

Small County Coalition Bylaws

Last Amended October 11, 2019

ARTICLE I –NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Florida Democratic Party Small County Coalition {"the Coalition"}.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVE AND PURPOSE

The objective of this organization shall be to stimulate active interest in political and governmental affairs in counties with fewer than 40,000 registered Democratic voters; to strengthen and further the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party; to provide reasonable and ongoing support to small-county Democratic Executive Committees; to promote participation among Democrats in election activities; to support and elect the duly selected nominees of the Democratic Party in national, state, and local campaigns; and to foster good fellowship among all Democrats. In any and all primary elections, no candidate will be endorsed or supported individually by this Coalition. At no time, will a candidate from another political party organization be supported by any member of this Coalition.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. No restrictions other than those specifically provided for in these Bylaws may be placed upon membership, or the privileges of membership, in this Coalition.
- Section 2. Voting membership of this Coalition is limited to the counties with fewer than 40,000 registered Democratic voters as of December 31 (12/31), and payment of Coalition dues. Those counties that exceed 40,000 registered Democratic voters for three (3) consecutive years are no longer eligible for voting membership in the Coalition.
- Section 3. Membership shall become effective upon receipt by the Coalition of the annual dues provided for in Article IV of these bylaws.
- Section 4. Each county paying annual membership dues shall be entitled to four (4) votes, one vote each for its duly elected chair, vice chair, state committeeman, and state committeewoman. If an

individual holds more than one position, that individual gets only one vote.

Section 5. Any person who ceases to be the duly elected chair, vice chair, state committeeman, and state committeewoman in their county of jurisdiction automatically ceases to be a voting member of this Coalition.

Section 6. A non-voting category of membership may be established for counties who do not qualify for voting membership and profess interest in furthering the objectives of the Coalition. Non-voting members shall not be eligible to hold office in the Coalition.

ARTICLE IV –DUES

Annual dues shall be \$100.00 per county. Dues shall be payable to the Treasurer by January 15 for the ensuing year, or at the time of becoming a Coalition member.

ARTICLE V –OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Coalition shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws.

Section 2. All terms of office shall be for two years. Officers shall be eligible for unlimited terms in the same office.

Section 3. An officer or member of the Coalition may be removed from office or membership upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Coalition membership at a regular or special meeting provided there shall have been at least ten (10) days written notice of the purpose provided in advance of such meeting.

ARTICLE VI - DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1. The Chair shall:

- A. preside at all meetings of the Coalition and the Board of Directors;
- B. be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee;
- C. appoint all standing and special committees and their respective chairpersons;
- D. represent the Coalition at county-committee, district, state, and national party functions;

- E. give guidance to the respective committee chairs in their work;
- F. perform such other duties as pertain normally to the office of Chair.

Section 2. The Vice Chair shall:

- A. render all possible assistance to the Chair in matters pertaining to the Coalition;
- B. assume the office in the absence of the Chair, or the Chair's inability to serve.

Section 3. The Secretary shall:

- A. keep an accurate record of all meetings of the Coalition and the Board of Directors;
- B. keep a record of attendance and votes by the body;
- C. maintain a current list of members with addresses, phone numbers, and county jurisdictions;
- D. possess and maintain the official copy of the Coalition's bylaws, with any and all amendments to the bylaws properly recorded.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall:

- A. receive all monies collected by the Coalition;
- B. keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures;
- C. present a statement of all income and expenditures occurring since the previous meeting of the Coalition, and at other times when formally requested by the Board of Directors;
- D. payout funds only as authorized by the Board of Directors except that the Chair has authority to expend and be reimbursed for up to Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars without seeking prior Board approval, subject to funds being available and there being a subsequent accounting made to the membership.
- E. cooperate and provide records maintained by the Treasurer for audit to be conducted annually by a committee appointed by the Chair.

ARTICLE VII – REGIONS

Section 1. The Coalition shall be divided into seven (7) regions, which shall consist of Coalition member counties that are as contiguous as

possible. The geographic makeup of each region shall be determined by the Coalition's board of directors. If a county DEC has a recognizable, reasonable justification, it may appeal the geographic makeup of its region. It shall make its appeal to the Coalition's board of directors.

Section 2. Regional directors shall be elected by a majority vote of electors from member counties in good standing within the designated region. Qualified members of the DEC in that specific region are eligible to run regardless of other positions held in the DEC or SCC. The SCC secretary shall confirm qualified electors. Voting will be by written ballot and the SCC secretary and SCC Chair will verify election results. In the event there is but one nominee for regional director, the vote shall be by voice vote. Seven regional directors will be elected to represent the designated small county regions of the state.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Coalition shall be held in conjunction with meetings of the Democratic State Executive Committee, unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Special Coalition meetings may be called by a majority of the Board of Directors, provided that ten (10) day notice is given to the members. The purpose of the special meeting shall be stated in the call.

Section 3. The Board of Directors, all committees and subcommittees shall be authorized to meet by telephone conference or through other electronic communications media so long as all the members can simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting. Quorum requirements for electronic meetings are the same as for face- to-face meetings.

Section 4. Twenty percent (20%) of the total number of voting member counties, as defined in Article III, Section 2, of the bylaws, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Coalition business at any regular or special meeting. Quorum shall be declared by the Chair

and recorded in the meeting minutes. Assuming a quorum is present, a majority of members present and voting is necessary to carry forward motions sanctioning activities of the Coalition.

Section 5. All Coalition meetings shall be held in facilities accessible to the physically challenged.

Section 6. Unless members indicate otherwise to the Coalition Chair in writing, all communication required in these bylaws, including meeting notices, may be sent electronically.

ARTICLE IX -BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected officers and the Regional Directors.

Section 2. The Regional Directors shall be elected for a term of four years and the election shall take place at the first quarter meeting following a Presidential election.

Section 3. The duties of the Board of Directors shall be to plan and organize each meeting of the Coalition and make recommendations to the Coalition's membership that will facilitate the transaction of Coalition business during regular and special meetings. No action of the Board of Directors shall be in conflict with any action taken by the Coalition's membership at regular or special meetings.

Section 4. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be prior to the regular meeting of the Coalition, at the request of the Chair or at the request of three (3) members of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Five (5) members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum provided at least two (2) elected officers are included.

ARTICLE X - ELECTIONS

Section 1. The terms of office for officers of the Coalition shall be two years. Officers shall only be elected from the Coalition voting members in

good standing with all dues current. The election of officers shall take place at the first regularly scheduled meeting of each odd numbered year.

Section 2. The Chair shall be elected by qualified electors as designated in the bylaws. Qualified electors include the DEC chair, vice-chair, state committeeman, and state committeewoman of Coalition member counties in good standing.

Section 3. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Chair, the Vice Chair shall become Chair. Other vacancies that occur shall be filled by election during the next regular meeting of the Coalition.

Section 4. Voting for officers and Directors shall be by signed-ballot only in an open public meeting called for that and/or other purposes. Absentee voting is specifically prohibited. If there is but one nominee for any office or director position to be filled, that election may be by voice vote.

Section 5. At the first quarter meeting following a Presidential election, all offices become open for election. A nominating committee will be established by the outgoing Chair and the slate will be presented at the meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor. The Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer positions will be elected before the Regional Directors are elected. The election of Regional Directors will be the final order of business in the election process.

ARTICLE XI – STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Chair. The Chair shall appoint the standing committees promptly after each annual meeting.

Section 2. The duties of the Standing Committees shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

A. The Bylaws Committee shall recommend such changes to the bylaws as appear necessary and feasible from time to time.

ARTICLE XII – ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PROVISION

The Coalition hereby adopts and shall enforce the following anti-discrimination provisions:

Section 1. No Democratic Loyalty Oath should be used which has the effect of requiring members of the Democratic Party to condone or support discrimination with regard to race, color, creed, sex, gender identity and expression, economic status, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, religion, age, national origin, or physical disability.

Section 2. The time and place for all public meetings of the Coalition should be publicized fully and in such a manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons and should be accessible to all members of the Democratic Party.

ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS

The bylaws may be amended by a majority vote at any regular meeting pursuant to notification in writing to Coalition members ten (10) days prior to such meetings. Bylaws, and any changes or amendments thereto, shall be filed with the Florida Democratic Party within thirty (30) days following adoption.

ARTICLE XIV -PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Coalition in all cases to which they are applicable and to the extent they are consistent with these Bylaws and the rules of the Florida Democratic Party and the National Democratic Party.

ARTICLE XV - ACCOUNTABILITY

Section 1. Charter Re-certification: By July of each odd-numbered year, the Coalition shall apply to the State Party Chair for a Certificate of Compliance with the Florida Democratic Party Charter and Bylaws. Failure to do so shall result in the forfeiture of all rights and privileges of the use of the word Democrat, Democratic, or any derivation thereof.

Section 2. Dissolution: In the event the Coalition wishes to dissolve, a resolution stating the date of dissolution and the reason for it shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Coalition after being submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting. When the

Coalition disbands for any reason, the Coalition's assets and funds, after all debts are satisfied, shall become the property of the Florida Democratic Party.

Section 3. Grievances: Disputes and grievances may be appealed to the State Chair who shall make the final decision subject to repeal by the Central Committee at its next regular meeting.

Coalition Approval Date:

October 11, 2019

FDP Approval Date: