

Petition To Amend the Bylaws of The Portland Democratic City Committee

As the membership of the PDCC has charged the the Bylaws committee to revise the PDCC Bylaws to better reflect their values and priorities with regard to the Committee's affairs, and as the current mechanisms for handling these affairs have been assessed to be cumbersome and inefficient,

In accordance with the PDCC Bylaws Article X, Amendment of Bylaws, here are proposed the following amendments to the PDCC Bylaws, for review by the membership, to be put to a vote at the next general membership meeting:

1. To replace Article II, Purpose, with Article II, Mission and Purpose, as follows:

ARTICLE II. Mission and Purpose (amended)

The mission of the Portland Democratic City Committee is to advance Democratic values and principles, considering the needs of all and the rights of each. We believe in truly inclusive, participatory, transparent, and democratic governance based in the equality of all citizens, and strive to model these values in our organization and community.

To achieve our goals, we seek to build a large, engaged community of active voters, volunteers and activists; to be a strong and effective voice in local and state policy decisions; and to elect Democrats to local, state, and national office. When more than one Democrat is seeking an elected office, the PDCC does not take sides, but seeks to inform voters about all of their Democratic choices.

As approved by majority vote of the Bylaws Committee on 3/3/17.

2. To replace Article III, Membership, with Article III, Membership as follows:

Article III. Membership (amended)

Section 1. Methods of Qualifying for Membership.

Any resident of the City of Portland who is a member of the Democratic Party, registered as such with the City of Portland Board of Election, may become a member of the City Committee by:

- (a) attending the Portland Democratic Biennial Municipal Caucus, a regularly scheduled meeting of the City Committee or one of its designated subcommittees; and
- (b) there expressing a desire to become a member of the City Committee by completing a membership admittance form. Once party affiliation and residency have been verified, the prospective member will become a member of the PDCC and able to vote at the next meeting.

Section 2. Membership at Time of Adoption of Bylaws.

All members of the City Committee as of the date of adoption of these bylaws shall be deemed members of the City Committee.

Section 3. Removal of Members.

A member of the City Committee may be removed for persistent disruptive behavior or serious ethical violations, as determined by a two-thirds vote of the membership at a regular meeting. In addition, members shall be automatically removed if they cease to be registered as Democrats in Portland. The Secretary, or other properly designated committee member, shall conduct this removal at least annually, after each municipal election, by inspecting the Democratic Party enrollment, as obtained from the Portland City Clerk.

Section 4. Subcommittee Membership.

All PDCC members are de facto members of all PDCC subcommittees.

Section 5. Contact Information.

- (a) Contact information for all PDCC officers and subcommittee chairs, who shall be provided with PDCC email addresses, shall be posted on the PDCC website.
- (b) Access to and use of the PDCC email list shall be restricted to PDCC officers and subcommittee chairs doing the business of the PDCC.

Section 6. Policy of Inclusion.

All PDCC members are welcome to attend all PDCC events regardless of ability to pay.

As approved by majority vote of the Bylaws Committee on 3/13/17 (Sections 1,2 & 3), and 10/9/17 (Sections 4, 5 & 6).

1. To replace Article IV, Meetings, with Article IV, Meetings, as follows:

Article IV. Meetings (amended)

Section 1. Biennial Meeting.

The Biennial Meeting shall be the Biennial municipal caucus.

- (a) It shall be called in accordance with the rules prescribed by the Democratic Party of Maine.
- (b) The Chair shall appoint a registered Democrat from each precinct and/or district for the purpose of supervising a caucus election for delegates and alternates to the State Convention of the Democratic Party of Maine.

Section 2. Regular Meetings.

Regular meetings shall be held once a month except when a majority of officers find reason not to conduct a meeting. However, regular meetings shall be held no less than 8 times a year.

Section 3. Special Meetings.

Upon receipt of a written or email request from a majority of officers or any five members of the City Committee, the Chair shall call a special meeting to be held within thirty (30) days to discuss any business mentioned in the request. Whenever a special meeting is held upon request, the notification and agenda requirements contained in Section 5 below shall be mandatory.

Section 4. Quorum; Action by Majority Vote.

A quorum shall be fifteen (15) members of the City Committee. When less than 15 members of the City Committee are present at any meeting, no effective action may be taken except to adjourn. Except where otherwise provided in these bylaws, actions of the City Committee shall be taken by a majority vote of those members present.

Section 5. Meeting Agenda and Notice Requirements.

The Chair is responsible for establishing the agenda of meetings. Items may be placed on the agenda in one of four ways: (1) by the Chair, (2) by two or more officers, (3) by written or email request to the Chair of at least three members of the City Committee, received at least fourteen (14) days prior to the next scheduled meeting, or (4) by motion at a City Committee meeting upon the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present.

The following shall be included in a regular meeting: (a) call to order, (b) reading of minutes of last meeting, (c) reports of the Treasurer and committees, and, when applicable, (d) unfinished business, and (e) new business.

Each City Committee member shall be given seven (7) days notice and a written agenda prior to the holding of a City Committee meeting. Said notice shall specifically advise the members of any prospective vote including officer elections, member or officer removals, or bylaws revisions or amendments.

Section 6. Meeting Rules.

The Chair shall be responsible for the orderly conduct of the meetings. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the City Committee in all cases in which they are consistent with these bylaws and any rules of order the City Committee may adopt.

Section 7. Prohibition of Proxy Voting.

At no time shall proxy voting be permitted.

As approved by majority vote of the Bylaws Committee on 6/12/17.

4. 1. To revise Article V, Officers, with the addition of Section 6, Officers Code Of Conduct, as follows:

Article V. Officers (revised)

Section 6. Officers Code of Conduct

Officers will uphold standards of ethical conduct, support for Democrats, and democratic governance of the Committee as follows:

1. Officers will base their decisions in the best interest of the Committee as a whole.
2. Officers and their families may not benefit financially from their conduct of Committee business.
4. Officers will not make public representations of political positions, opinions or endorsements as being those of the Committee without a majority vote of the membership supporting these.
5. Officers will in their public behavior uphold the Committee requirement of neutrality in Democratic primaries and municipal non-partisan races with respect to Democratic candidates as laid out in the PDCC Mission Statement.

As approved by majority vote of the Bylaws Committee on 10/9/17.

This Petition To Amend the Bylaws of the PDCC has been respectfully submitted by the PDCC Bylaws committee to the PDCC membership 10/12/2017.