

Bylaws of the Western Washtenaw Democrats

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the Western Washtenaw Democrats, hereinafter called the WWD.

Article II - Purpose

It shall be the purpose of the WWD to develop issues and programs related to government in the communities of Western Washtenaw County, supply financial support for the Democratic program and its candidates, promote candidates and campaign for their election, and provide times and places where Democrats can gather to promote the widest possible participation in the policies, management, and activities of the WWD. It shall further be the purpose of the WWD to promote the growth, welfare and success of the Democratic Party, and to assist in the development of the party platforms of Washtenaw County, the State of Michigan and the United States.

Article III - Membership

1. All residents of the communities of Western Washtenaw County are eligible to vote at all WWD general meetings and to participate in all WWD activities, provided they are in sympathy with the general aims and policies of the Democratic Party. A person becomes a member of the WWD for purposes of notification by indicating in writing his or her wish to become a member, and by being placed on the membership list.

2. Dues for Western Washtenaw Democrats membership shall be determined by the Executive Board.

Article IV - Officers

1. The officers of the WWD shall consist of a Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and one or more Vice-Chairs as may be elected at each annual meeting.

2. Vacancies in these offices, other than that of the Chair, shall be filled through temporary appointment by the Chair. At the next general meeting of the WWD, a new officer to fill the unexpired term shall be elected by a majority vote of the voting members present. A vacancy in the position of Chair shall be filled by the Executive Board until the next general meeting of the Club, at which time a new Chair shall be elected by a majority vote of the voting members present to fill the unexpired term.

3. Duties of officers:

A. The Chair is the chief executive officer of all WWD activities in Western Washtenaw County. He/she shall appoint chairs of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

B. The Chair shall designate a Vice-Chair who shall act as Chair in the absence of the Chair.

C. The functions of any Vice-Chair may be divided among two or more Co-Vice-Chairs at the discretion of the Executive Board. The Executive Board and general WWD meetings may from time to time define specific duties for the Vice-Chairs.

D. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all business meetings of the Executive Board and meetings of the WWD, and shall arrange for correspondence as requested by the Chair.

E. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse funds of the WWD and shall keep records of the same.

F. The above officers shall also have the duties defined by these bylaws, the Executive Board, and general WWD meetings.

Article V - Executive Board

1. The officers set forth in Article IV and up to five elected members, elected at the annual meeting shall constitute the Executive Board. Vacancies among the elected members shall be filled by temporary appointment by the Chair. At the next general meeting of the WWD, a new member to fill the unexpired term shall be elected by a majority vote of the voting members present.

2. The Executive Board shall carry on the business of the WWD between general meetings.

1. All meetings of the Executive Board shall be open, with the privilege of debate but not vote, to any WWD member. There shall be a good-faith effort to notify members of the Executive Board of meetings of the board.

2. A quorum of the Executive Board shall consist of three officers plus two other members of the Board.

Article VI Committees

1. The Chair, subject to the approval of the majority of the executive Board, voting, shall appoint the committees and committee chairs necessary for the work of the organization.

Article VII - Notice of Meetings

1. The annual meeting and all general WWD meetings shall be preceded by at least one week's notice to all members by e-mail. Notice may be submitted to news media at the discretion of the caller of the meeting.
2. The e-mailed notice of the annual meeting must include a list of all nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee.

Article VIII - Notice of Resolutions

1. Notice of resolutions stating a WWD position or changing the structure of the WWD organization which will be presented at a general meeting either must be e-mailed to members at least one week prior to the date of the meetings, or must be given at the immediately preceding general WWD meeting.
2. If the notice required by Article VII, Section 1 has not been given the membership, the resolution may be introduced, but it requires a 4/5 majority of those present and voting to pass.

Article IX - Nominations and Elections of Officers

1. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Board.
2. The Nominating Committee shall report at the annual meeting to be held in January at least one nominee for each of the elective offices listed in Article IV, Section 1. These officers shall be elected for one-year terms.
3. In addition to providing at least one nominee for each office, the Nominating Committee shall include as a nominee any candidate receiving support of at least two members of the Nominating Committee, or any candidate receiving the support of at least ten members made by petition, directed to and received by the Secretary at least two weeks before the annual meeting, asserting that the consent of the nominee has been obtained.
4. Nominations may also be made from the floor, provided prior consent of the nominee has been obtained.
5. When there is more than one candidate for an office, voting for that office shall be by secret ballot on demand of one member.

Article X - General Club Meetings

1. General meetings shall be called by the Executive Board.
2. Any elected officer of the Executive Board shall cause a general WWD meeting to be held upon written request of ten members of the Club, with notice by e-mail a week before the meeting.

Article XI - Primary Elections

1. The WWD will endorse no candidates in any primary election. Individual members, officers, Precinct Chairs, and other officials are free to support any candidate of their choice, but must not so act in the name of the WWD or in their official capacities.
2. Upon request to the Washtenaw County Democratic Party Chair or the WWD Chair, every candidate in a Democratic primary will be given a complete list of WWD members.

Article XII - Parliamentary Authority

1. Club meetings shall be conducted according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised unless these bylaws provide to the contrary.

Article XIII - Amendments

1. Amendment may be made to these bylaws at any general or annual meeting, providing the amendment has been previously submitted in writing at a general meeting, and there is a favorable vote of 2/3 of those members present and voting at the second meeting. The text of the proposed amendment shall be included in the mailed notice of the second meeting.