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11th Legislative District Democratic Organization

Bylaws

(Approved: February 18, 2003)

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Preamble

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10 This organization is dedicated to fostering and perpetuating the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party, to
11 increasing the interest of 11th Legislative District citizens in public affairs, and to creating a society where all people
12 may achieve the highest degree of social justice and welfare.

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Article I: Policy

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16 Section 1: This organization shall carry out the work of the Democratic Party with in the 11th Legislative District
17 of the State of Washington under authority of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington, the
18 Bylaws of the King County Democratic Central Committee, and the laws of the State of Washington.

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20 Section 2: It shall be the primary objective of this organization in all its operations to contribute to the growth and
21 influence of the Democratic Party and to increase party responsibilities in harmony with the principles of the
22 District, County, State and National Party Platforms.

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24 Section 3: The mission of this organization shall include:

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26 a) Discussing and deciding the issues of the day in accordance with Democratic values and principles.
27 b) Recruiting and helping to elect to public offices, Democrats who, by their records and reputations, are
28 in agreement with the platform of the Democratic Party.
29 c) Holding elected officials accountable to the people they serve.

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Article II: Membership

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33 Section 1: All 11th District Precinct Committee Officers (PCO's), elected, appointed, and acting, who physically
34 reside in the 11th LD, are automatically members of this organization.

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36 Section 2: Any other Democrat who physically resides in the 11th District is eligible for membership and may
37 become a voting member four weeks after payment of annual dues. Proof of residency may be required. Any
38 Democrat who does not reside in the District may become a non-voting affiliate after payment of annual dues.

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40 Section 3: Annual Dues / Subscriptions are:

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42 a) Household Membership (2 individuals at same address) \$27.00
43 b) Individual Membership (1 individual) \$15.00
44 c) Student or Senior (1 individual) \$15.00
45 d) Low-Income, Permanently Disabled (1 individual) \$ 6.00
46 e) Subscriber Only, no voting rights (per address) \$10.00
47 f) Dues are payable in February of each year. A member joining after February may prorate their dues
48 payment for the remaining quarters of the year. Memberships shall be valid through January of the
49 following year.

52 **Article III: Meetings**

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54 Section 1: Regular membership meetings shall be held on a regularly scheduled day of the week of at least every
55 other month at a regularly scheduled time. Regular meetings may be canceled or rescheduled for good cause by the
56 Executive Board or by the membership.

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58 Section 2: The Chair may call special membership meetings. Special membership meetings may also be called, by
59 the Executive Board, or upon request of 20 percent of the membership.

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61 Section 3: All membership meetings are open to the public.

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63 Section 4: Members shall be mailed a meeting notice, including a proposed agenda, approximately ten days prior
64 to each meeting.

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66 Section 5: Fifteen (15) members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business at a membership meeting.

67 **Article IV: Officers and Delegates**

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70 Section 1: Officers of the organization shall be the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

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72 Section 2: Delegates shall be the County Committeeman, Committeewoman and Alternates for each gender, and
73 State Committeeman and State Committeewoman.

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75 Section 3: Eligibility: Any person who was a voting member in good standing of the organization in all or part of
76 the previous biennium, whether Precinct Committee Officer or not, is eligible to run for District office.

77 **Article V: Duties of Officers and Delegates**

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80 Section 1: The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the membership and of the Executive Board and shall be the
81 chief executive officer of the organization. The Chair shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

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83 Section 2: The Vice Chair shall serve in the absence of the Chair and take on special assignments at the request of
84 the Chair and/or the Executive Board.

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86 Section 3: The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the membership and shall report them at each
87 membership meeting. The primary distribution of the minutes shall be through publication in the monthly
88 newsletter. Minutes of each Executive Board meeting shall also be kept by the Secretary and will be available to
89 Executive Board members at, or prior to, the next Executive Board meeting. In addition, the approved minutes of
90 the Executive Board meetings shall be available to the general membership. The Secretary shall, in cooperation
91 with the Chair, prepare and respond to letters and other correspondence on behalf of the organization. The Secretary
92 shall keep a permanent file of all District records in a notebook. Such notebook will be available to any member
93 upon request.

94
95 Section 4: The Treasurer shall maintain the organization's bank account and shall promptly deposit therein all
96 funds belonging to the organization. It is the Treasurer's responsibility to assure that all bank accounts in the name
97 of the 11th Legislative District Democratic Organization have authorized signers on file at the bank. The Treasurer
98 shall prepare a monthly financial statement and report the same at each membership meeting. The Treasurer shall
99 make accurate and timely reports to the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) as required by law.

100
101 Section 5: Delegates shall represent the organization at the King County Democratic Central Committee Executive
102 Board and the Washington State Democratic Central Committee as authorized, and they shall report to the
103 membership after each meeting.

109 **Article VI: Executive Board**

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111 Section 1: The Executive Board shall be composed of the Officers, Delegates, and up to ten at-large positions.
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113 Section 2: The at-large positions may be filled by appointment of the Chair and confirmation by the membership
114 for a term running concurrently with District Officers and Delegates.
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116 Section 3: The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the Chair for the purposes of planning and directing the
117 activities and policies of the organization. Such meetings will occur no less than once every two months.
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119 Section 4: All Executive Board meetings are open to the membership.
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121 Section 5: A majority of its members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business by the Executive
122 Board.
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124 **Article VII: Committees**

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126 Section 1: To assist the organization in conducting its affairs, committees may be established or terminated by the
127 Chair or by the membership.
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129 Section 2: The Executive Board shall form a Coordinated Campaign Committee. The Coordinated Campaign
130 committee shall be allowed to make decisions regarding funds that may be donated to the 11th Legislative District
131 for the campaign season. The Coordinated Campaign Committee shall report to the membership of its plans for the
132 campaign season.
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134 **Article VIII: Elections and Voting**

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136 Section 1: Only elected PCOs may vote at the District organizational meeting held in January of each odd-
137 numbered year.
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139 Section 2: Only elected and appointed PCOs may vote to fill Democratic vacancies in partisan public offices.
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141 Section 3: Except as provided in Sections 1 and 2 of this Article, all members may vote on all matters arising at
142 membership meetings. (See Article II for the definition of members.)
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144 Section 4: Elections for each position shall be held individually. To be eligible for nomination, a qualified
145 candidate must be present or have submitted a signed statement indicating a desire to be nominated.
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147 Section 5: Each election shall be determined by a majority of those voting. If there is more than one candidate for
148 a position, voting shall be by written, secret ballot. If no one receives a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest
149 votes shall be eliminated and balloting conducted again, until one candidate receives a majority.
150

151 Section 6: Officers and Delegates are elected to a term extending until the next District re-organization meeting.
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153 Section 7: Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, all matters coming before the membership shall be
154 decided by a majority of those members present and voting.
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156 Section 8: Proxy and absentee votes shall not be recognized.
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158 **Article IX: Appointment of PCOs**

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160 Section 1: Any member may apply to become a PCO in a precinct with no resident PCO.
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162 Section 2: Prospective PCOs shall submit their applications prior to or at a membership meeting, and those
163 petitions shall be voted on at that meeting. Upon approval of the membership, the Chair shall submit the application
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167 to the King County Democratic Central Committee for formal appointment. The 11th Legislative District Democrats
168 waive the requirement of voters' signatures as a qualification for an acting or appointed Precinct Committee Officer.
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170 Section 3: Appointees who live in the precinct they apply to serve shall be appointed PCOs. Appointees who do
171 not live in the precinct they apply to serve shall be acting PCOs. Acting PCOs have an affirmative duty to recruit a
172 precinct resident to become an appointed PCO.
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174 **Article X: Vacancies**

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176 Section 1: Upon the death, resignation or removal from the District of an incumbent PCO, the position shall be
177 declared vacant. In the event that an Officer or Delegate does not attend any district membership or Executive
178 Board meeting for a ninety-day period, the membership may declare the position to be vacant. A Board member
179 may be excused from attendance after notifying the Chair prior to the meeting.
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181 Section 2: Any vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term at the next regular or special meeting, provided that
182 written notice shall be mailed to all members at least ten days prior to the meeting.
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184 **Article XI: Endorsements**

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186 Section 1: This organization may endorse candidates for any public office, ballot measures, or initiatives or
187 referendum signature campaigns.
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189 Section 2: To be eligible for endorsement for election to a non-judicial office, a candidate must publicly identify
190 himself or herself to be a Democrat.
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192 Section 3: To assist the members in the endorsement process, the Executive Committee may develop and send a
193 questionnaire to potential candidates and otherwise investigate their records and reputations.
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195 Section 4: Endorsements may be made at any regular or special membership meeting, provided that the intent to
196 endorse was included in the meeting notice. Preprimary endorsement of candidates shall not occur prior to three
197 months before the date of the Primary.
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199 Section 5: Endorsement of any candidate or issue shall require a two-thirds majority of those members present and
200 voting.
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202 **Article XII: Operations and Rules**

203 Section 1: The Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer shall have authority to sign checks on behalf of the 11th
204 Legislative District Democratic Organization.
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206 Section 2: Expenditures of \$50.00 must be approved by the Executive Board and expenditures of \$50.00 or more
207 must first be authorized by the membership, except that the Chair and Treasurer may pay routine, recurring monthly
208 expenses without specific approval (e.g., mailing cost, copying cost).
209

210 Section 3: Campaign contributions may be made only to an endorsed candidate, ballot measure, or initiative or
211 referendum signature campaigns. All campaign contributions must first be approved by the Executive Board.
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213 Section 4: The membership may adopt special rules to govern any matter not in conflict with these Bylaws.
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215 Section 5: On all matters not governed by these Bylaws or by special rules, Robert's Rules of Order (most recent
216 edition) shall govern.
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218 **Article XIII: Amendment of Bylaws**

219 These Bylaws may be amended to a two-thirds majority of those elected and appointed PCOs present and voting at
220 any regular or special meeting, provided that the amendment was printed in the meeting notice or was presented at
221 the previous regular meeting.
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