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# **11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democratic Organization**

## **Bylaws**

**Approved: April 16, 2013**

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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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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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- 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**

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

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36 Section 2: Any other Democrat who physically resides in the 11<sup>th</sup> 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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- 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) \$10.00
  - 45 d) Low-Income, Permanently Disabled (1 individual) \$ 6.00
  - 46 e) Supporter Only, no voting rights (per address) \$10.00
  - 47 f) Household Monthly Membership (2 individuals at the same address) \$5.00 / month
  - 48 g) Dues are payable in February of each year. A member joining after February may prorate their dues  
49 payment for the remaining quarters of the year. Memberships shall be valid through January of the  
50 following year. If a member decides to pay their dues monthly, a \$5 / month minimum payment is  
51 required through our online payment provider.

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 sent a meeting notice, including a proposed agenda, at least five days prior to each  
64 meeting.

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

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68 **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.

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78 **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.

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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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

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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.

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107 **Article VI: Executive Board**

109 Section 1: The Executive Board shall be composed of the Officers, Delegates, and up to ten at-large positions.

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111 Section 2: The at-large positions may be filled by appointment of the Chair and confirmation by the membership  
112 for a term running concurrently with District Officers and Delegates.

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114 Section 3: The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the Chair for the purposes of planning and directing the  
115 activities and policies of the organization. Such meetings will occur no less than once every two months.

116  
117 Section 4: All Executive Board meetings are open to the membership.

118  
119 Section 5: A majority of its members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business by the Executive  
120 Board.

## 121 **Article VII: Committees**

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123 Section 1: To assist the organization in conducting its affairs, committees may be established or terminated by the  
124 Chair or by the membership.

## 125 **Article VIII: Elections and Voting**

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128 Section 1: Only elected PCOs may vote at the District organizational meeting held in January of each odd-  
129 numbered year.

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131 Section 2: Only elected and appointed PCOs may vote to fill Democratic vacancies in partisan public offices.

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133 Section 3: Except as provided in Sections 1 and 2 of this Article, all members may vote on all matters arising at  
134 membership meetings. (See Article II for the definition of members.)

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136 Section 4: Elections for each position shall be held individually. To be eligible for nomination, a qualified  
137 candidate must be present or have submitted a signed statement indicating a desire to be nominated. A qualified  
138 candidate is a member in good standing, living within the boundaries of the 11th Legislative District

139  
140 Section 5: Each election shall be determined by a majority of those voting. If there is more than one candidate for  
141 a position, voting shall be by written, secret ballot. If no one receives a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest  
142 votes shall be eliminated and balloting conducted again, until one candidate receives a majority.

143  
144 Section 6: Officers and Delegates are elected to a term extending until the next District re-organization meeting.

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146 Section 7: Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, all matters coming before the membership shall be  
147 decided by a majority of those members present and voting.

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149 Section 8: Proxy and absentee votes shall not be recognized.

## 150 **Article IX: Appointment of PCOs**

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153 Section 1: Any member may apply to become a PCO in a precinct with no resident PCO.

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155 Section 2: Prospective PCOs shall submit their applications prior to or at a membership meeting, and those  
156 petitions shall be voted on at that meeting. Upon approval of the membership, the Chair shall submit the application  
157 to the King County Democratic Central Committee for formal appointment. The 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats  
158 waive the requirement of voters' signatures as a qualification for an acting or appointed Precinct Committee Officer.

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160 Section 3: Appointees who live in the precinct they apply to serve shall be appointed PCOs. Appointees who do  
161 not live in the precinct they apply to serve shall be acting PCOs. Acting PCOs have an affirmative duty to recruit a  
162 precinct resident to become an appointed PCO.

## 163 **Article X: Vacancies**

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166 Section 1: Upon the death, resignation or removal from the District of an incumbent PCO, the position shall be  
167 declared vacant. In the event that an Officer or Delegate does not attend any district membership or Executive  
168 Board meeting for a ninety-day period, the membership may declare the position to be vacant. A Board member  
169 may be excused from attendance after notifying the Chair prior to the meeting.  
170

171 Section 2: Any vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term at the next regular or special meeting, provided that  
172 written notice shall be mailed to all members at least ten days prior to the meeting.  
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## 174 **Article XI: Endorsements**

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176 Section 1: This organization may endorse candidates for any public office, ballot measures, or initiatives or  
177 referendum signature campaigns.  
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179 Section 2: To be eligible for endorsement for election to a partisan office, a candidate must publicly identify  
180 himself or herself to be a Democrat.  
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182 Section 3: To be eligible for endorsement for election to a non-partisan office, a candidate must demonstrate  
183 Democratic values.  
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185 Section 4: To assist the members in the endorsement process, the Executive Committee may develop and send a  
186 questionnaire to potential candidates and otherwise investigate their records and reputations.  
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188 Section 5: Endorsements will normally be given at any time after filing closes. Early endorsements will be  
189 considered at the request of the candidate or campaign, for federal, state, and county candidates, and for incumbents  
190 of that office.  
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192 Section 6: Endorsement of any candidate or issue shall require a two-thirds majority of those members present and  
193 voting.  
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## 195 **Article XII: Operations and Rules**

196 Section 1: The Chair and Treasurer shall have authority to sign checks on behalf of the 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
197 Democratic Organization (for bank policy and liability purposes only, the title "President" may be substituted for  
198 title Chair).  
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200 Section 2: Expenditures of up to and including \$50.00 must be approved by the Executive Board and expenditures  
201 of more than \$50.00 must first be authorized by the membership, except that the Chair and Treasurer may pay  
202 routine, recurring monthly expenses without specific approval (e.g., mailing cost, copying cost).  
203

204 Section 3: Campaign contributions may be made only to an endorsed candidate, ballot measure, or initiative or  
205 referendum signature campaigns. The Executive Board shall determine contribution amounts, based upon the  
206 financial health of the organization and the General Election ballot. All campaign contributions must be approved by  
207 a majority vote of the Executive Board.  
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209 Section 4: The membership may adopt special rules to govern any matter not in conflict with these Bylaws.  
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211 Section 5: On all matters not governed by these Bylaws or by special rules, Robert's Rules of Order (most recent  
212 edition) shall govern.  
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214 Section 6: Emergency votes on endorsements of candidates may be held electronically and be validated by a vote  
215 at the next General Membership Meeting. A two-thirds vote of members responding is required.  
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## 217 **Article XIII: Amendment of Bylaws**

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219 These Bylaws may be amended by 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.