

BARTOW COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

BY-LAWS, Proposed June 2019 REVISION 1

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ARTICLE I

NAME

- 1.1 The name of this organization shall be the Bartow County Democratic Committee.

ARTICLE II

GOVERNING AUTHORITY AND DUTIES

- 2.1 The Committee shall be the governing authority of the Democratic Party in Bartow County.

- 2.2 Duties of the Committee shall be:

- 2.2.1 To determine Party districts and apportionment and develop resultant action plans to:

- Promote development of Party organizations and activities
- Perform primary and election functions as required by law
- Maintain appropriate records
- Support and promote State Affirmative Action Programs
- Raise funds to accomplish the above actions

- 2.2.2 To maintain and improve Party and voter files for Bartow County

- Raise funds to accomplish the above actions

- 2.2.3 To seek, identify, encourage, and support qualified Party candidates for public office

- 2.2.4 To interact with the State Committee to enhance and protect Bartow County, including its Committee, membership, and nominees from intra/extra actions of other organizations or individuals

- Perform other duties as required by the State Committee
- Elect State Committee members
- Raise funds to accomplish above actions

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP, COMMITTEE DISTRICTS, AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS

3.1 Membership:

3.1.1 Any person age 18 or over who resides in and is registered to vote in Bartow County and who shall declare himself or herself to be a member of the Democratic Party shall be entitled to membership in the Bartow County Democratic Committee.

3.1.2 Dues will be determined by the members of the Bartow County Democratic Committee. No member will be denied participation for failure to pay. Dues are \$20.00 as of January 1, 2016.

3.2 Any member of the Bartow County Democratic Committee is eligible to be elected to the Executive Committee after one (1) year of membership, if he or she has attended a minimum of six (6) Committee meetings that year.

3.3 For Bartow County Committee membership purposes, Bartow County shall have seven (7) districts. Five (5) of the seven (7) district boundaries shall coincide with the five (5) numbered Bartow County School Districts, one (1) of the seven (7) district boundaries shall coincide with the Cartersville school district, and one (1) of the seven (7) districts shall be At-Large.

3.4 Election of Committee Members:

3.4.1 Each district shall consist of six (6) Committee Post members; three (3) members of each district shall be elected in Presidential election years, and three (3) members of each district shall be elected in Gubernatorial election years. In the first election after adoption of these By-Laws, all Committee Post members for the districts shall be elected at large by a party district caucus. Three (3) members for each district shall serve until the next Presidential election year; three (3) members shall serve until the next Gubernatorial election year. The County Committee may, at any time, vote to change the number of posts allocated per Party District.

3.4.2 Committee members shall be elected by a Party District Caucus. In all Committee Post elections subsequent to the first election, the caucus shall be held in odd numbered years preceding the election in which their Committee Post terms expire, and within 45 days following the General Primary.

- 3.4.3 Bartow County Democratic Party members who reside in a particular County Committee District shall be eligible to caucus and vote for Committee Post candidates from that District. At-Large County Committee members shall be elected by the entire district party caucus.
- 3.4.4. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected without the necessity of a runoff.
- 3.4.5 Public notice of the election for County Committee Posts shall be given by posting the notice in a prominent place in the county courthouse and by publishing the same in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at least once a week for the four weeks preceding the closing of qualification for such office.
- 3.4.6 Newly elected Committee Post members shall take office on the first day of the first month after their election, and shall serve for four (4) years, unless affected by reapportionment.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 4.1 The Committee shall elect officers no later than December 31 of even numbered years to take office January 1 of the following year, or immediately following the election, whichever is earlier. The new Chair shall immediately upon taking office notify the State Committee Chair and appropriate Congressional District Chair of his or her election.
- 4.2 The Committee shall elect from its membership a Chair, at least 2 Vice Chairs, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. When possible, at least one of the Vice-Chairs shall be of the opposite gender from the Chair. The Committee may from time to time expand the number of Vice-Chairs. The person receiving the majority of votes for election to an office shall be declared elected.
- 4.3 Officers shall serve-two (2) year terms, and the Chairman may serve no more than two (2) terms consecutively. Terms begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected.
- 4.4 All County Committee reports, records, and files must be promptly turned over to newly elected officers.
- 4.5 Any member of the Bartow County Democratic Committee is eligible to be elected to the Executive Committee after one (1) year of membership, provided that he or she has attended a minimum of six (6) Committee meetings that year.

- 4.6 Attendance rules governing elected and appointed officials
 - 4.6.1 Any member holding an elected or appointed position in the Bartow County Democratic Committee must attend 2 out of every 3 meetings.
 - 4.6.2 Every elected or appointed official shall be required to sign an attendance roster at each meeting. The Recording Secretary shall maintain the attendance records covering all elected and appointed officials of the Bartow County Democratic Committee. Consideration shall be given for reasonable and valid excuses.
 - 4.6.3 The first violation of the attendance rule will result in a written warning.
 - 4.6.4 The second violation of the attendance rule may form the basis for cause for removal from office.

ARTICLE V

SUBCOMMITTEES

- 5.1 The County Committee shall provide for an Affirmative Action Subcommittee.
- 5.2 Each Committee may provide for the election or appointment of such sub-committees as they may be deemed necessary. All members of any subcommittees, elected or appointed at any time, shall serve at the pleasure of the Committee. The Chairman or his or her designee shall serve as an ex officio member of all committees with voice, but no vote.
- 5.3 Members of subcommittees need not be members of the County Committee.

ARTICLE VI

VACANCIES AND REMOVAL

- 6.1 All vacancies in County Committee posts or offices shall be filled by election from the remaining Committee members, provided at least three (3) such members remain. Candidates elected to fill vacancies shall serve for the remainder of the term.

- 6.2 The County Chair shall call a special election to fill any vacancy of a State Committee member in accordance with Article II, Section 7 of the DPG By-Laws. No vacancy for State Committee member may be filled by appointment. State Committee members may be removed for cause by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the State Committee, provided there is a fifty percent quorum or in accordance with Article II, Section 8 of the DPG By-Laws.
- 6.3 County Committee members and officers may be removed by the County Committee for cause, with reasonable notice, and with the opportunity to be heard, by $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the County Committee, provided a 40% quorum is met.
- 6.4 Any person subject to removal shall receive written notice of the alleged reasons for removal.
- 6.5 The removal procedure shall be conducted by a subcommittee appointed by the County Committee Chair. Where the Chair is the subject of the removal procedure, the subcommittee shall be appointed by a majority of the other Committee Officers.
- 6.6 The person to be removed shall have the right to be informed of all persons who will be witnesses against him or her and who will testify in support of the charges against him or her, at least 10 days before a hearing on said charges before the full County Committee.
- 6.7 The person to be removed shall have the right to counsel and to present all witnesses, documents, and arguments in support of his or her position. The subcommittee which has initiated the charges may likewise have counsel and present witnesses, documents and arguments in support of its position.

ARTICLE VII

STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 7.1 Regular State Committee members shall be elected by the members of the County Committee according to the population-based formula designated in Article II of the DPG By-Laws.
- 7.2 A person does not have to be a County Committee member to be elected to the State Committee.
- 7.3 Election of State Committee members shall be set by the State Chair for a date subsequent to regular gubernatorial election.
- 7.4 Elections of the State Committee members may be conducted at either a regular meeting of the County Committee or a meeting called specially for this purpose.

- 7.5 All persons desiring to be candidates for the State Committee must sign the affidavit attached to these By-Laws as Exhibit A.
- 7.6 The County Committee may allow one short (1 minute) speech on behalf of those seeking to be elected to the State Committee.
- 7.7 Each member of the County Committee should vote for the number of State Committee members allotted to Bartow County. The candidate receiving the most votes shall be seated first. The candidate of the opposite gender receiving the most votes shall be seated second. This shall continue until all allotted State Committee positions are filled. If there is not a candidate of appropriate gender, that position shall be filled by the candidate with the next highest number of votes.
- 7.8 All votes shall be by a signed paper ballot.
- 7.9 Following the election, the County Chair shall certify to the State Chair the names, addresses, and phone numbers of those persons elected as members of the State Committee and shall file their candidacy affidavits with the Congressional District Chair.

ARTICLE VIII

COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS, RECORDS AND CERTIFICATION

- 8.1 The Committee shall maintain records of all financial transactions, kept on a calendar year basis, and a list of all unpaid obligations. An audit will be conducted annually by auditors. The results will be shared at the next membership meeting.
- 8.2 The County Committee shall maintain records of information to be filed with the State Party Chair.
- 8.3 In meeting filing requirements, the County Committee shall report directly to the State Chair. The County Committee shall file with the State Chair a list of membership, all rules, regulations, bylaws, and charters of affiliates, an annual report of activities or minutes, the location and signatories of Committee bank accounts, and certification by the County Committee Chair that the Committee duly constituted and organized, is following sound financial operating procedures.

ARTICLE IX

MEETINGS AND VOTING

- 9.1 The Committee shall meet regularly at least monthly. The Committee Chair may call special meetings. Where meetings are not held in a previously designated time and place, all members shall be provided notice at least ten (10) days in advance.
- 9.2 Emergency meetings may be called by the Chair upon five (5) day notice with approval of all Committee officers.
- 9.3 A quorum for conducting Committee business shall be 40% of the Executive Committee members and 10% of the general membership.
- 9.4 No person shall be entitled to more than one vote in or on any convention, caucus, committee, or any affiliated organization, even though such person shall be a member of, or delegate, or alternate to any of the foregoing in more than one capacity. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted except where specifically provided for. Secret ballot shall be permissible only when electing Executive Committee members and State Convention Delegates.
- 9.5 All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public unless the Committee votes to go into Executive Session.
- 9.6 Robert's Rules of Order, most recently revised, shall govern the conduct of all meetings, or be dispensed with if time for discussion and action is limited and if 50% of the Committee members present agree.
- 9.7 The first meeting following an election (primary or general) shall be designated to discuss the election. No other business will be addressed at this meeting unless the election topic is fully discussed, and more time is available.

ARTICLE X

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 10.1 There shall be no discrimination in the conduct of Committee affairs on the basis of gender, race, religion, color, handicap, national origin, age, or sexual orientation.

- 10.2 The Committee and affiliates are prohibited from supporting a Democratic candidate who has opposition during a primary, or Democratic opposition during a special election.
- 10.3 No Committee member shall publicly support a candidate other than the Democratic nominee in a general election.
- 10.4 The endorsement of, support of, or contribution to a candidate of another party or to an opponent of the Democratic nominee may result in the expulsion of such person from the Committee.
- 10.5 Any contribution by the Committee to a candidate for public office shall be accompanied by a notarized document, signed by the candidate, which shall state in substance, "This contribution is made on the express condition that the candidate remain a member of the Democratic Party. Acceptance and/or use of this contribution is an acknowledgment and contract that, should the candidate win election, yet at any time prior to the end of his or her term, change parties or leave the Democratic Committee, he or she will repay these amounts."
- 10.6 The Committee may recognize and allow affiliation with such county organizations as it deems appropriate.

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENTS

- 11.1 These bylaws may be amended as follows: A written change will be given to the Chair of the By-Laws Committee; he or she will meet with the By-Laws Committee and share the proposed change. Any proposed changes will be read to the full membership with no discussion at the first meeting. At the following meeting there will be a second reading with questions and debate, then a full vote by the Committee membership. The change must pass by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.

ATTACHMENT A

_____ County, GA

_____ Date of Election

I am a resident and registered voter in _____ County, GA. I hereby make application to be an elected member of the Democratic Party of Georgia State Committee. I believe in the goals of the Democratic Party of Georgia, am not a member of any other political party or body (as defined in the Georgia Election Code), and am not affiliated with any political group whose ideals, goals, and methods are incompatible with that of the Democratic Party of Georgia (as identified by the Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of Georgia).

Applicant (printed name) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Signature _____

ATTACHMENT B

Apportionment of Bartow County Democratic Party:

School District 1:

Registered Voters: 11,073 (17%)
SD/LD: 178/495 (15%)
Current BCDC Members: 9 (23%)

School District 2:

Registered Voters: 10,090 (16%)
SD/LD: 172/480 (14%)
Current BCDC Members: 3 (7%)

School District 3:

Registered Voters: 9,629 (14%)
SD/LD: 215/531 (16%)
Current BCDC Members: 6 (15%)

School District 4:

Registered Voters: 10,605 (16%)
SD/LD: 212/511 (16%)
Current BCDC Members: 5 (12%)

School District 5:

Registered Voters: 9,243 (14%)
SD/LD: 163/354 (11%)
Current BCDC Members: 0 (0%)

Cartersville School District:

Registered Voters: 12,335 (19%)
SD/LD: 314/777 (24%)
Current BCDC Members: 16 (41%)

Total Bartow Registered Voters: 62,975
Total SD/LD: 4402 (7%)
Total BCDC Members: 39