

# **BY-LAWS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WISCONSIN**

## **ARTICLE I - Administrative Committee**

**Section 1** - A quorum for administrative committee meetings shall consist of one-half of its total membership at any particular time.

**Section 2** - All meetings of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, the administrative committee and all official party committees, commissions and bodies shall be open to the public with the exception for closed sessions on matters of personnel, campaign and party strategy and finance.

**Section 3** - The state chairperson shall appoint an executive committee composed of the elected state party officers, the elected national committee members and two other members of the administrative committee. The function of the executive committee shall be to act in an advisory capacity to the state chairperson in making decisions with which the chairperson has been entrusted by the administrative committee.

**Section 4** - Those appointments made by the state chairperson which are subject to the approval of the administrative committee shall serve at the pleasure of the chairperson until removed by a majority vote of the committee or until a successor is appointed, whichever shall occur first.

**Section 5** - The time and place of the administrative committee meeting shall be set by the state chairperson unless previously set by the committee itself.

**Section 6** - Rules regarding information on members and contributors of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin shall be as follows:

- a. A list of party officers shall be available to anyone on request
- b. Various lists of financial contributors to the Democratic Party of Wisconsin shall be available only to the organization itself. Other lists shall be available to requesters under policies established by the state executive committee within guidelines set by the state administrative committee. Such guidelines shall be on file and available for review at state headquarters.
- c. County, unit and congressional district chairs may receive membership lists of their county, unit, or congressional district free of charge in whatever media form would be most useful.
- d. All incumbent Democratic officeholders and declared Democratic candidates as well as candidates for Democratic Party office at any level, who are members of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin or their designated representative may purchase the appropriate list of Party members, in whatever media form would be most useful, except where a county unit requests that its list be withheld. The procedures for obtaining such lists shall be set by the staff so there is not unreasonable burden on the facilities and personnel in state headquarters and the chance for indiscriminate circulation of the names and addresses is minimized. The lists shall be provided at no expense to the state party and with actual cost to the individual requesting such list. Elected officials and candidates will be required to sign a statement promising, warranting, and covenanting that they will only utilize the list for their political purposes, and will not sell or transfer the list to anyone else.
- e. Candidates for non-partisan office may purchase memberships lists if they have been members of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin for the previous two years (if such membership is not prohibited by law) and were not members of any other political party. List requests must be made through a county, unit, or congressional district chair, except in the instance of statewide non-

partisan races in which case requests are to be made directly to the State Chair or Executive Director. Candidates will be required to sign a statement promising, warranting, and covenanting that they will only utilize the list for their political purposes, and will not sell or transfer the list to anyone else.

f. The Wisconsin voter file which is administered by the Democratic Party of Wisconsin will be made available to all incumbent Democratic Party officeholders, Democratic nominees for public office, Democratic legislative campaign committees and county, local unit, and Congressional District affiliates of the Democratic party of Wisconsin.

All other requests made by individuals, candidates, groups, organizations, or political committees not specified above, must be approved by the State Chair, subject to review by the Executive Committee.

The Wisconsin voter file and other Democratic Party lists access fees will be determined by the Executive Committee.

A list activity report will be kept on file at State Party Headquarters.

**Section 7** - The newly elected state officers, district chairpersons and district representatives shall be seated at the first administrative committee meeting after the first state convention following their election. The Milwaukee County chairperson and the College Democrat's representative shall be seated at the first meeting following their election. The national committee members shall become members of the administrative committee at the same time they assume their seats on the Democratic National Committee.

Immediately following each state convention, the state chairperson will conduct a review of the administrative committee's membership to determine if the committee is gender balanced and meets affirmative action and other and other requirements as stipulated by the Democratic Party of Wisconsin or the Democratic National Committee.

The state chairperson will report to the members of the administrative committee at the first meetings following each state convention the following information: number of men on the committee, number of women on the committee, number of African Americans on the committee, number of Hispanics on the committee, number of Asian Pacifics on the committee, number of American Indians on the committee. Based on this report the state chairperson will inform the members of the administrative committee the number in each category in order to fulfill the necessary requirements.

No less than ten (10) days prior to the following administrative committee meeting the state chairperson shall inform the members of the administrative committee of a proposed slate made up of individuals which will meet all the necessary requirements. Such a slate will be reviewed and confirmed or modified by the administrative committee. Nominating or seconding speeches will not be allowed and a simple majority of a quorum of the administrative committee members present will prevail.

The at-large representative will serve a term beginning the day of election until the first administrative committee meeting following the next state convention.

Individuals selected by the Administrative Committee to meet the affirmative action goals should be selected first from those districts that are under represented. Should there be any conflict between Democratic Party of Wisconsin and Democratic National Committee rules, Democratic National Committee rules shall supersede those contained herein.

At-large representative positions are open to any current paid member of the State Party. The State Party through its newsletters, events, and other communications will solicit applications from party membership for the possible positions.

If, for whatever reasons, during the course of the year, the committee becomes substantially out of balance, or if the committee must meet certain requirements, the state chairperson will nominate new members to serve for the duration of the one year term.

**Section 8** - Residence for purposes of serving on the administrative committee shall be defined as the place where the person is presently living and intends to continue living continuously for three months or more.

If a question of seating a member on the administrative committee occurs at any time, it shall be settled by a majority vote of the administrative committee.

Only a defeated candidate for party office may challenge any election. Such challenge shall be filed in writing with the state headquarters and a copy sent to the person being challenge, within ten days of the election. The challenge must state the reason therefore and must be made by a defeated candidate who may reasonably expect to replace the person being challenged, if the challenged is upheld. Such challenge must be considered by the administrative committee at its next regular meeting.

In all elections for the administrative committee, the candidate receiving the most votes shall be declared the winner. The provision applies to all state Party officers, district chairpersons and district representatives and national committee members elected in convention.

No member of the administrative committee shall receive any compensation for attendance at administrative committee meetings.

**Section 9** - Minutes of all administrative committee meetings shall be distributed no later than 21 days after said meeting to all administrative committee members and all County ~~and Unit~~ chairpersons.

**Section 10** - The State Chair shall receive compensation equal to the annual base salary of a State Representative plus usual expenses and health insurance. If the Chair chooses not to accept the compensation, or any portion thereof, he/she shall within sixty (60) days, inform the Administrative Committee of this decision and present a plan for the use of said funds.

## **ARTICLE II - Finances**

**Section 1** -The state chairperson shall appoint, prior to the expiration of each fiscal year, a budget committee, which shall have the responsibility for preparing a budget for the next fiscal year. The budget as prepared shall then be presented to the administrative committee for the approval at the last meeting prior to the new fiscal year. The budget committee shall be comprised of the state chairperson and the state treasurer and three additional members.

**Section 2** - At the end of each Presidential election year, the state chairperson shall engage the services of public accountant to perform an independent audit of the financial records and books of the party. Upon completion of the audit, it shall be presented to the administrative committee. At the end of fiscal years not following a presidential election a three person committee will be appointed by the chair to conduct an internal review. Upon completion of the internal review, it shall be presented to the administrative committee.

**Section 3** - The Party shall maintain employee dishonesty coverage as a portion of their general liability insurance.

**Section 4** - The state treasurer shall be empowered to invest such excess Party funds as deemed advisable in securities insured by a recognized governmental agency.

**Section 5** - Checks drawn upon the funds of the party shall not be valid unless such checks bear two signatures, at least one of them original, of any two of the following: state chairperson, state treasurer, first vice-chairperson, or executive director.

**Section 6** - The post-primary debt of any party candidate shall not be assumed unless such debts shall have been duly authorized and approved by the administrative committee prior to the time that such debts are contracted. Under no circumstances shall the party assume debts incurred in a primary election.

**Section 7** - The majority responsibility for any recount lies with the candidate and the candidate's committee. The state administrative committee will lend financial assistance where warranted in contests from the state legislative level up under conditions outlined. Counties are to accept financial responsibility for recounts at that level and below in a form they individually determine.

The state chairperson is authorized to appoint a committee of volunteer attorneys who will act as a legal counsel recount committee, which will select its own officers. The committee will be of no predetermined size, and members will serve at the pleasure of the chairperson.

The legal counsel recount committee will provide the state party with an outline summary of recount laws and procedures and will update this information as requested. This information is to be distributed by state headquarters to all party officers from the county and ward level up, and to all Democratic candidates at those levels prior to each general election.

The committee is to further give advice and assistance on a voluntary basis in a recount in whatever form is necessary at all elective levels.

The state chairperson will have authority to authorize payment in recount situations upon determination of need. In the event the chairperson is not available, the first vice- chairperson and one other executive committee officer will act.

The above provisions shall apply to general elections only.

**Section 8** - No expenditure shall be reimbursed to party officers or employees without the presentation of itemized vouchers. Such vouchers will be honored only if submitted no later than three months after the expenditure has been incurred. Democratic National Committee members are encouraged to absorb any expenses they can, but reimbursement for attendance at meetings pertaining to official Democratic National Committee business shall be allowed as follows:

- a. Round-trip plane fare (coach), or mileage at the rate established in the annual budget, or a combination of both.
- b. Lodging at the most economical rate offered at the hotel at which the meeting is being held. Such lodging shall be limited to nights required to attend to official Democratic National Committee business.
- c. Any registration fee required to be paid for meeting attendance.

**Section 9** - The state administrative committee shall be empowered to set fund-raising quotas for the various local units. It shall also make decisions regarding the state/county division of funds raised.

### **ARTICLE III -Membership & Dues**

**Section 1** - Membership dues for the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and the division of said dues between State Party and local Party units shall be set by the administrative committee by September 1 of each year.

**Section 2** - The purpose of the statement on residence in the constitution is to define place of residence and not the length of time required to establish residence. Therefore, residence shall be in that county where the person has taken up residence and is presently living. There shall be no minimum period of residence in the state or county required for membership in the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. A County may provide for membership of person living in contiguous counties. Such an arrangement shall be in writing between the chairperson of the two counties, and a copy of the agreement shall be filed with state headquarters. No person shall be a member of more than one county unit.

**Section 3** - If a member changes residence from one local unit to another, membership may be transferred to the local unit of the new residence without further payment of dues by applying in writing to the state party headquarters which shall then notify both the new and the old unit of the change. The old unit will retain its share of the membership dues. The change of residency is effective on the date the application is received by the state party headquarters.

### **ARTICLE IV -Conventions**

The state convention is a function of the state organization. Its purpose is to promote Party unity, form the Party platform in election years, to consider state party finances, elect state party officers, and conduct any other appropriate business. The administrative committee shall set the delegate/alternate quotas, date, site, and fees.

**Section 1** -CALL TO CONVENTION: The call to convention must be sent to all congressional district, county and unit chairs by state headquarters no less than 90 days prior to the convention and shall include the date, purpose of convention, site, delegate/alternate quotas, registration fees, all cut- off dates, hours of registration, and date, place, starting time of platform and/or resolutions committee meetings, and a notification of any officer or Democratic National Committee elections to be conducted at the convention. The deadline for filing a declaration of intent for officer or Democratic National committee elections shall be 5:00 p.m. 21 calendar days prior to the start of the convention.

SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO THE CONVENTION DATE ALL COUNTY AND DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS MUST BE SENT A COPY OF ARTICLE IX, AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION; AND A COPY OF BY-LAWS, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 5- COMMITTEES.

**Section 2** - DELEGATES: To be eligible to serve at the state convention, all delegates or alternates must be currently paid members of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin 14 days before the opening date of the convention. Delegate membership dues must be received at the state party headquarters no later than 5:00 p.m. 14 days prior to the convention. Lists of county delegates must be received at that state party headquarters no later than 21 days prior to the convention.

Only properly certified delegates or alternates may vote. Delegates are certified by being registered as delegates, or by being raised from registered alternate to delegate status.

Unless the administrative committee shall provide otherwise before the Call to Convention is issued, the quota of delegates and alternates shall be based on the following formula:

- a. One delegate for each fifteen, or major fraction thereof, paid members; and

b. One delegate for every one thousand votes, or major fraction thereof, cast in the county for the Democratic U.S. Senate candidate in the last general election.

c. Each county chairperson, administrative committee member, U.S. Congressperson, U.S. Senator, State constitutional officer, and state legislator shall be an automatic delegate in addition to the regular delegate quota for a county, and shall have no alternate. All individuals designated as automatic delegates to the state and district conventions must be currently paid members of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin 14 days before the opening date of the district and state conventions.

The state headquarters shall prepare a quota sheet, a copy to be sent to each county before the district and state conventions, showing the quota for each county. The quota sheet shall show the following: name of county, number of members, number of delegates based on membership, vote for U.S. Senator, number of delegates based on vote for U.S. Senator. A statement should accompany quota lists repeating section 2 a-c above.

Only those memberships received at State Headquarters at least 14 days prior to the opening day of the State Convention shall be counted toward county delegate totals for the State Convention.

Those persons selected to serve as delegates and alternates to the congressional district convention shall serve as delegates and alternates to the state convention.

The delegate and alternate vacancies which may occur between the time of the congressional district convention and the state convention may be filled by anyone of the following methods:

a. By motion at a duly called meeting, the county membership may authorize the county chairperson and two other people to make necessary changes in the delegate/alternate lists. (At least two of the three would be required to make the changes.)

b. The county chairperson may call another meeting for the purpose of filling the delegate/alternate vacancies. (Another ten days written notice would have to be sent to all county members and headquarters.)

c. For those counties having a nominating committee, the nominating committee may be authorized by motion at a duly called meeting to fill the vacancies.

Counties which are divided among two or more Congressional Districts shall have their delegate/alternate quota apportioned among each district based upon County membership in each district. Delegates and alternates representing that portion of the County within each district must reside within that district.

Additions to the delegate/alternate list subsequent to the congressional district conventions due to growth or vacancies shall be filed in time to be received by the state headquarters not less than 21 days prior to the opening of the State Convention.

The method for filling vacancies for delegates and alternates at the State Convention shall be as follows:

a. The County organization shall pass a motion authorizing the county chairperson and one or two other members to be chosen by the county unit or appointed by the county chairperson, anyone of whom shall make whatever changes are necessary to fill the delegate/alternate lists at the State Convention from their respective congressional districts.

b. The credentials committee is authorized by the administrative committee to authorize or make changes in any delegate/alternate lists where the County chairperson, or a properly designated

person, is not present at the convention. Preferably, the credentials committee should authorize another County officer from said County.

c. No other person but the properly authorized county person, or the credentials committee as a whole, or a credentials committee member designated by the credentials committee shall make any changes in the delegate/alternate lists.

d. All delegate/alternate quotas are by county. Only Party members of the county unit whose membership were received at state headquarters at least 21 days prior to the opening day of the State Convention shall be used in filling any vacancies in that county's list.

e. All changes in the delegate/alternate lists must be initialed clearly by the person making the changes.

Along with the call to convention, the following sample authorizations shall be sent to the County chairpersons and the congressional district chairperson:

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ County authorizes the County chairperson and \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to make changes in the delegate/alternate lists at the time of the state convention.

\_\_\_\_\_  
County chairperson or secretary

(2) County authorizes the County chair or \_\_\_\_\_ or, \_\_\_\_\_, designated by the County chairperson, anyone of whom is authorized to make changes in the delegate/alternate list at the time of the state convention.

\_\_\_\_\_  
County chairperson or secretary

(3) \_\_\_\_\_, the county chairperson of \_\_\_\_\_ County appoints \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ either one of whom is authorized to make changes in the delegate/alternate list at the time of the state convention.

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Chairperson

Registration shall take place Friday and Saturday of the State Convention during hours announced in the call to convention.

Registrar's duties are:

1. Accept the receipt showing registration fee has been paid.
2. Check off names in the proper column of the delegate/alternate lists.
3. Prepare the official credentials.
4. Hand out the convention folder containing official convention material.

The registrars shall make no changes in the delegate/alternate lists, nor allow anyone but authorized persons to make such changes. If there is any dispute, the credentials committee chairpersons or

designated credentials committee person on duty shall be called. If there is an appeal of the decision, the credentials committee chairperson must be called.

There shall be no political signs of any sort, either for party office or for city, county, state or national office displayed in the registration room or on the persons of the registrars or other workers in the registration room.

Only members of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin may challenge a delegate or alternate certified to the congressional district or state convention. The challenges shall be sent in writing to the state headquarters with copies to the challenged person's County unit at least one week before the congressional district or state convention. The challenge shall be in writing and contain the name, address, and County of the challenged person, and must state the grounds for the challenge. The challenge must contain the signature and address of the challenger.

State headquarters shall forward a challenge to the credentials committee for the congressional district or state convention immediately. The chairperson of the congressional district or state credentials committee shall convene the committee at the least two hours before the congressional district or state convention opens for the purpose of considering relevant statements from the challenger, challenge, or any other member of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin who wishes to make a statement on the challenge. The credentials committee shall make a decision which shall be final unless appealed to the floor.

**Section 3-** DATE AND SITE:

All conventions shall be held in June unless special action is taken by the administrative committee.

The state headquarters staff shall investigate potential convention sites and the chair shall present his/her recommendations to the administrative committee for action at least 18 months before the convention opens. The sites should take into account the geographic diversity of the state and in no case is the convention to be held in the same county more than once every four years.

**Section 4 -** FINANCES:

A budget for the convention shall be prepared by state headquarters staff. It shall include projected income and expenses of the convention.

The host county shall assist the state in coordinating with the convention facility as well as with recruiting volunteers for registration and security and shall receive \$1.00 for each delegate, alternate or visitor who registers for the convention.

**Section 5-** COMMITTEES:

A. A standing platform and resolutions committee shall be composed of three members from each congressional district and one alternate elected at the district conventions. The delegates shall be elected for three-year staggered terms with one delegate elected each year. The alternate shall be elected each year for a one year term. The committee shall select its chairperson from its membership for a two year term at its first meeting following the even- year conventions. In addition, up to three state representatives and two alternates elected from the Democratic Assembly Caucus, one state senator and two alternates elected from the Democratic Senate Caucus, and one representative selected by the Democratic members of the Wisconsin delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, one representative of the highest

elected Democratic State Constitutional Officer, and a representative selected by the College Democrats may participate as voting members of the platform and resolutions committee but shall not be counted for quorum purposes. In the event of a vacancy of one of the elected members, the Congressional District executive committee shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next District Convention at which time a representative to the platform and resolutions committee shall be elected to complete the term of the vacated seat. A member of the platform and resolutions committee is deemed to have resigned if he or she misses two consecutive meetings of the committee without prior notice to its chairperson or secretary or misses three consecutive meetings of the committee with or without such notice. This committee shall promptly notify District executive committees of these vacancies and all other vacancies of which it may be aware. A quorum for platform and resolutions committee meetings shall consist of one-half of its total membership. No member of the platform and resolutions committee may be represented by proxy other than the duly elected District alternate.

It shall be the duty of the platform and resolutions committee to write and revise the state platform and to manage resolutions before the annual convention.

The platform shall be presented to the annual convention in even numbered years. When no revisions arise from the platform and resolutions committee, the District Conventions, or from the convention floor, a vote shall be taken to reaffirm the platform as written.

The platform and resolutions committee shall hold hearings and consult with any person or groups necessary to write a platform. This platform shall communicate a positive expression of those principles and policies which provide the foundation for the political program of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. The platform itself shall be no more than 2500 words in length.

The platform and resolutions committee shall present an initial draft of the platform or revisions thereof to the administrative committee by January 15th of even numbered years, or fifteen (15) days prior to the first administrative committee meeting after February 1, whichever is later. Upon review of the initial draft, the administrative committee shall make such recommendations as it deems appropriate and return it to the platform and resolutions committee within forty- five (45) days for its second draft. The second draft of the platform shall be submitted to each member of the administrative committee, each county chairperson, each Democratic State Legislator, each Democratic U.S. Congressperson and Senator from Wisconsin, each Democratic statewide elected official, and to each District Convention, no later than March 15th of even numbered years.

Recommendations for changes to the second draft of the platform shall be made at the District Conventions and submitted in writing to the platform and resolutions committee in care of state headquarters no later than two days after the last Congressional District convention of even numbered years. The platform and resolutions committee shall then prepare a final draft of the platform to be included in each convention packet for consideration at the convention. Adoption of the entire platform as drafted by the platform and resolutions committee shall take a majority vote of those delegates present and voting at the convention. A sixty percent (60%) vote of those delegates present and voting is required to amend the platform from the convention floor.

The platform and resolutions committee shall be responsible for any resolutions to be presented for adoption at the annual convention. Resolutions may be considered annually. Resolutions must be reasonable in length, but no more than one hundred (100) words in length; must be a

standardized format, that is each resolution must start with a paragraph beginning "Whereas," and end with a paragraph "Resolved," with each line being numbered; and must derive from the following procedure:

1. Each must be passed by the county unit. Each such unit may submit no more than ten (10) resolutions and shall forward them to the District Chairperson at least ten days prior to the District Convention.
2. The Congressional District Convention shall consider all resolutions submitted and shall adopt and forward no more than ten (10) to the platform and resolutions committee in care of state headquarters no later than two (2) days after the last Congressional District Convention.
3. The platform and resolutions committee shall consolidate and edit the District resolutions and shall submit them to the annual convention for adoption.
4. The annual convention may adopt additional resolutions from the floor after review by the Platform and Resolutions Committee and debate and voting has occurred on the above resolutions. Except in exceptional circumstances, such resolutions shall address relevant timely issues and shall not have been considered and not included in the 10 resolutions forwarded by the Congressional District convention. Such resolutions shall be in writing with a minimum of fifty (50) copies available to the delegates on the floor. Resolutions from the floor must also be in the standardized format noted above, and must be presented to the chairperson of the Platform and Resolutions committee a minimum of three hours prior to the start of the floor debate on resolutions at any session of the convention. The Platform and Resolutions Committee shall meet a minimum of two hours before the convention convenes to review all proposed floor resolutions. They shall reject those that do not meet the above criteria. They may make a recommendation for approval or rejection of floor resolutions.
5. Any resolutions not acted upon at the State Convention shall be directed to the Platform and Resolutions Committee for review and recommendations to be made within 60 days. These shall be presented to the Administrative Committee for final action at its next meeting.

B. A rules committee composed of one representative from each Congressional District, and chairperson(s), shall be appointed no less than sixty (60) days prior to the annual convention by the state chairperson with the approval of the administrative committee. It shall be the responsibility of the rules committee to draft and submit to state headquarters the annual convention rules at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the convention.

C. A credentials committee composed of one representative from each Congressional District, and chairperson(s), shall be appointed no less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual convention by the state chairperson with the approval of the administrative committee.

The role of the credentials committee shall be as follows:

1. The credentials committee shall meet no less than two hours before registration opens. Any congressional district not represented waives the right to challenge decisions made at

this meeting. The state organization shall hand over the complete delegate/alternate lists for the state to the chairperson(s) of the credentials committee at that time.

2. The credentials committee shall check the delegate/alternate lists to see they are not over quotas and shall approve them. If the list is over its quota of delegates, the credentials committee at its discretion may register delegates until the quota is full or until a properly designated person arrives to correct the list or make other necessary decisions in regard to registration. Registration cannot open until the credentials committee has passed on the delegate/alternate lists and turned them over to the registrars with instructions as to the registrar's duties.

3. The credentials committee is in full charge of the delegate/alternate lists and the chairperson(s), or someone authorized by the chairperson(s), shall pick up the lists promptly when registration closes Friday evening; return them to the registrars fifteen minutes before opening Saturday morning; and collect them and turn them over in good order to the chairperson of the election commission at the permanent closing of registration on Saturday.

D. An elections commission shall serve as stated in the constitution. The duties of the elections commission are to conduct elections, ensure that all ballots are properly handled, and report the results of the election to the state chairperson. Any questions of eligibility for party office must be referred to the administrative committee when the report is presented. The elections commission shall consist of five members serving for five-year staggered terms with one member appointed or reappointed each year by the state chairperson, and approved by the administrative committee. In the case of a vacancy, a member shall be appointed to fill the unexpired term. The elections commission shall submit the procedures for conducting elections to the state headquarters at least 21 days before the annual convention. Elections include any convention vote which requires a written ballot.

**Section 6 - CONVENTION QUORUM:** A quorum for conducting business at a state or congressional district convention shall be 25% of the total registered and accredited delegates.

#### **ARTICLE V- Congressional District Convention**

The congressional district executive committee shall set the time and place of the congressional district convention and shall see that sixty day's written notice thereof is sent to the chairpersons of each county unit or authorized subdivision in the congressional district.

**Section 1 - CALL TO CONVENTION:** The call to convention must be sent by the congressional district chairperson no less than sixty days prior to the convention and shall include date, purpose of the convention, site, delegate quotas, registration fees (if any), cut-off dates, and any other appropriate information.

**Section 2- DATE:** The congressional district convention must be held not less than 21 days, but not more than 90 days prior to the annual state democratic convention.

**Section 3 - SITE:** The congressional district conventions must be held within congressional district boundaries unless the congressional district constitution shall provide otherwise.

**Section 4 - DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES:**

A. Only currently paid members shall be eligible to serve as delegates and alternates.

- B. Only properly registered delegates may vote. The state headquarters shall send to each district chairperson a copy of the final county delegate list for the counties in the congressional district to be used to check off the delegates and alternates as they register. For Milwaukee County, see Democratic Constitution, Article V, Section 2.
- C. Unless the administrative committee provides differently, delegates and alternates shall be chosen as in Article IV, Section 2 of the by-laws.
- D. The cut-off date for memberships to be in state headquarters to be counted toward the county quotas for the congressional district convention shall be fourteen days prior to the date of the congressional district convention.
- E. Notice of meetings to select delegates and alternates shall be given to members and state headquarters as provided in constitution, Article V, Section 2.
- F. Delegates and alternates to congressional district conventions shall be selected on a fair and equitable basis of representation within quotas set by the administrative committee in accordance with the state constitution. However, where part of a county with one or more congressional districts shares a district with another county, the single county follows the same rules as other counties; that is, the county chairperson is in charge of the delegates and alternates of the county and fills vacancies in the same manner as for all other counties except Milwaukee.
- G. A credentials committee shall be appointed by each congressional district chairperson at least thirty days before the congressional district convention. It shall consist of one member from each county in the congressional district. A chairperson or co-chairperson shall be designated at the time the committee is appointed. If a congressional district chairperson neglects to appoint a credentials committee thirty days before the convention, within one week, the state chairperson shall make the necessary appointments. State headquarters shall be notified in writing of the appointments. Congressional district credentials committee shall meet at least one hour before the congressional district convention opens to check delegate/alternate lists and consider any challenges presented to it.

#### **ARTICLE VI -County**

**Section 1** - Adoption of a county constitution shall take place only after two successive readings at either regular County meetings or meetings especially called, with appropriate written notice being sent to all members. Adoption shall be by majority vote. Amendments to such constitutions shall require two readings and the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at the meeting called for that purpose. Notice of the meeting shall follow the same requirements as an election meeting. All county constitutions, by-laws and amendments thereto must be sent to state headquarters for approval, by the administrative committee before becoming effective.

**Section 2** - Notices of election meetings shall be in written form and post marked no later than ten days before the scheduled meeting. A county constitution may provide for a cut-off date not to exceed five days prior to the election for paying memberships in order to vote at an election. Otherwise, memberships may be sold until the time of the meeting, but sales must cease at the previously announced time of the meeting, except to those waiting in line at the time to buy a membership. Arrangements should be made and sufficient personnel appointed to sell memberships at the meeting until the cut-off time. One person representing each candidate may be appointed by the presiding officer to stand at the end of the line at the cut-off time to assure compliance. All memberships must be turned in to the secretary when the meeting begins and shall be used as a registration list for the election. A person's legal or voting residence shall be used to determine eligibility for voting membership in the county.

**Section 3** - Persons may be nominated from the floor or by a nominating committee. Nomination must have prior consent of the nominee. Failure to obtain prior consent shall invalidate the election of a person so nominated. Nominations may be re-opened any time by a majority vote.

**Section 4** - If there is more than one candidate for an office, the secretary shall prepare ballots, and election shall be by secret ballot. Votes shall be tallied by a committee including one representative chosen by each candidate for the office in question.

**Section 5** - Election of a County party officer shall require a majority of those present and voting. Such officer must be a paid party member prior to election.

**Section 6** - In case of dispute, objections raised or appealed to the administrative committee must be properly made at the meeting at which the violation occurs; and a written protest must be submitted to the administrative committee within ten days of the election.

**Section 7** - Members shall be given written notice of meetings; the advance notice necessary shall be set by a majority vote unless included in the county constitution. The meeting time shall be set by majority vote unless discretion is granted to the County chairperson by the same vote. If no action has been taken by the members to set a time for notice, ten days written notice shall be given.

**Section 8** - Regularly scheduled meetings for which notice has been sent shall not be canceled arbitrarily by the chairperson without consent of the executive committee.

**Section 9** - Robert's Rules of Order shall be used unless other rules have been adopted by a majority vote. Questions shall be decided by voice vote, show of hands, division of the house, or secret ballot. Anyone of these may be demanded by a member. New business shall be in order at every business meeting.

**Section 10** - Vacancies shall be filled by the executive committee unless otherwise provided for.

#### **ARTICLE VII -Committees**

**Section 1** - The County chairperson and/or the executive committee of a County shall have the power to create committees for specific purposes unless otherwise stated in the County constitution, whose chairperson shall be appointed by the local County chairperson with the approval of the executive committee. Such committee chairperson may be a voting member of the executive committee of the County which shall serve to approve the committee activities.

**Section 2** -All expenses for all committees must be approved and paid for by the county organization. Any funds raised by a committee must be turned in to the treasury.

#### **ARTICLE VIII -Open Participation**

**Section 1** - All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party are open to all members of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin regardless of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, or economical status.

**Section 2** - No test of membership in, or any oaths of loyalty to, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin shall be required or used that has the effect or requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin to acquiesce in, condone, or support discrimination on the grounds of race, creed, sex, color, national origin, or economical status.

**Section 3** - The time and place for all meetings of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin on all levels shall be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings

shall be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.

**Section 4** - The Democratic Party on all levels shall support the broadest possible voter registration without discrimination on grounds of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, or economic status.

**Section 5** - The Democratic Party of Wisconsin shall publicize fully and in such manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of these procedures shall be done in such fashion that all prospective and current members of the Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at all levels of the Democratic Party organization.

**Section 6** - The Democratic Party of Wisconsin will publicize fully and in such manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a complete description of the legal and practical qualification for all officers and representatives of the state Democratic Party. Such publication shall be done in a timely fashion that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within the state will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.

**Section 7** - It shall be the duty of the state chairperson and all other Party officers at every level by affirmative steps to encourage young people, women, and minority groups to seek election as delegates to Party conventions and as members of the Party in reasonable relationship to their presence in the state.

**Section 8** - In the selection of delegates to any convention or members of any committee of the Democratic Party at any level within the state, there shall be insofar as possible equal representation of the sexes. A good faith effort shall be made to ensure that no more than 60% of the delegates to any convention or members of any committee of the Democratic Party be of the same sex.

#### **ARTICLE IX -National Convention Delegates**

National Convention delegates shall be selected in accordance with the rules of the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

#### **ARTICLE X- Congressional District & County Constitutions**

All Congressional District and County constitutions and by-laws and amendments thereto shall be submitted in writing to the standing constitution committee through state headquarters. As soon as possible thereafter, the standing constitution committee shall present, with its recommendations for said constitutions, by-laws and amendments thereto, to the administrative committee for action.

#### **ARTICLE XI- County Chairs Association**

**Section 1** - Adoption of the County Chairs Association (CCA) constitution shall take place only upon 2/3 vote of the members present and voting at duly convened meeting, with prior appropriate written notice having been sent to all members. A quorum for all meetings shall be 1/5 the total membership. Amendments to the CCA constitution shall also require a 2/3 vote for adoption.

**Section 2** - Notices for all meetings shall be in writing and sent to all members postmarked not later than ten days prior to the scheduled meeting. No member of the CCA may be represented by proxy.

**Section 3** - Officers of the CCA shall include as a minimum, a Chairperson, Vice-Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. Election shall be by majority vote. In cases of an election dispute, objections raised or appealed to the administrative committee must have first been properly raised at the meeting at which

the dispute arose and a written protest must have been submitted to the administrative committee within 15 days of the election.

**Section 4** - Vacancies in the CCA offices shall be filled by vote of the executive committee of the CCA, with the exception of the Chair who shall be replaced by the Vice-Chair. In the event that an officer is no longer a member of the CCA by virtue of no longer being a county unit/subunit chair or 1st vice-chair, such CCA office shall be deemed vacated.

**Section 5** - The CCA shall meet at least twice a year once of which shall be at the annual state convention, to conduct such business as will advance the financial, organizational, and political goals of the county unit/subunit parties. The CCA Chair shall represent the interest of CCA membership on the administrative committee.

## **ARTICLE XII – Caucuses**

**Section 1** – Caucuses representing traditionally underrepresented people may be formed. Caucuses shall be responsible for developing membership among their designated group, developing programming to increase Democratic participation, and presenting resolutions to the Resolutions Committee of issues of concern to the group. Prior to formation the Administrative Committee must approve the group as traditionally underrepresented.

**Section 2** – Upon attainment of at least 50 members, the caucus may, in convention, adopt a constitution and by-laws, subject to the State Party constitution. Such constitution and by-laws and amendments thereto must be considered by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee with a recommendation to the Administrative Committee.

**Section 3** – Upon meeting the criteria identified in Section 2, a Caucus shall select one member to serve as a non-voting member of the Administrative Committee of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. Caucus representatives shall not be included in determination of quorum for Administrative Committee meetings.

**Section 4** – The Administrative Committee, may in its discretion take such action it deems appropriate to assure the caucus and its officers are functioning in a manner consistent with the Caucus constitution and the policies of the Party.