles IX or XXII regarding ends of terms, nor shall the Interim Chair have the rights granted to the Chair to nominate individuals to serve on the Executive Committee.

For elections to fill vacancies on the State Committee (including officers), in the case of contested elections with multiple candidates the process outlined in Article IV shall be used to determine the winner. (Also see Article VII.)

## ARTICLE XXII - STANDING SUBCOMMITTEES

1. The following permanent subcommittees shall exist:
  - a. Budget and Finance, the Chair and Vice Chair of which shall be the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer elected under these Bylaws, respectively
  - b. Fundraising
  - c. Message and Communications
  - d. Platform
  - e. Field and Grassroots
  - f. Bylaws
2. The Chair shall designate the chairs of all subcommittees, except as provided in part (1) above.
3. The members of all subcommittees shall be appointed by the Chair, who shall report the appointments to the State Committee.
4. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, chairs and members of any subcommittee need not be members of the State Committee. However, no Subcommittee member shall be a member of a town, county, or state committee of any other political party.
5. The Chair may create or dissolve, with the approval of a majority of the Executive Committee, such ad hoc subcommittees as seem necessary.
6. The Chair may invite others as seems appropriate to meet with any subcommittee.
7. The term of all chairs and members of all subcommittees, except the Budget and Finance Subcommittee, shall terminate upon the election of a new Chair. The terms of the Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee shall terminate upon the election of a new Treasurer.

## ARTICLE XXIII - DUTIES OF STANDING SUBCOMMITTEES

1. The Budget and Finance Subcommittee shall be composed of the Treasurer (subcommittee chair), Assistant Treasurer (subcommittee vice chair), and from two to five additional members. At least half of the Subcommittee shall be members of the State Committee. Duties of the Subcommittee shall be to assist the Chair and Executive Director in crafting a budget for the Vermont Democratic State Committee and to review the progress, goals, and deviations of the budget as compared to actual results on a regular basis as determined by the chair of this committee. Specifically, the subcommittee shall:
  - a. With the Treasurer, establish and maintain procedures which ensure the control and disbursement of funds in a manner which ensures their security and which are in accordance with generally accepted and established accounting practices.
  - b. Present a proposed annual budget to the Executive Committee by December 1 for their review and approval, and then for review, consideration and action by the full State

Committee at their January meeting. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall ensure a proposed budget is prepared, whether the Subcommittee meets or not. An adjusted budget, if necessary shall be proposed by July 1 for review, consideration and approval by the Executive Committee.

c. See that a revised budget is prepared and submitted to the Executive Committee or the State Committee for review, consideration and action when income changes, expenses change, or other circumstances, in the judgment of the State Chair or the Treasurer, call for a revision to assure the effective operation of the State Committee.

d. Ensure accuracy of financial filings and reports.

2. The charge of the Fundraising Subcommittee shall be to assist the Chair, the Executive Director and the Finance Director in ensuring that adequate resources are available to carry out the annual plan of the State Committee and find ways and means of funding the budget of the State Committee.

3. The charge of the Message and Communications Subcommittee shall be to advise the Chair and the Executive Director on matters of messaging through the media and facilitating communication with members of other Democratic committees as well as politically affiliated groups and the public at large. Specifically, the subcommittee shall:

a. Work with Party staff to keep the Democratic Party's issues before the public in an effective way.

b. Share joint responsibility with the Chair to inform the electorate and promote the Party.

4. The Platform Subcommittee shall be composed of a minimum of six and no more than 10 members. At least half of the Subcommittee shall be members or alternates of the State Committee, or an officer of a county committee. The charge of the Platform Subcommittee shall be to facilitate the development and adoption of the Platform of the Vermont Democratic State Committee as prescribed by Vermont statute (17 VSA §2319). Specifically, the subcommittee shall:

a. Review the Rules and Procedures for the biennial State Platform Convention, and propose them to the Convention for approval;

b. Formulate a draft Platform which shall be presented to the Biennial Platform Convention; and,

c. Ensure the implementation of a successful Biennial Platform Convention to consider and approve the Platform.

5. The Field and Grassroots Subcommittee shall be composed of a minimum of eight members. At least half of the Subcommittee shall be either county or town committee chairs or vice chairs. The charge of the subcommittee shall be to facilitate and enhance participation in the Vermont Democratic State Committee by its membership and others interested in advancing the issues and candidates supported by the Democratic Party. Specifically, the Subcommittee shall:

- a. Facilitate the biennial party re-organization process;
- b. Each election year, participate in the development of a coordinated field program that includes input from county and town committees along with statewide and legislative campaigns and the Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign;
- c. Develop training materials and training programs for those individuals who wish to participate in Party activities and campaigns; and,
- d. Facilitate opportunities (regular meetings, online discussion groups, etc.) for Town Chairs to gather, communicate, get information from, and share input with State Party staff and leadership on a regular basis.

6. The Bylaws Subcommittee shall be composed of between five and nine members, including a Chair. The charge of the Subcommittee shall be to develop proposed amendments to these Bylaws at least every two years, and more frequently as directed by the State Committee Chair. The Subcommittee shall provide opportunities for input from members of the State, County, and Town Committees as their proposed amendments are developed.

#### ARTICLE XXIV – CAUCUSES AND COUNCILS

The Chair may grant official recognition to caucuses or councils of Democrats sharing demographic, interest, or similar identity, with such restrictions as stated in this Article. As defined by the DNC, caucuses are intended to focus on identity groups, while councils are to focus on interest groups. Caucuses and Councils are meant to a) promote the widest possible range of community engagement with the Vermont Democratic Party, and present proposals to accomplish that goal, and b) to encourage people with similar interests to be active in supporting the Vermont Democratic Party, and to facilitate such activity.

Recognition is subject to presentation of a draft Caucus/Council Mission Statement that must be approved by the Executive Committee. Once that approval is granted, the Chair will appoint a Caucus/Council Chair and Vice Chair, at least one of whom must at the time of their appointment have speaking privileges at State Committee meetings.

In the first quarter of every year, each Caucus/Council must present the State Committee with a report of its membership, attendance, and activities for the preceding calendar year.

#### ARTICLE XXV - RESOLUTIONS

State Committee members may propose resolutions for State Committee consideration. Members proposing a resolution must provide the full text of the resolution in the form in which it is to be considered to both the Executive Director and Chair of the State Committee at least 12 days prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered. The Secretary shall send the resolution in that form by electronic mail to all members and alternates of the State Committee at least 10 days before the meeting at which it is to be considered, and must send it by letter bearing a non-metered postmark at least 10 days before the meeting to those Committee members and alternates who have informed the Chair that they lack access to email. The Chair will determine whether to

place proposed resolutions on the agenda for the full State Committee's consideration, and will determine the order of consideration of resolutions on the agenda.

## ARTICLE XXVI - AMENDMENTS

Every bylaw may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at any meeting of the State Committee, provided notice of the intention to consider amendment of a specific rule and/or bylaw is provided by the Chair to all State Committee members and alternates by electronic mail at least 10 days prior to the meeting. All approved rules, Platforms, Bylaws, and amendments thereto shall be publicly posted on the Party's website, and physical copies shall be made available upon request.

## ARTICLE XXVII - ENDORSEMENTS

1. The State Committee shall endorse only candidates for statewide federal and state office.
2. The Chair of the State Committee may call a meeting of the State Committee to be held not less than 15 days after the primary election filing deadline and at least 15 days before the Primary election for the purpose of voting on the State Committee endorsement of candidates who have filed with the Secretary of State to run in the Democratic Primary for a statewide federal or state office.
3. At any time after the primary, a statewide candidate may request the endorsement of the State Committee by submitting to the Chair and the Executive Director a signed request for endorsement, accompanied by a petition signed by a minimum of 10 members and/or alternates of the State Committee in support of their endorsement. The letter and petition must be received by at least 14 days before the next regularly scheduled State Committee meeting, unless the Chair determines a special meeting is necessary, in which case the notice requirements outlined in these Bylaws will apply for that special meeting.
4. At such meeting when an endorsement is to be considered, the consideration of endorsement shall automatically be on the agenda. A motion to endorse is not necessary, nor are seconds. The candidates or their chosen spokesperson may address the State Committee for a time to be set by the Chair. The Chair may allow for discussion regarding the endorsement of a candidate.
5. Any requests for endorsement of one or more candidates for any statewide office shall fail unless it is supported by the vote by written ballot of at least 2/3rds of the voting members and voting alternates attending such meeting who cast ballots.
6. Nothing in this provision, or any other provision of these Bylaws, shall prevent the endorsement of more than one candidate for the same office.
7. An endorsement of a candidate by the State Committee does not in of itself grant a candidate access to the resources of the Vermont Democratic Party.

## ARTICLE XXVIII - PLATFORM CONVENTION

1. On or before the fourth Tuesday in September in even-numbered years, upon the call of the

Chair, a Platform Convention shall be held to make and adopt the Platform of the Party. In years when a Presidential election occurs, the Platform Convention shall be included as part of the Presidential elector selection process.

2. The members of the Platform Convention shall be the following individuals, who have full speaking and voting rights:

- Members of the appointed State Committee Platform Subcommittee
- The County Chair and State Committee Members and Alternates of each County
- Town Committee Chairs, or their designees
- Four elected representatives from each County Committee who need not be members of the County Committee
- The Vermont Democratic Party Executive Committee

3. Thirty days prior to the State Platform Convention date set by the Chair, the State Committee Platform Subcommittee shall submit to the Chair and each elected County Chair a copy of their draft Platform.

4. Thirty days prior to the State Platform Convention, each County Committee shall submit the names of their delegates to the State Platform Convention to the Chair.

5. Fourteen days prior to the State Platform Convention, each Town Committee Chair shall submit the name of their designee to the State Platform Convention to the Chair, if they opt to send a designee in their place.

6. The Chair must set the date for the State Platform Convention at least 60 days before the Convention is to take place.

#### ARTICLE XXIX - QUADRENNIAL STATE CONVENTION

1. During presidential election years, the Vermont Democratic Party shall convene a quadrennial State Convention no later than May 31 of said year (as prescribed by Vermont statute [17 VSA §2319]). Preparation for and participation in the State Convention shall follow all rules and by-laws of the Democratic National Committee.

2. Election of delegates to the Democratic National Convention shall be held at the quadrennial State Convention in accordance with all rules of the State Delegate Selection Plan as outlined and approved by the Democratic National Committee.

#### ARTICLE XXX – COUNTY/TOWN COMMITTEE BYLAWS, RESPONSIBILITIES, ETC.

1. On or before March 1 of every even-numbered year, every County Committee shall review its bylaws and adopt any amendments deemed necessary and appropriate by the membership.

2. The County Committees shall transmit their bylaws to the Secretary of the Vermont Democratic Party within thirty days of adoption, as referenced in Article XII.

3. In the case of any conflict or contradiction, the Bylaws of the State Committee shall have precedence over County Committee bylaws.

4. Town and County Committees may expel a member who

- in the last three years has run for any state or local office against a Democratic candidate under a different Party label or as an Independent, and/or
- has acted in ways that are contrary to Articles I and II of these Bylaws

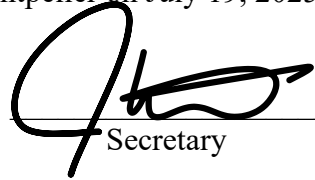
by revoking their membership by a vote of three quarters of the committee members present at a meeting for which notification is made seven days beforehand that such a vote would take place.

5. The Chair of a Town or County Committee has the authority to limit or exclude participation by those who are not Committee members in committee meetings and activities. Any decision to limit or exclude participation may be overturned by a vote of a majority of those members at a meeting where such a decision occurs.

#### ARTICLE XXXI - PERPETUITY OF BYLAWS

The term of existence of these Bylaws as currently constituted, and as hereafter amended by the State Committee or changed by operation of law, shall be perpetual and shall remain in effect for succeeding State Committees.

This revised version adopted through a meeting held in Montpelier on July 19, 2025.

  
Secretary