

# **Bylaws**

## **District 6 Democrats**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Assist in electing Democratic candidates to public office. Promote the Democratic Party's basic principles. Contribute to the development and advancement of the core values of the Democratic Party, including: diversity, individual rights, civil liberties, and social and economic justice.

### **ARTICLE I. NAME AND AUTHORITY**

The name of this organization is District 6 Democrats hereafter called District 6. District 6 operates within the laws of the United States and the State of Arizona. District 6 operates under the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic National Committee, the Arizona Democratic Party and Maricopa County Democratic Party.

### **ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES**

The objective of District 6 is to elect Democrats who embrace the values of the Democratic Party to public office. To meet this objective, District 6:

- A. Promotes accurate, transparent, and fair elections
- B. Raises funds to support the above activities and to advance the mission
- C. Conducts other activities as appropriate to strengthen and promote the aims and objectives of the Democratic Party
- D. Registers Democrats to vote
- E. Assures as many Democrats vote as possible
- F. Recruits Democratic candidates for public office

### **ARTICLE III. MEMBERS**

#### **Section 1. Membership**

All District 6 Democratic Precinct Committeepersons (hereafter called PCs), activists and volunteers in the Democratic Party are members of District 6. Voting rights are restricted to elected and appointed PCs, however only elected PCs are allowed to vote or run for office at the reorganization meeting immediately following the Primary Election at which Precinct Committeepersons are elected.

The term of office for a Precinct Committeeperson shall be until the next primary election at which time PCs may become ballot elected.

A Precinct Committeeperson should be deemed to have resigned from office if s/he moves out of the precinct, changes political parties, or supports opposition candidates in partisan races.

## **Section 2. Duties of Membership**

Members should be actively involved in the business of the party including attending District meetings. Members and volunteers are to assist the party in voter registration and assist Democratic voters on Election Day. In addition, PCs are expected to support Democratic candidates and assist with fundraising activities.

## **Section 3. Affirmative Action**

Discrimination in membership and in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs on the basis of sex, race, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic identity or disability is prohibited.

# **ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE**

## **Section 1. Governance and Overview**

District 6 is governed by officers who are elected by the elected PCs of District 6. These officers constitute the District 6 Executive Board. The Executive Board provides leadership for the organization. The Executive Board acts on behalf of District 6 between general meetings.

## **Section 2. Precinct Committee**

In each precinct there should be a precinct committee consisting of the elected and appointed Precinct Committeepersons (PCs), Democratic precinct volunteers and other party volunteers. These members may elect a Precinct Captain. PCs are ballot-elected during primary elections. PC vacancies are filled by a vote of the District 6 membership with approval by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.

# **ARTICLE V. LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

## **Section 1. Elected Officers**

Elected District 6 officers are the Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Together these officers constitute the Executive Board of District 6. The terms of officers extend to the next reorganizational meeting.

## **Section 2. Election of District Officers**

The ballot elected PCs of District 6 should meet no earlier than the second Saturday in November and no later than the first Saturday of December after the general election for the purpose of electing from their number a District Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. If more than one person is nominated for a position, the person receiving the most votes is the winner. If a tie exists after a second ballot, then the outcome shall be determined by lot.

No later than fifteen (15) days before the District 6 organizational meeting, the District 6 Chair should designate a time and a place for the meeting provided for in the foregoing paragraph and should notify the Maricopa County Democratic Party Chair of said time and place. The District 6 Chair should mail written notice of the time and place of this District 6 meeting provided for in this section, 10 days in advance, to all PCs who were elected at the primary election. The District 6 Chair may use email notification. In the event that the District 6 Chair fails to comply with the preceding paragraphs, the Maricopa County Democratic Party Chair should designate the time and place for the meeting of District 6 and should notify the PCs as provided for above.

### **Section 3. Duties of the District 6 Chair**

The duties of the District 6 Chair should include but not be limited to:

- A. Lead District 6 on behalf of the Democratic Party.
- B. Hold District 6 meetings at least every other month in off election years and once each month during election years unless canceled in advance. In the event that the Chair is unable to attend a District 6 meeting, the Chair should instruct one of the Vice Chairs to call and conduct the meeting.
- C. Attend all Executive Committee meetings called by the Maricopa County Democratic Party (hereafter called MCDP) Chair or send a statutory officer who will have voting rights as a designee.
- D. Organize and promote voter registration drives within District 6.
- E. Encourage financial support of the Democratic Party.
- F. Hold District 6 Executive Board meetings at least quarterly to set District 6 goals and priorities.
- G. Identify and nominate Democrats to be Election Board workers (poll workers).
- H. Encourage participation in District 6 committees and activities.

### **Section 4. Duties of District 6 Officers other than Chair**

The elected officers of District 6 constitute the Executive Board of District 6. Their duties should include but not be limited to:

- A. The First Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair should assist the District 6 Chair in the performance of his/her duties. The First Vice Chair should act as Chair in his/her absence. Both Vice Chairs will perform such other duties as may be assigned by the District 6 Chair.
- B. The Secretary should record and archive minutes of all meetings of District 6 and the District 6 Executive Board. The Secretary will distribute the minutes of the meetings within 2 weeks of the meeting for which minutes were taken. The Secretary should also keep records of the District 6 organization, including the names of all precinct captains, PCs, and other party volunteers. The Secretary should correspond with and keep record of communications. The Secretary should perform such other duties as may be assigned by the District 6 Chair.
- C. The Treasurer should receive all monies of the District and deposit them in such banks as should be designated by District 6. The Treasurer will prepare receipts when necessary. The Treasurer should disburse the funds of District 6 in the amounts and manner approved in the budget and should keep a record of all receipts and disbursements for the purposes of filing a monthly written report of these transactions to membership of District 6. The Treasurer should register

District 6 as a continuing political organization and prepare and submit the required financial reports to the Arizona Secretary of State.

The Treasurer shall be removed from office for dishonesty, malfeasance, or the failure to timely perform statutorily required duties. No Treasurer should permit an unlawful political contribution.

## **ARTICLE VI. DISTRICT 6 COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1. Committees**

Special, permanent, and/or ad hoc committees and their chairs may be appointed by the District 6 Chair as needed. There should be standing committees for by-laws, fund raising, voter registration and programs. District 6 PCs must approve all committee reports.

## **ARTICLE VII. STATE COMMITTEE**

### **Section 1. Membership**

The District 6 Delegation to the State Committee of the Arizona State Democratic Party should consist of the number of PCs from Legislative District 6 as prescribed by statute. State Committee Members shall be elected in an open nomination and election process at the District reorganization meeting.

State Committeepersons unable to attend a state committee meeting shall notify the District 6 Chair or the District Secretary and make available a proxy for use at that meeting. Failure to attend or provide notice of absence at *three* or more meetings will result in the District 6 Executive Board recommending an appropriate course of action to the District 6 PCs. This course of action may include possible removal from the office of State Committeeperson.

A State Committeeperson unable to attend a regularly scheduled district meeting shall notify the District 6 Chair or District Secretary of the reason for the anticipated absence. The reason shall be noted in the minutes. If two consecutive district meetings are missed without a valid reason, a member of the District 6 Executive Board shall contact the State Committeeperson by phone, mail or email and encourage future attendance. If three consecutive regularly scheduled district meetings are missed without valid reasons, the District 6 Executive Board can recommend an appropriate course of action to the elected District 6 PCs including possible removal from the office of State Committeeperson.

Any State Committeeperson can be removed from that office by a 2/3 vote of the elected District 6 PCs present after notification of such a vote is included in the meeting notice. Any State Committeeperson who registers in another political party or as an independent or who publicly supports an opposing party's candidate in a partisan race shall be deemed to have automatically resigned from that office.

Valid reasons for non-attendance to District or State Committee meetings shall include illness, performance of professional or political duties, travel, vacations and other obligations of a personal nature.

## **Section 2. Vacancies**

The District 6 Chair shall provide qualified nominees to fill a vacancy to the Chair of the Maricopa County Democratic Party who will make the recommendations to the Chair of the Arizona State Democratic Party for appointment to the State Committee.

## **ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. District meetings**

District 6 should meet monthly during election years and at least every other month in off election years.

Special meetings may be called by the District 6 Chair or the District 6 Executive Board. PCs must be notified of the special meeting no less than 7 days prior to the meeting. Notification may be by post, e-mail and/or the District 6 web site.

### **Section 2. Debate**

Reports of committees, communications to the members of a meeting, resolutions presented, and all motions may be debated. No delegate or member should speak longer than three minutes at one time except as provided in the order of the day or by a vote of the majority of the members present.

### **Section 3. Rules of Order**

All District 6 meetings, District 6 Executive Board meetings and all other established committee meetings are governed by "Roberts Rules of Order".

### **Section 4. Open meetings**

All meetings of District 6 shall be open to the public.

## **ARTICLE IX. FINANCES**

### **Section 1. Operational budget**

The District 6 Executive Board should prepare an annual or a two year budget that coincides with the election cycle operating budget on or before January 31st of each year, and submit the budget for approval by the majority of District PCs at the next regularly scheduled District 6 meeting. The Treasurer should submit a financial report at each monthly meeting.

## **ARTICLE X. QUORUM**

A quorum at any District 6 meeting, regular or special, shall consist of 25% of the elected and appointed PCs of District 6.

## **ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

### **Section 1. Amendments**

Additions, corrections, changes or deletions presented by the District 6 Bylaws Committee at any regular meeting or special meeting called to review the bylaws must be approved by a simple majority of the elected or appointed PCs at the meeting.

### **Section 2. Notice**

District 6 PCs will be given notice of amendments to the bylaws. Copies of the proposed amendments will be made available at least 2 weeks prior to the next scheduled meeting.

### **Section 3. Method**

Notification of the meetings addressing bylaws, and copies of the amendments to the bylaws, may be made by post or e-mail.

### **Section 4. Duration**

These bylaws shall become effective upon approval as and shall continue in force subject to amendment or termination as defined in Section 1-3 of this Article.

### **Section 5. Severability**

Any provisions in the bylaws deemed unconstitutional or unlawful shall be considered null and void but all remaining provisions remain in effect. These bylaws are subordinate to the Arizona Revised Statutes, DNC Charter and Bylaws, and State and County Party bylaws.