

BY-LAWS OF THE 28TH WARD REGULAR DEMOCRATIC CLUB

(Revised February 15, 1996)

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the organization shall be "THE 28TH WARD REGULAR DEMOCRATIC CLUB."

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

1. For the purposes of these By-Laws, a Democrat shall be any person who swears or affirms that he or she is a Democrat; or as is otherwise provided by the City, State or National Democratic Committee.

2. There shall be three (3) categories of members:

A. **VOTING MEMBER.** Any Democrat who has submitted an application for membership, paid dues in accordance with Article V, is not a member of any other Democratic ward organization in the 28th Ward, and is either:

- 1) a resident and registered voter of the 28th Ward;
- 2) an owner of a business or real property in the 28th Ward; or
- 3) a government employee endorsed, as a condition of employment, by the 28th Ward Democratic Committee;

provided that no person shall forfeit his or her status as a Voting Member because of any City ward redistricting ordinance unless he or she fails to continue paying dues in accordance with said Article V.

A. **HONORARY MEMBER.**

- 1) Any Democrat who is not a Voting Member or a member of any other Democratic ward organization in the 28th Ward and has submitted an application for membership and paid dues in accordance with Article V; or
- 2) any Democratic elected official who represents any portion of the 28th Ward who is not a Voting Member.

A. **CONSTITUENT MEMBER.** Any resident of the 28th Ward who is a Democrat. A Constituent Member shall have the right to vote only at mass meetings called for the election of delegates to a district or state convention.

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS

1. The Principal Officers of the Club shall be as follows:

- A. President
- B. First Vice President
- C. Second Vice President - Special Projects
- D. Secretary
- E. Treasurer
- F. Precinct Captains (One representative for each precinct that contains registered voters)

1. Principal Officers shall serve a term of two (2) years and shall be elected at the regular meeting held in November of even-numbered years.

2. The President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer may reside in any precinct within the legal boundaries of the 28th Ward. The Precinct Captains must reside within the boundaries of the individual precinct which they represent, or in an adjacent precinct.

3. Principal Officers, including Precinct Captains, shall be elected by a majority of the Voting Members present at the prescribed meeting.
4. Should an office become vacant because of the death, removal, resignation or disqualification because of residency of any officer, the President shall have the authority, with the approval of the Executive Committee, to appoint a qualified member to fulfill the unexpired term.
5. In the case of the Presidency being vacated, the First Vice President shall serve as Acting President for the remainder of the term, or until a special election is called in the case of the First Vice President declining to accept the office of Acting President.
6. The President shall appoint, at his or her discretion, a Sergeant-at-Arms, Program, Social, Membership and Fund Raising Committees; or any other specially designated officer or committee.

ARTICLE IV - COMMITTEES & BOARDS

1. The 28th Ward Democratic Committee is comprised of the Democratic Committeewoman and Committeeman and their designated appointees.
2. The Executive Board is comprised of the Democratic Committeewoman, Committeeman and Alderman.
3. The Executive Committee is comprised of the Democratic Committeewoman, Committeeman, and Alderman, and the Principal Officers; with the President serving as Chair. It shall be empowered to administer the day-to-day affairs of the Club.
4. The Executive Committee shall meet at the Call of the President, Committeewoman, Committeeman, or Alderman, or by the call of a majority of committee members polled by the Secretary. Meetings shall be open to Voting Members.

ARTICLE V - DUES

Annual membership dues shall be set by the Executive Committee with the concurrence of the membership. However, dues shall be fixed at a minimum of ten dollars (\$10) per year per individual member, payable to the treasury on the first day of January each year.

ARTICLE VI - CLUB MEETINGS AND QUORUM

1. There shall be at least six (6) regular meetings of the Club each year, no two (2) of which shall take place in any one (1) month. The annual holiday party and the annual picnic shall be considered regular meetings when held. Special meetings may be called as necessary. The times and places of endorsement elections and meetings, regular or special, shall be set by a majority decision of the Executive Board.
2. Meetings shall be open and public.
3. Notice of the time and place of any endorsement election, regular or special meeting shall be directed to the address of each Voting and Honorary Member, as it appears on the books of the Club. Notice of endorsement elections and regular meetings shall be mailed no less than seven (7) days prior to the election or regular meeting; notice of special meetings shall be mailed as soon as practical, but in no event less than three (3) days before the meeting; delivery to be executed by the U.S. Postal Service.

4. Twenty (20) Voting Members shall constitute a quorum for any regular or special meeting.

ARTICLE VII - ENDORSEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

1. Before each municipal, state or national Democratic primary election, except as hereinafter limited, there shall be an election to endorse candidates for nomination to public office. The election shall be conducted under procedures adopted by the Executive Board. The endorsement shall be by a majority of the eligible Voting Members present and voting. To be eligible a Voting Member must have been such for at least sixty (60) days and attended two (2) meetings prior to the endorsement election within the last twelve (12) months. Provided, however, that if any person meets the foregoing eligibility requirements but is delinquent no more than one (1) year in the payment of dues, and has not forfeited Voting Member status because of ward redistricting, he or she shall be eligible to vote at an endorsement election if said delinquent dues are paid prior to the end of said endorsement election. These voting requirements shall not apply to mass meetings called for election of delegates to a district or state convention.
2. There shall be two (2) meetings of the Club within sixty (60) days of the endorsement election.
3. No business shall be transacted at endorsement elections other than the endorsement of candidates and ballot issues. An endorsement election shall not be deemed a regular or special meeting. There shall be no call to order, no requirement for a quorum, nor any other proceedings customarily required for a meeting except as herein specifically provided.
4. The polls shall be open for voting on the day of the endorsement election continuously between the hours of 6:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M., or until all voters in line to vote at 7:00 P.M. shall vote. Immediately after the polls are closed, the President shall appoint a committee which, in the same place where the endorsement election has been held, shall publicly count the ballots and announce the results of the election.
5. A candidate shall be endorsed by receiving a majority of votes cast. If no candidate shall receive a majority and there is no majority for "No Endorsement," then the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped from the ballot and, on the same night as the initial election, a run off election shall be held. This procedure shall be repeated until a candidate receives a majority or until "No Endorsement" receives a majority. Only those who voted in the initial election shall be eligible to vote in any run-off election.
6. Endorsement election results are advisory in nature. They are for the benefit of the 28th Ward Democratic Committee in planning election strategy and preparing election materials. Endorsement election results are not mandatory upon the 28th Ward Democratic Committee, but these results do carry the strongest recommendation possible from the Club to the 28th Ward Democratic Committee.
7. Twenty-five (25) days prior to an endorsement election, the President shall appoint a person to compile separate complete lists of: all Voting Members who are eligible to participate; all Voting Members who would be eligible, as provided above in Section 1, if they attend one additional meeting called prior to the endorsement election; and all persons who would be eligible, as provided above in Section 1, if their delinquent dues were timely paid. These lists shall be public and available to anyone wishing to view them no later than ten (10) days prior to the endorsement election.
8. Any Voting Member wishing to challenge the right of another Voting Member to participate in an endorsement election must file a challenge in writing with the Executive Board. A challenge must contain the name of the challenged Voting Member, the basis for the challenge, and the supporting evidence therefor, and the name of the Voting Member filing the challenge, notice of which shall be given to the challenged Voting Member. A hearing shall be held prior to the closing of the polls or the challenged member voting. All Voting Members shall have the right to be present and to be heard at all such proceedings of the Executive Board. The decision of the Executive Board is final.

9. Any Voting Member wishing to challenge his or her lack of eligibility to participate in an endorsement election shall file a challenge and the Executive Board shall take action in the same manner as prescribed in the above Section 8.

ARTICLE VIII - ENDORSEMENT OF ISSUES AND NON-PARTISAN CANDIDATES

1. The endorsement of any ballot issue or non-partisan candidate may be voted upon at any meeting or endorsement election. Provided, however, that no such endorsement vote may be taken at a meeting unless the candidates and/or issues to be discussed and voted upon were clearly stated in the notice of the meeting. The discussion and vote shall be conducted under procedures adopted by the Executive Board.
2. If the Executive Board deems that such an endorsement shall be decided at an endorsement election, the provisions of Article VII shall apply.

ARTICLE IX - EFFECT OF ENDORSEMENTS ON OFFICERS

1. All Officers shall be required to support all candidates and ballot issues endorsed by the Club. Should any officer publicly support any candidate who is running in opposition to a candidate who has the endorsement of the Club, or publicly oppose any position on any ballot issue endorsed by the Club, such officer shall be subject to immediate removal from office by a majority decision of the Executive Board.
2. Should such an officer, so removed from office, wish to appeal this action, the issue will be decided at a special meeting of the Executive Committee.
3. A majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee present and voting will decide; however, the officer whose removal is under consideration shall not have a vote.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended or repealed at any meeting except an endorsement election, but only if notice of the proposed amendment or repeal specifically designating the Articles proposed to be amended or repealed, including a general statement of the proposed change, is contained in the notice of the meeting. The Articles which may be amended or repealed at such meeting shall be limited to those described in the notice. Amendment or repeal of these By-Laws shall require approval of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Voting Members present.

ARTICLE XI - MATTERS NOT COVERED BY THESE BY-LAWS

Any procedural or policy matter not specifically governed by these By-Laws shall be regulated by the membership according to Robert's Rules of Order.
