



Florida Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer+ (LGBTQ+) Democratic Caucus

BYLAWS

Revised Bylaws approved May 21, 2005, as further amended May 19, 2007, October 10, 2009, June 15, 2013, July 19, 2014, February 7, 2015, and July 20, 2019.

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Florida Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer+ (LGBTQ+) Democratic Caucus, united in common purpose, in order to strengthen and further the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party, which recognizes and promotes diversity, equality, goodwill, and respect for all members of the community, do hereby adopt and uphold these Bylaws.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Florida Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer+ (LGBTQ+) Democratic Caucus, also known by the Florida Democratic Party (FDP) as the Democratic Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer+ Caucus (herein referred to as the "Caucus").

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to:

- Stimulate active interest in political and governmental affairs;
- Promote the candidacy of Democrats specifically committed to the principle that no natural person shall be deprived of equal rights based on sexual orientation or gender identity and expression and to encourage the passage of legislation and other measures to secure such rights;
- Provide reasonable and on-going financial support to the Caucus;
- Strengthen and further the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party;
- Promote participation among Democrats;
- Support and elect duly selected nominees of the Democratic Party in national, state and local campaigns;
- Ensure inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and all Democratic members of the LGBTQ+ communities throughout and at all levels of the Democratic Party;

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- Foster a spirit of understanding of issues of interest to the extended community of sexual orientation and gender non-conforming minorities; and
- Encourage voter registration, mobilization, and civic engagement by educating and advocating for issues without discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, disability, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation.

Section 2. Mission

Further, it shall be the mission of this organization to foster goodwill and fellowship between lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ (LGBTQ+) members of the Democratic Party, candidates, elected officials, and the community at large. We seek individual freedom in the framework of a just society and political freedom in the framework of meaningful participation by all citizens.

Section 3. Endorsements

After an approved screening process, endorsements may be made by the Caucus by a vote of the general membership only. Decisions as to financial support for endorsed candidates shall only be made through a separate political action committee (PAC) duly registered with the State of Florida. The PAC will be governed by separate written bylaws.

- (a) In all federal and statewide primaries, elections, or runoffs, whether partisan or non-partisan, where more than one Democrat is running for the same public office, Caucus chapters shall follow the endorsement or specific non-endorsement of the Florida LGBTQA Democratic Caucus. In other primaries, elections, or runoffs, whether partisan or non-partisan, where more than one Democrat is running for the same public office within the geographic area of a Caucus chapter, the chapter may endorse or recommend and support a candidate. No such endorsement shall be made prior to the close of the candidate-qualifying period.
- (b) The Caucus may consider endorsement of a candidate in an area where no chapter exists.
- (c) A supermajority vote of more than 2/3 of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the Caucus shall be required to endorse candidates seeking elective office.
- (d) Following a primary election, the President may announce the Caucus endorsement in any race of the Democratic nominee or the Democratic candidate running against a non-Democrat for the general election, and if applicable in a local race, after consultation with any chapters affected.
- (e) Endorsements of candidates seeking support for election/selection to Democratic Party bodies, or to any other commission, board or organization shall be considered endorsements subject to supermajority rules as defined in subsection (c) above.
- (f) Endorsement of specific legislative proposals, including constitutional amendments, may be made by a simple majority vote of the general membership only.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

Section 1. Membership and Associate Membership

Any Democrat registered to vote in the State of Florida supportive of the objectives of this Caucus, who wishes to participate actively in the Caucus, and who pays dues as specified by the Board shall

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be a member. No other residency restriction may be placed upon membership or the privileges of membership in this Caucus. Any Democrat, supportive of the objectives of this Caucus, registered in the State of Florida, but who cannot participate actively in the Caucus, or any Democrat registered outside the State of Florida shall be an associate member, upon payment of dues specified by the Board. Associate members may speak at Caucus meetings and serve on committees, but shall not vote and shall not be counted in determination of a quorum.

Section 2. Friends of the Caucus

Mindful of the need to reach out and the benefits of a policy of inclusion, a person who:

- (a) is not a Florida resident, or
- (b) is not eligible to register to vote in Florida, but who subscribes to the purpose and mission of the Caucus, shall be a “friend of the Caucus” upon payment of dues specified by the Board. “Friends” may speak at meetings and assist on committees, but may not vote.

Section 3. Elected Officials

Any Democrat currently serving in an elected office at the local, county, state or federal level may join the Caucus upon payment of dues specified by the Board. These members will have all privileges of membership, including voting, but shall not be computed when determining a quorum. At such time an Elected Official member no longer holds an elected office, they will automatically become an associate member for the remainder of the membership period.

ARTICLE IV: DUES

Section 1. Annual Dues

Annual dues for members, associate members, “friends,” and elected officials shall be set forth by the Board of Directors, payable to the Treasurer by December 31, for the ensuing year, or at time of becoming a member, for the remainder of that calendar year. No later than September 30 of each year, the Board shall establish a dues schedule for each category of membership and affiliation for the ensuing year. If such dues schedule is not established by September 30, the then-current dues schedule will continue in full force and effect. Dues paid between November 1 and December 31, by new members, associate members, “friends,” and elected officials shall be deemed for the current and ensuing year.

Section 2. Notification of Arrears and Effect on Status and Voting Privileges

On January 31 of each year, the Secretary shall notify members, associate members, “friends” and elected officials who are thirty (30) days in arrears. Those renewing members, associate members, “friends” and elected officials whose dues are not paid by March 1 shall be automatically placed in inactive status. Voting privileges of any member in inactive status will be suspended until dues are paid, provided the individual was a voting member during the previous year.

Section 3. Resignation from Membership or Affiliation

Members, associate members, “friends,” or elected officials desiring to resign from the Caucus shall submit their resignations in writing to the Secretary.

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Board Composition

The Board of Directors (“Board”) shall consist of the officers of the Caucus who shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and fourteen (14) Regional Directors (from

each of seven (7) regions, two directors of different genders, where gender is self-identified), and eight (8) At-Large Directors. The President may appoint a Historian, a Parliamentarian, and a Sergeant-at-Arms as *ex officio*, non-voting members. The immediate Past President, presidents (or their designees) of county chapters, and special committee chairs (who are not otherwise Board members) shall be *ex officio* members (without vote).

Section 2. Duties and Powers of the Board

The Board, collectively, and the individual officers or members shall perform the duties prescribed in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, the parliamentary authority for the Caucus, as modified and amplified by these Bylaws. The Board shall have full power and authority over the affairs of the Caucus, except those specifically reserved to the general membership in these Bylaws. The Board shall be subject to the orders of the general membership of the Caucus, and none of its acts shall conflict with action previously taken by the general membership meeting of the Caucus.

Section 3. Board Meetings

Meetings of the Board shall be held at-least quarterly, including a meeting in March as necessary to accomplish the actions required in Article XI, Section 3, and Article XIII, Section 3, and, unless otherwise ordered by the Board, in October. The President shall designate the time, place, and date of such meetings, in consonance with Board orders and providing that the Secretary provides 10 days' notice to the Board members and simultaneously publishes notice on the Caucus website. Special meetings may be called by the President, and shall be called within twenty (20) days, or upon written request of one-third (1/3) of the Board. Such special meetings shall require the Secretary to provide 10 days' notice to the Board members and simultaneously publish notice of the special meeting on the Caucus website. Attendance and voting at meetings shall be allowed by teleconferencing or conference call.

Section 4. Quorum

A majority of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. Voting

No vote at a Board meeting shall be taken by secret ballot. Proxy voting shall be permitted, utilizing the proxy forms annexed to the Bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party. Members of the Board seeking to appoint a proxy shall designate a Caucus member of his or her choice to hold a proxy to a particular meeting specified in the proxy from the same region or specified group represented by the said member. Such proxy shall be sent to the President before the day of the meeting for which the proxy is to be used. Any proxy which is incomplete or invalid in any way shall be returned to the member issuing the proxy. The member sending the incomplete proxy shall be notified immediately by phone, email transmission and/or facsimile transmission as provided by the member that the proxy is incomplete or invalid. The holder of such proxy shall be a qualified Caucus member not a voting member of the Board. No person shall be permitted to hold more than one (1) proxy. For the proxy to be honored by the Board, the holder of the proxy shall submit to the President a copy of the proxy in person or electronically prior to the commencement of the meeting for which it is intended to be used. Proxies may not account for more than fifteen percent (15%) in computing a quorum. In the absence of a Regional Director, an alternate Regional Director (of the same gender) may attend and vote at a Board meeting, acting as full substitute and shall not be deemed a proxy.

Section 6. Term of Office

All terms of office shall be for two (2) years, or until a successor is elected. The terms of office shall commence at the close of the meeting at which said member is elected.

Section 7. Office-Holding Limitations

The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve no longer than two terms in the same office. All other Board members shall be eligible for unlimited terms in the same office. No member shall hold more than one office in the Caucus at a time.

Section 8. Publicizing Elections

In order to fully inform prospective and current members of the election of Caucus officers and directors, the Caucus shall publicize election procedures fully, timely, and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested Democrats.

ARTICLE VI: DUTIES OF BOARD MEMBERS

Section 1. Officers

(a) President

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Caucus and the Board of Directors; shall be *ex-officio* member of all committees (except the Nominating and Audit committees); and shall appoint the At-Large Directors (subject to ratification by the Board), all standing and special committees and their chairs (except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws). The President, or the President's designee from among the members of the Board, (a) shall represent the Caucus at municipal, county, district, state and national meetings and functions and other appropriate venues, and (b) shall act as the only official spokesperson for the Caucus and represent it whenever necessary. The President shall refer any questions for study to the appropriate committee and shall provide guidance to the committee chairs in their work. The President shall perform all other duties pertaining to the office of President, as directed by the Board of Directors.

(b) Vice President

The Vice President shall assist the President in the discharge of the President's duties and shall assume that office in the absence, or inability to serve, of the President. The Vice President shall assist the President and Board in monitoring and ensuring the Caucus, the Board of Directors, officers and programs are in compliance with Florida statutes, State Party rules, and Caucus Bylaws and policies, and that Caucus procedures are being followed.

(c) Secretary

The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all meetings of the Caucus and the Board of Directors; shall be custodian of all records of the Caucus (except those assigned to other officers or committee chairs by these Bylaws); shall maintain a current list of members, associate members, and friends with addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, as well as committee assignments; shall maintain the Caucus Bylaws with any amendments properly recorded, as well as special rules of order, and standing rules. The Secretary shall maintain, update (as required) and provide to Caucus chapters an official directory, which shall contain the contact information for Caucus chapters (including meeting days, time, and place) and caucus officers; the directory shall also include a listing of past officers of this Caucus (and former Triangle Democratic Caucus), their dates of service, and resident counties during term

of office (with deceased persons appropriately noted). Copies of such directory shall be furnished to any member or affiliate, upon written request and confirmation of current active membership or affiliation status. All records of the Caucus except member contact information shall be available for inspection by members and associate members, upon written request to the President. The Secretary shall issue the call of meetings, assist the President in preparing an order of business, and --- in the absence of the President or Vice President --- shall call a meeting to order, until a Chair *pro tempore* is elected.

(d) Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds of the Caucus; shall keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures; shall present a written statement of all income, expenditures, accounts payable, and income receivable; shall present such interim or special reports, as required by the Board; and shall prepare an annual statement of expenses and receipts. All financial statements and reports shall be in writing, signed by the Treasurer, and made available to members, to the extent practicable, at least a week in advance of meetings. The annual financial statement shall be audited by the Audit Committee, and the Treasurer shall provide any detail or records required. The Treasurer shall disburse funds as authorized by the Board. Checks may be signed by the Treasurer or the President. The Treasurer shall maintain a fidelity bond during the term of office, which bond shall be paid by the Caucus. The Treasurer, with the approval of the Board, may appoint deputies to receive and account for funds. The Treasurer shall chair the Finance Committee.

Section 2. Directors

(a) Regional Directors

The Regional Directors shall organize chapters in selected counties in their regions, shall coordinate Caucus activities within each region, shall maintain close collaboration with county Democratic Executive Committees, and shall represent the President, at his or her request, in functions and meetings within the region. A Regional Director shall maintain residency within the region from which elected; notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, failure to comply shall result in immediate forfeiture of office.

(b) At-Large Directors

The At-Large Directors shall ensure adequate representation of statewide views and interests and shall be responsible for one of the eight critical support services, identified below. Each At-Large Director shall be specifically appointed to one of these eight (8) director positions:

- (1) **Membership and Chartering** (i.e. assisting existing and new chapters with chartering, increasing Caucus membership, working with Regional Directors in developing new chapters, and expanding existing chapters);
- (2) **Communications** (i.e., public and media relations to educate Democrats and the electorate at-large;
- (3) **Campaign** (i.e. directing the planning and implementation of the political election efforts of the Caucus);
- (4) **Legislative Action** (i.e. coordinating the research, planning, and implementation of our advocacy agenda vis-à-vis administrative/executive and legislative bodies and elected officials);
- (5) **Financial Resource Development** (i.e. planning and implementing the fundraising efforts of the Caucus);
- (6) **Conference and Special Events** (i.e. planning and coordinating Member and Organizing meetings.);

- (7) **Veterans Outreach** (i.e. increasing Veteran involvement with the Caucus); and
- (8) **Diversity and Inclusion Committee** (i.e., coordinating efforts within and among the Caucus to reach diverse constituencies to better represent the Democratic electorate).

Section 3. Appointed Members

(a) Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian shall advise the President, other officers, committees, and members on matters of parliamentary procedure. The Parliamentarian shall not vote on any matter before the Caucus, except for the balloting of officers. The Parliamentarian shall be a member of the Bylaws Committee.

(b) Sergeant-at-Arms

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall preserve order and remove any person found to be disruptive at meetings, as directed by the presiding officer, and shall ensure that appropriate physical arrangements and furnishing are in place for each meeting.

Section 4. Loyalty Oath

Officers and Directors shall execute a loyalty oath, in the form and manner prescribed by rules of the Florida Democratic Party, immediately upon taking office or as soon thereafter as possible (within thirty (30) days), before the discharge of their duties. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, failure to execute the oath in a timely manner and failure to comply with its provisions (as determined by the Board) will result in immediate forfeiture of office.

Section 5. Maintenance of Membership

All officers and directors shall pay dues by December 31. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, failure to comply shall result in immediate forfeiture of office.

Section 6. Caucus Records

All records created and maintained by officers in the discharge of their duties shall be the exclusive property of the Caucus. Officers shall be custodians of such records during their term of office and shall physically present them at the meeting called to elect officers (or at such other time as their term ends) to ensure the smooth transfer of all records to succeeding officers upon election of their successors.

ARTICLE VII: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS OF THE CAUCUS

Section 1. Regular Meetings

There shall be at-least two regular general membership meetings of the Caucus annually, scheduled for the first quarter and third quarter of the calendar year. The Board shall determine the meeting date, time, and place, in sufficient time for the Secretary to provide one month's notice to the members.

Section 2. Biennial Organizational Meeting

The regular general membership meeting in the first quarter in odd numbered years shall be known as the biennial organizational meeting. That meeting shall be held in a central location in Florida (which shall not occur in the same region consecutively), and shall be for the purpose of electing the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, receiving the results of elections of Regional Directors, receiving reports of officers or committees, and for any other business that

may arise. The Board shall determine the date, time, and place in sufficient time for the Secretary to provide ninety (90) days notice to the members.

Section 3. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the President or upon written request of a majority of the Board of Directors, and shall be called upon written request of twenty (20) percent of the membership. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. The stated purpose shall be the only business conducted at such special meetings. One month's notice of the special meeting shall be provided to the members. The President may call a meeting to be held in conjunction with the Florida Democratic Party annual dinner, conference, convention, or other event.

Section 4. Quorum

Twenty (20) percent of the Caucus membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting. A majority vote is necessary to carry motions, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.

Section 5. Meetings Open to All Democrats

The time and place for all regular, biennial, regional, or special meetings of the Caucus shall be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Meetings shall be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, color, creed, gender, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, or disability. All meetings shall be in a facility accessible to the physically handicapped.

Section 6. Voting

Voting at a membership meeting of the Caucus may be by secret ballot. Proxy voting at general membership meetings of the Caucus shall be prohibited. Only individuals who have been members for at least forty-five (45) days shall be permitted to vote in any election for officers, in Caucus endorsements for candidates for public office, or amendments to the Caucus Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX: ELECTIONS

Section 1. Election of Officers and Directors

Election to offices for the Caucus shall occur in two stages:

- (a) At least thirty (30) days before the biennial organizational meeting, members resident in each region shall meet to elect one male and one female Regional Director.
- (b) At the regular biennial meeting, the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected.

Section 2. Nominations and Elections of Regional Directors

- (a) For purposes of regional elections under these Bylaws, the general membership shall divide the state into seven (7) regions, each of which is contiguous, compact and conforms to the Caucus's strategic plan. In the absence of such strategic plan, the counties included in the seven regions is attached as ANNEX 1, which is hereby made part of these Bylaws by reference and which may, from time to time, be revised by the general membership.
- (b) By September 1 of each even-numbered year, the President shall designate a convener to call a regional meeting for the sole purpose of electing one male director, one female director, one alternate male director, and one alternate female director in each region. At least thirty (30) days prior to the regional elections, the Secretary shall send written notice to all then-current

- members resident in the region of the time and place of elections. The convener shall supervise and certify such election.
- (c) Nominations shall be from the floor. The gender of the persons involved shall be by self-determination.
 - (d) Voting for directors shall be by secret ballot, in accordance with Florida Democratic Party rules. Each ballot shall be printed with the name of the Caucus and region at the top, followed by the office to be voted upon, followed by a blank line to write in the name of the candidate selected. Members must be present to vote; absentee or proxy voting is prohibited.
 - (e) A majority of those present and voting is required for election of each director; the nominee receiving the lowest number of votes shall be removed for the next ballot.
 - (f) The convener shall announce initial results and afford any candidate the right to a recount, after which the convener will certify the results.
 - (g) The convener, or a local representative if the convener is not resident in the region, shall keep the ballots for thirty (30) days following the election at a location in the region, during which time they will be available for review. All ballots, thereafter, shall be transmitted to the Secretary, who shall hold such ballots for three years, after which they may be destroyed.
 - (h) Any challenges to the regional elections shall be lodged with the convener at the regional meeting, and such challenge shall be resolved before certification.
 - (i) Alternate male and female Regional Directors are elected to assist their respective male or female Regional Directors in the discharge of their responsibilities and duties. The alternate Regional Directors shall not be considered voting Board members, except if their Regional Directors (of the same gender) cannot attend a Board meeting, in which case, they may act as full substitute with all authorities of their respective Regional Director, at that meeting. The alternate Regional Director (of the same gender) shall assume the office, in the absence, or inability to serve, of the respective Regional Director.

Section 3. Nominations and Elections of Officers

- (a) By December 15 of each even-numbered year, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee, comprised of three members, diverse in gender, age and race to the extent possible and resident of different Caucus regions. The duty of this committee, as regards officers to be elected at the biennial meeting, shall be:
 - (1) To publicize the elections and qualifications for candidacy;
 - (2) To recruit members for each office;
 - (3) To ensure the eligibility (consistent with these Bylaws) for all members seeking office;
 - (4) After ascertaining their eligibility and willingness to serve, to nominate at least one candidate for each office to be filled at the biennial meeting; and
 - (5) To conduct the elections process. No Nominating Committee member may be nominated or elected to any office filled at the biennial meeting.
 - (6) The term of service of the Nominating Committee shall be until the completion of the election process, at the next meeting following biennial meeting.
- (b) The Nominating Committee shall present as nominee any qualified members who have been nominated and may not present a slate or endorse nominees.
- (c) At the biennial meeting, the Nominating Committee shall, first, report on regional elections. The committee shall report nominations received to date and then accept further nominations from the floor.
- (d) Prior to the biennial meeting, the Nominating Committee shall prepare one ballot for each office, with the names of the duly qualified candidates. Each ballot will be printed with the name of the Caucus on the top, followed by the position to be voted upon, with the

candidates' names printed on the ballot. There will be a blank line or lines provided for each office, for additional nominations from the floor.

- (e) Voting for officers shall be by secret ballot, in accordance with Florida Democratic Party rules. Members must be present to vote; absentee or proxy voting is prohibited. The Nominating Committee shall preside over and conduct the election process. As nominations from the floor shall be in order, voters may write in candidates' names and vote for the preferred candidate. Following each vote, the Committee shall collect and count the ballots, utilizing additional tellers, as necessary, and will announce the results at the end of the count. A majority of those present and voting shall be required for election; the nominee receiving the lowest number of votes shall be removed from the next ballot. The Committee shall afford any candidate the right to a recount, after which the Committee shall certify the results.
- (f) To be eligible to be a candidate at the biennial organizational meeting, a member must have been a member for at least forty-five (45) days prior to that meeting.
- (g) If a candidate for office is unopposed or the number of candidates equals or is less than the number of officers to be elected, such candidates may be elected by acclamation.
- (h) The Secretary shall retain all ballots, available for inspection, for a period of three (3) years, after which the ballots may be destroyed.

ARTICLE X: VACANCIES AND REMOVAL

Section 1. Vacancy of President

If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice President shall become President.

Section 2. Other Vacancies

Except in the case of an alternate Regional Director assuming the office of Regional Director (for the respective gender), the President shall fill other vacancies, on an acting basis, until the next meeting of the Board or the general membership (whichever first occurs). At such meeting, after nominations from the floor, the office shall be filled for the remainder of the term. Election shall be in accordance with FDP Bylaws; members shall indicate their choice for the vacancy. Election may be by acclamation, if only one person is nominated for the position. The Secretary shall retain all ballots for a three years period from the date of election, after which the ballots may be destroyed. The alternate Regional Director (of the same gender) shall assume the office, in the absence, or inability to serve, of the respective Regional Director. Otherwise, in the appointment and/or election of vacant male or female Regional Directors, every effort shall be made to fill the vacancy with the same gender; however, if no candidate of the same gender is identified as willing and able to serve, appointment and/or election of any person within the region shall be in order; such appointment or election shall be on an interim basis, not to exceed six (6) months, until a person of the same gender of the vacant position is identified and elected or appointed to serve.

Section 3. Removal

Any officer or Board member may be removed upon two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members at any regular or special general membership meeting after thirty (30) days notice to the membership that a motion for the purpose of removal of said member will be considered at the regular or special meeting. The removal may be for causes including, but not limited to, malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, and conviction of a felony. Unexcused absences from three consecutive regular Board meetings shall constitute abandonment of office and the officer or Board member shall be deemed to have resigned his or her position and the vacant position shall be filled in accordance with the procedures described in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI: STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

The Standing Committees shall be Bylaws, Finance, Financial Resources Development, Membership and Chartering, Campaign Legislative Action, Communications, Nominating, Conference and Special Events, Veterans Outreach, and Diversity and Inclusion. With the exception of the Nominating Committee, the term of service is until the next biennial organizational meeting.

Section 2. Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws Committee shall receive and consider all proposed changes in the Bylaws as appear necessary and feasible from time to time. The Committee shall conduct a continuing study of the Bylaws and make periodic recommendations for amendment. The Parliamentarian, if one has been appointed, shall serve as a member of the Bylaws Committee.

Section 3. Finance Committee

Promptly after the biennial organizational meeting, the President shall appoint a Finance Committee, comprised of the Treasurer (as Chair) and at least two other members. Each fiscal year, the Committee shall prepare a budget for the fiscal year, beginning the first day of April, to be submitted to the Board in March for approval. The Committee shall provide reports at each regular Board meeting on budget performance, and, from time to time, shall submit amendments to the budget, for Board approval.

Section 4. Financial Resources Development Committee

The Financial Resources Development Committee shall develop a fundraising plan, recommend manners of fundraising, coordinate all such activities, and generally be responsible for the fundraising efforts of the Caucus; it shall also establish programs to enhance the overall financial well being of the Caucus. The at-large Director of Financial Resources Development shall chair the committee.

Section 5. Membership and Chartering Committee

Within twenty (20) days after receipt of an application for membership, the Membership and Chartering Committee shall confirm that all new members are, in fact, registered Democrats in Florida; shall work with the Secretary to maintain permanent membership records; shall organize and assist on membership campaigns; shall define the requirements for county chapter chartering; and shall assist those interested in establishing chapters. The Secretary shall serve on the Committee and the at-large Director for Membership and Chartering shall chair the committee.

Section 6. Campaign Committee

The Campaign Committee shall work toward the election of Democratic candidates, including local, county, state and national candidates. It shall support voter registration efforts, serve as a clearinghouse for candidates' request for volunteers, and mobilize the general Caucus membership and LGBT community at large to vote. It shall develop an endorsement screening process for Board review and approval and make recommendations to the Board and general membership (as appropriate) for its endorsement disposition. The Campaign Committee shall report on the status of candidates and issues, recommending actions as appropriate. The at-large Campaign Director shall chair the committee.

Section 7. Legislative Action Committee

The Legislative Action Committee shall research various legislative proposals, draft an annual legislative agenda and advocacy action plan, coordinate outreach efforts and lobbying activities approved in such agenda and plan, and act as liaison with administrative/executive and legislative bodies at all levels of government. The Legislative Action Director shall chair the committee.

Section 8. Communications Committee

The Communications Committee shall see that all activities, including meetings, are advertised through the media. It shall ensure that Caucus members are informed on issues and upcoming activities. It shall also develop and maintain a Caucus website. The at-large Director of Communications shall chair the committee.

Section 9. Nominating Committee

The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee, whose duties are defined in Article IX, Section 3 of these Bylaws.

Section 10. Conference and Special Events Committee

The Conference and Special Events Committee shall plan, coordinate and organize Member and Organizational meetings, including the Summer and Winter Conferences, as well as efforts at Party-led gatherings. The Committee's responsibilities include negotiating contracts in conjunction with the President and assisting with programming. The At-Large Director of Diversity and Inclusion shall serve as a member of the committee.

Section 11. Veterans Outreach Committee

The Veterans Outreach Committee shall work through the Chapters to develop programs to identify and attract Veterans to the Caucus, and serve as a voice for this constituency. The Committee shall engage Veterans in legislative and communications efforts to advance the Caucus' goal of equality, as well as engender support for the unique needs of Veterans among legislators and policy makers at the federal, state and local levels.

Section 12. Diversity and Inclusion Committee

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee shall provide leadership, dialogue, and resources for Caucus members to enhance diversity and inclusion; suggest and provide programs and resources that enhance knowledge and encourage understanding of inclusivity; discuss, communicate and create collaborations in ongoing and upcoming initiatives and events that support the goal of enhancing the environment for diversity and inclusion in the Caucus. The Committee will develop conference programs and panel presentations on the challenges presented by diversity issues, and focus on programs that have been and could be developed to address them.

Section 13. Committee Records and Reports

All records created and maintained by standing or special committees in the discharge of their duties shall be the exclusive property of the Caucus. Every committee shall keep an accurate, complete, and permanent record of its proceedings, including membership attendance at all meetings of the committee. Committee chairs shall be custodians of such records, shall make copies of all records quarterly for submission to and retention by the Secretary, and shall transfer all records to succeeding chairs upon the appointment of their successor. All committees shall make written reports to the President and to the general membership, as requested or upon initiative of the

individual committee chair. All committee reports, requiring action at a Board meeting, shall be in writing and shall be transmitted to the Board at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting.

ARTICLE XII: SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Section 1. Creation of Special Committees

Special committees may be created (a) by the President, (b) by petition of twenty (20) percent of the members attending a general membership meeting, or (c) by petition of twenty (20) percent of the members of the Board. The size of such special committees shall be determined (a) by the President if formed at the President's initiative, (b) by majority vote of the general membership meeting if formed by member petition, or (c) by a majority of the Board if formed by Board member petition.

Section 2. Membership of Special Committees

For special committees created by either member or Board member petition, the President shall appoint, within ten (10) days, not more than half of the members of such special committees and the remainder shall be nominated and elected by a majority vote of the members attending the general membership meeting or by a majority vote at the Board meeting at the general membership or Board meeting at which the petition is presented.

Section 3. Special Committee Chairs

For special committees created by the President, the President shall appoint the chair. For special committees created by petition, such committees shall have an organizational meeting called by the Secretary within thirty (30) days after the election of committee members, at which organizational meeting, they shall elect, by a majority vote, a chair and vice-chair. Special committee chairs shall be *ex officio* members (without vote) of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Special Committee Records and Reports

Special committees shall make reports and keep records in the same manner as outlined for standing committees in these Bylaws.

Section 5. Discharge of Special Committees

Special committees may be discharged when the President has determined that their function has been fulfilled, except that special committees created by petition must only be discharged by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the body (i.e., general membership or Board) that elected the members.

Section 6. Term of Service

The Chair and members of the special committee shall serve a term of not more than two (2) years, commencing when appointed or elected and ending at the earlier of (1) the biennial meeting after which they were appointed or elected, or (2) the date when discharged. The term of service may be extended by the President, or a majority vote of either the general membership meeting or the Board. Such members may be reappointed or reelected, without limit on the number of successive terms they may serve.

Section 7. Removal of Elected Members

Any chairperson or member of a special committee, who is not appointed by the President, may be removed from such committee in the same manner as provided for the removal of officers as described in these Bylaws.

Section 8. Vacancies of Elected Members

Vacancies of elected members shall be filled by the Board, immediately, but no later than the next meeting after the creation of a vacancy.

ARTICLE XIII: FINANCES

Section 1. Receipts

All dues, contributions and receipts from fundraising activities and any other funds received shall be deposited in a qualified banking institution in the State of Florida with statewide branches, designated by the President, in consultation with the Treasurer. A newly elected President shall not change an existing banking institution, except for cause and with the approval of the Board.

Section 2. Disbursements

- (a) By its adoption of a budget, the Board shall establish the maximum amounts that may be expended for each activity or item of expense. Any expenditure in excess of these amounts is not authorized and shall require prior approval by the Board. Notwithstanding the foregoing to the contrary, any individual disbursement in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to any one payee shall require prior Board approval.
- (b) Any authorized disbursement shall be made upon the signature of the President or Treasurer.
- (c) Petty cash disbursements may not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) in any one calendar month. All petty cash disbursements shall be made upon the signature of the President or the Treasurer.

Section 3. Records

An annual financial report showing the receipts and disbursements of the Caucus for the preceding fiscal year (ending on the last day of March) and its assets and liabilities shall be prepared in writing and signed by the Treasurer. It shall be submitted to an ad hoc Audit Committee, no later than forty-five (45) days after the close of the fiscal year. The Audit Committee shall provide the annual report and its findings to each of the next following meetings of the Board and general membership. An ad hoc Audit Committee, comprised of at least three members (none of whom may serve on the Finance Committee), shall be appointed by the President at the March Board meeting. The President and Treasurer may not serve on such committee, although they may be called upon and shall be required to provide any and all information requested by the ad hoc committee to discharge its duties.

ARTICLE XIV: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Caucus in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws, the rules of the Florida Democratic Party and the Democratic National Committee.

ARTICLE XV: PROVISIONS RELATED TO CHAPTERS

Section 1. Caucus Charter Recertification

At the time appointed by the Florida Democratic Party Committee on Clubs, Organizations, and Caucuses, the Caucus shall provide requested records for recertification by the Florida Democratic

Party. Failure to maintain certification may result in loss of permission to use the word “Democrat,” “Democratic”, or any derivative thereof.

Section 2. Initial Chapter Charter Certification

The Membership and Chartering Committee shall recommend to the Board the process to be used to charter individual Caucus chapters. Such process is subject to Florida Democratic Party rules and Board approval. The Committee and Regional Directors shall provide all needed assistance to organize chapters throughout the state. Only one chapter shall be chartered in each county, except that counties with no chapters may be included, on an interim basis, in the chapter of a contiguous county.

Section 3. Chapter Charter Recertification

As required by the FDP, or at such time as otherwise required by the Caucus, each chapter of the Caucus shall provide to the Membership and Chartering Committee the documentation required for charter re-certification. Failure to do so shall result in the forfeiture of all rights and privileges to the use of the word “Democrat,” “Democratic,” or any derivative thereof. Pursuant to Florida Democratic Party rules, the Board shall recertify charters.

Section 4. Approval of Chapter Bylaws Amendments

Caucus chapters shall submit any changes in their bylaws, within thirty (30) days of such amendment, to the Committee on Membership and Chartering for its review and approval. Chapter bylaw amendments that are not approved by the Committee shall be referred to the Board, with a recommendation for action. The decision of the Board shall be final.

Section 5. Caucus Chapter Dissolution

In the event a Caucus chapter wishes to dissolve, a resolution stating the date of dissolution and reasons therefore shall be adopted by a majority vote at a general membership meeting of the Caucus chapter, after being submitted in writing at the previous meeting. When the Caucus chapter disbands for any reason, the chapter assets and funds, after all debts are satisfied, shall become the property of the Florida LGBT+ Democratic Caucus.

ARTICLE XVI: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 1. Anti-Discrimination Provisions

The Caucus hereby adopts and shall enforce the following anti-discrimination provisions for the Caucus and its chapters:

- (a) No Democratic Loyalty Oath should be used which has the effect of requiring members of the Democratic Party to condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex, age, religion, economic status, ethnic identity, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.
- (b) The time and place for all public meetings of the Caucus and its chapters should be publicized fully in such a manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons, and should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, religion, economic status, ethnic identity, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.
- (c) In order to fully and adequately inform prospective and current members of a full description of the legal, practical and pertinent procedures for selection of all Democratic Caucus or chapter representatives and officers, the Caucus/chapter should publicize fully, and in such a manner, as to assure notice to all interested Democrats in time to have adequate opportunity to participate.

Section 2. Caucus Dissolution

In the event the Caucus wishes to dissolve, a resolution stating the date of dissolution and reasons therefore shall be adopted by a majority vote at a general membership meeting, after being submitted in writing at the previous meeting. When the Caucus disbands for any reason, the Caucus 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 resolved by the President, Board of Directors, or by the Florida Democratic Party Central Committee whose decision shall be final, unless appealed to the Judicial Council of the Florida Democratic Party within forty-five (45) days from the date of said decision. The Board of Directors shall prescribe a disputes and grievance procedure to designate the roles and authority of the President, as well as the use of other members (not parties to the dispute or grievance), who may individually or collectively mediate and/or investigate the issue.

Section 4. Use of Membership and Contact Lists

To protect the privacy of the membership, the Board of Directors shall establish a privacy policy including, but not limited to, the use of the membership and contact lists. Anyone found in violation of the privacy policy may be subject to revocation of membership.

ARTICLE XVII: AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Section 1. Amendment Process

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at any regular or special general membership meeting pursuant to notification in writing, by mail and/or email, ten (10) days prior to the meeting. Any proposed bylaws amendment submitted by a member not serving on the Bylaws Committee shall be received by the Bylaws Committee at least forty-five (45) days prior to such meeting. The Bylaws Committee shall review such proposed amendment and provide a written report and recommendations to the Board. The Bylaws Committee shall also provide a written report of any proposed amendment developed by the Committee to the Board. The proposed amendments, the written report of the Bylaws Committee, and the recommendation, if any, by the Board shall be included in the notification of the meeting. Bylaws and any changes or amendments thereto, together with copies of the minutes of the meeting at which they are adopted, shall be filed with the Florida Democratic Party within thirty (30) days following adoption.

Section 2. Effective Date

All amendments shall take effect immediately, but shall be subject to approval by the Florida Democratic Party. Any amendment or change, which is not approved, shall be deleted from the bylaws. Actions taken pursuant to such unapproved amendment or changes shall be null and void.

ANNEX I: REGIONS FOR THE FLORIDA LGBT+ DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

Until such time as a strategic plan is approved, the following counties shall constitute each region of the Caucus:

- 1 North Region: Baker, Bay, Bradford, Calhoun, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty,

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- Madison, Nassau, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, St. Johns, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington
- 2 Central Northwest: Alachua, Citrus, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hernando, Levy, Marion, Pasco, Pinellas, Putnam, and Sumter
 - 3 Central Northeast: Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, and Volusia
 - 4 Central Southwest: Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Hardee, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, and Sarasota
 - 5 Central Southeast: Brevard, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie
 - 6 Southeast: Broward
 - 7 South: Miami-Dade and Monroe

At its meeting before the regional elections, the general membership may revise these regions with the effective date of such revision being the date of the election for Regional Directors.

HISTORY

The Revised Bylaws were adopted, as amended, on May 21, 2005.

/s/ Michael A. Albetta, President

/s/ Derrick Hankerson, Acting Secretary

Witnessed and Signed by 28 Members in Attendance

The Revised Bylaws were further amended on May 19, 2007, by the general membership meeting in Sarasota, a quorum of 41, being present

/s/ William Vayens, Secretary

The Revised Bylaws were further amended on October 10, 2009, by the general membership meeting in Orlando, a quorum of 26, being present

/s/ William Vayens, Secretary

The Revised Bylaws were further amended on June 15, 2013, by the general membership meeting in Hollywood, a quorum of 45, being present.

/s/ Terry Jones, Secretary

The Revised Bylaws were further amended on July 19, 2014, by the general membership meeting in Melbourne, a quorum of 34, being present.

/s/ Andy Janecek, Secretary

The Revised Bylaws were further amended on February 7, 2015, by the general membership meeting in Gainesville, a quorum of 58, being present.

/s/ Andy Janecek, Secretary

The Revised Bylaws were further amended on July 20, 2019, by the general membership meeting in Tampa, a quorum of 49, being present.

/s/ Dave Cutler, Secretary