

## BY-LAWS

### SAN JUAN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

We, the Democrats of San Juan County, believe in the concepts expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States that all power to govern resides with the people. We organize and pledge ourselves to promote a truly representative party, open to all who support its principles.

We further pledge to make every effort to encourage maximum participation in the political process and to protect individual rights, civil liberties, our environment, and social and economic justice for all.

#### ARTICLE 1 - NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the "San Juan County Democratic Central Committee", commonly known as the "San Juan County Democrats".

Section 2. Any use of the name "Democrats" or Democrat in any election that implies that an organization or candidate is a part of the Democratic Party without the approval of this organization shall be prohibited.

#### ARTICLE II - PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1. This organization shall function continuously and shall otherwise operate under the applicable By-Laws and rules of the State and National Democratic Charter and rules and the laws of the State of Washington.

Section 2. This organization shall:

- a. Assist in the election of Democratic candidates who by their records and reputations are in general agreement with adopted party platforms and who have been endorsed by this organization.
- b. Encourage voter registration and voting.
- c. Work with the elected Democratic public officials at all levels to achieve the goals of the Democratic Party; and
- d. Promote citizen participation and support the goals the party's political objectives of social and economic justice.

### ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All San Juan County Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) and Executive Board Members, whether elected or appointed or acting, shall be members of this organization.

Section 2. Any registered voter in San Juan County who declares that she or he is a Democrat and who agrees to have his or her name published as a Democrat shall be eligible to be a Voting Member in this organization and may vote on all matters except for those matters which by statute or State Democratic Party Charter are limited solely to PCOs and as set out in Article V. Any other person who declares that he or she is a Democrat shall be eligible for non-voting membership in this organization.

Section 3. Membership donations will be encouraged from all members.

Section 4. The Chair is empowered to fill any vacant PCO or Officer position by appointment, with the concurrence of the organization at its next meeting.

### ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

Section 1. A County meeting may be a regular or a special meeting.

Section 2. A regular meeting shall be held quarterly in January, April, July, and October, at the call of the Chair or Executive Board, with notice given to all members. The Executive Board shall meet in between quarterly regular meetings in-person, or by teleconference or communicate by e-mail, as necessary, to carry on business of the organization.

Section 3. The Chair or a majority of the Executive Board may call a special meeting.

Section 4. County meetings will serve as a forum, where free and open discussion of all political ideas and issues will be encouraged. If necessary, the Chair may impose rules for formal debate on important issues.

Section 5. County meetings, except as otherwise provided for by Rules adopted, shall be held pursuant to and in conformity with Roberts Rules of Order, as most recently revised.

Section 6. A quorum shall consist of 10 members. At least 60% of PCOs then in office must be present for consideration of any matter on which only PCOs may vote, except that only 5 PCOs must be present to consider the approval of PCO applications.

Section 7. At least ten days in advance of the meeting date, an e-mail notice stating, the time, and place of the meeting shall be sent to each member. Any member who does not have e-mail capabilities must notify the Secretary at the time when he or she becomes a member and written notice shall be sent to that member.

## ARTICLE V - VOTING PROCEDURES

Section 1. Voting privileges on all business that comes before the organization will be extended to all Voting Members in good standing, except that only elected or appointed PCOs may vote on the following:

- a. Election or removal of the Chair, Vice Chairs, and delegates to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee.

- b. Nomination for County Partisan Offices pursuant to rules of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for the Selection of Candidates and Nominees for Public Office.
- c. Filling of County Council Member vacancies, if applicable.
- d. Approval of PCO applications.

Section 2. No person may cast more than his or her one vote on a question or at any election of this organization. If any elected or appointed PCO person, if required to be absent from a regular or special meeting, may by giving the chair notice by e-mail or by phone at least 12 hours prior to the meeting may designate another person from the same precinct to serve and vote in that PCO's place. Such designation shall be in writing and shall be presented to the Secretary prior to the balloting. The Proxy shall state the date of the meeting and it shall be valid for no other meeting. Each PCO shall be limited to four such proxies in each two-year term.

## ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of the organization shall be:

- a. The Chair, who shall be the executive officer of the organization
- b. The Vice Chairs (San Juan/Stuart, Orcas/Waldron, Lopez/Shaw)
- c. The Secretary
- d. The Treasurer
- e. State Committeewoman
- f. State committeeman
- g. 40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Vice Chair
- h. Webmaster

The Officers shall have the duties general to those offices and any specific duties set forth in these by-laws and any assigned by the Chair. Only elected or appointed PCO's may vote for the Chair or Vice Chairs, State Committeeman and State Committeewoman.

Section 2. The Chair may appoint such further Officers as needed or the membership may do so by resolution that defines the office and sets the time for a vote. Such Officers may include deputy vice chairs to insure that the Executive Board has a balance from the various islands, a program chair, a sergeant at arms, press chair and any other officer needed for the good of the order.

Section 3. All Officers shall be registered to vote in San Juan County.

Section 4. All Officers shall serve until their successors are elected at the County reorganization meeting held in January of each odd-numbered year, or until their successor is selected.

## ARTICLE VII - REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Section 1. Any Officer who fails to attend four consecutive regular meetings may be removed from office by a vote of those eligible to vote for that Officer.

Section 2. Any Officer may be removed upon two-thirds vote of those eligible to vote, provided at least 15 days prior notice of the meeting and the grounds for removal are given to the members and the Officer whose removal is sought.

## ARTICLE VIII - EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of all elected Officers of this organization. It may also include as non-voting members the other Officers appointed by the Chair.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall meet quarterly at the call of the Chair prior to the quarterly regular County meeting. The Executive Board may conduct its meetings and other business by e-mail and a record of such meeting will be made available to all members, by e-

mail prior to the organization's quarterly meetings and in writing at such meeting. Failure to respond to e-mail meetings subjects the Executive Board members to removal as set forth in ARTICLE VI above.

## ARTICLE IX - COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Chair may establish committees and designate the chair and members thereof and the membership may establish committees by a majority vote at County meetings.

Section 2. The Chair or his designate shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

## ARTICLE X - NOMINATIONS AND ENDORSEMENTS

Section 1. This organization shall nominate or endorse candidates for county offices in the primary and general elections pursuant to the Charter of the State Democratic Party and its "Rules for the Selection of Candidates and Nominees for Public Office" and any such other rules or regulation passed by the State Central Committee, and pursuant to the applicable statutes of Washington State.

Section 2. The organization, may endorse those non-partisan officers such as judicial candidates that may run for office in the county.

Section 3. In order to ensure accountability and responsibility, the organization shall act collectively on all endorsements. Public endorsements of candidates or issues on behalf of San Juan County Democrats shall be made by the vote of the Central Committee at a regular or special meeting. Independently-elected PCOs may endorse candidates or issues as individual PCOs. Violation of this policy by any member of the Executive Board will be handled by immediate public retraction of any endorsement by the Central Committee as determined by the Executive Board.

## ARTICLE XI - FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

Section 1. The Executive Board shall develop and monitor the organization's budget. The Treasurer shall prepare and provide for publication at the time of each e-mail the annual budget and year to date revenues, expenditures and balance.

Section 2. Contributions to nominated or endorsed candidates or ballot propositions shall be reviewed the Executive Board prior and approved by the membership at a County regular or special meeting. The Executive Board shall set priorities for such donations at least three months prior to each election. All suggestions for contributions must be submitted, by e-mail or writing, to the Chair at least 10 days prior to the County meeting.

Section 3. No money shall be paid from the funds of the organization except by check signed by the Chair, or the Vice Chairs, or the Treasurer.

Section 4. The Executive Board may require that the books be audited. The Executive Board shall establish an audit committee at the reorganization meeting made up of persons who are not the Chair, Vice Chairs, or Treasurer, to audit the books of the organization prior to the next general meeting; the results of such audit shall be reported to the membership prior to the next regularly scheduled County meeting.

## ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENT

Section 1. These by-laws may amended at any regular meeting, provided that the proposal has been presented in writing to each elected or appointed PCO/Officer at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

Section 2. An affirmative vote of at least 60% of the elected or appointed PCOs/Officers is required to amend these by-laws.

Section 3. These by-laws shall function continuously.

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**As amended by the San Juan County Democratic Central Committee on April 14, 2007.**

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**Relevant Documents**

**RCW 29A.80.030  
County central committee -- Organization meetings.**

The county central committee of each major political party consists of the precinct committee officers of the party from the several voting precincts of the county. Following each state general election held in even-numbered years, this committee shall meet for the purpose of organization at an easily accessible location within the county, subsequent to the certification of precinct committee officers by the county auditor and no later than the second Saturday of the following January. The authorized officers of the retiring committee shall cause notice of the time and place of the meeting to be mailed to each precinct committee officer at least seventy-two hours before the date of the meeting.

At its organization meeting, the county central committee shall elect a chair and vice-chair of opposite sexes.

[2003 c 111 § 2003; 1987 c 295 § 12; 1973 c 85 § 1; 1973 c 4 § 5; 1965 c 9 § [29.42.030](#). Prior: 1961 c 130 § 4; prior: 1943 c 178 § 1, part; 1939 c 48 § 1, part; 1927 c 200 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 158 § 1, part; 1909 c 82 § 6, part; 1907 c 209 § 22, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 5198, part. Formerly RCW [29.42.030](#).]

**NOTES:**

Precinct election officers, appointment: RCW [29A.44.410](#) and [29A.44.430](#).

ARTICLE VIII  
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- A. The county central committee shall be the governing body of the county Democratic Party and shall have the responsibility for conducting party affairs at the county level. It shall be composed of all elected and appointed precinct committee officers.
- B. In any county central committee only elected precinct committee officers and precinct committee officers appointed after the organizational meeting shall vote for county chair, vice chair, state committeewoman, state committeeman, any representative the

county central committee is authorized to send to other party organizations and on the adoption or amendment of bylaws. County central committees may allow other Democrats to participate in all other functions.

- C. Each county central committee shall be organized according to state law, the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington, and other provisions pursuant to the authority of the Charter. Its organizational meeting shall take place in December or January following each state general election held in even-numbered years. At the organizational meeting the committee shall elect a chair, a vice chair, a state committeewoman, a state committeeman and any representatives it is authorized to send to other party organizations.
- D The county central committee shall have a minimum of four (4) regular meetings a year unless there are legislative district organizations within the county.
- E. In counties with legislative district organizations, the county central committee may establish a county executive board.