

Bylaws of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas

Article I. Name

The name of the organization shall be *Stonewall Democrats of Dallas*, also known as *Dallas Stonewall Democrats*, herein also referred to as the “Organization”.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of the organization is:

- To sensitize Democratic candidates and officeholders to the political needs of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community,
- To promote the Democratic Party’s message of economic justice and social progress in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community;
- To encourage Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender participation in the campaigns of Democratic candidates and at all levels of the Democratic Party, and
- To facilitate the election of Democratic candidates to public office by maximizing the Democratic turnout in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community.

Article III. Members

Section 1. Anyone may make application for membership in the Organization. To be accepted as a member, the person must:

- Have a Democratic Party primary election voting history and/or must affirm allegiance to the purposes of the Organization, and
- Pay annual membership dues as set by the Executive Board..

Section 2. Members shall have the right to vote on the endorsements of the Organization, run for office in the Organization, vote on election of the officers of the organization, and vote on amendments to the bylaws.

Section 3. Annual membership dues shall be set by the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall notify members when their dues are payable on the anniversary of their joining the Organization. Those whose dues are not paid within two months of their anniversary shall be automatically dropped from membership in the Organization.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Organization shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Organization, with the assistance of the at-large members of the Executive Board.

Section 2. At the regular meeting of the membership held in November of each calendar year, nominations shall be accepted for the offices. To be eligible for election, each candidate for office must be a current member of the Organization. The election shall be held at the same meeting. The officers shall be elected by ballot to serve for one year or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin on January 1st of the subsequent calendar year.

Section 3. The President shall preside at all meetings or designate the Chair of the meeting; shall be Chairman of the Executive Board, shall be a voting member of all committees; shall create special committees as deemed necessary; and shall be the official spokesperson for the group.

Section 4. The Vice-President shall preside at all meetings designated by the President; and shall perform all duties as assigned by the President.

Section 5. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Organization, and shall perform all duties as assigned by the President.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall collect and, under direction of the President, shall disburse the funds of the Organization. All funds shall be kept in a financial institution(s) approved by the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall keep books of account in which there shall be recorded all receipts and disbursements of the Organization. The Treasurer shall have the authority to sign checks and disburse funds as directed by the President. The Treasurer shall submit all statutory records to the Texas Ethics Commission in connection with the operation of the registered Political Action Committee. The Treasurer shall perform all other duties as assigned by the President.

Article V. Meetings

Section 1. The regular meetings of the Organization shall be held on the third Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise ordered by the Organization or by the Executive Board.

Section 2. All members shall be notified of the time, date, and location of the membership meetings by e-mail, mail or telephone at least 7 days, but no more than 14 days, in advance of the date set for the meeting.

Section 3. The November meeting shall be known as the annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.

Section 4. Special meetings may be called by the President or by a majority of the Executive Board or at the request of ten members of the Organization. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in cases of emergency, at least seven days' notice shall be given.

Article VI. The Executive Board

Section 1. The officers of the Organization shall be members of the Executive Board.

Section 2. The Executive Board at its discretion may appoint an unlimited number of at-large members to the Executive Board to implement the purposes and goals of the Organization. To be eligible to serve, a prospective at-large member of the Executive Board must be a member of the Organization. Such members' terms shall be set by the Executive Board at the time of appointment which shall not exceed the yearly term of all regularly elected Executive Board members. In addition, such members shall not stand for election to their appointed offices, but shall serve at the pleasure of the Executive Board.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Organization between its business meetings, fix the hour and place of meetings, make recommendations to the Organization, and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws. The Board shall be subject to the orders of the Organization, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Organization.

Section 4. The quorum for meetings of the Executive Board shall be a simple majority of its members.

Section 5. The Executive Board shall meet at the discretion of the President or a simple majority of the Executive Board. Notice of all meetings of the Board shall be given to each member of the Executive Board by e-mail, mail or by telephone at least seven days prior to the meeting date.

Section 6. Each member of the Executive Board shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote. A member must be present to vote. No proxy voting is permitted.

Section 7. Any vacancy occurring on the Executive Board shall be filled by a nominee of the President and appointed by the Executive Board.

Section 8. Any Executive Board member, whether elected or appointed, may be removed for cause by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members of the Executive Board at a properly called meeting. Any member of the Executive Board who misses two consecutive meetings of the Board with unexcused absences shall be automatically dismissed from the Board. Any board member so removed who serves as an elected officer shall also forfeit their elective office. (Amendment approved 7/16/02.)

Article VII. Membership Committee

Section 1. The Membership Committee shall consist of three members: two members appointed by the Executive Board and the Chairman appointed by the President. The Membership Committee shall meet as needed to review prospective memberships, and may deny an applicant's membership for just cause subject to review of the Executive Board. Members of the Organization endorsing or supporting Republican candidates may have their membership privileges suspended or revoked by the Membership Committee upon the complaint of any other member also subject to the review of the Executive Board.

Section 2. The Chairman of the Membership Committee shall preside over all meetings of the Membership Committee; shall certify the eligibility of any individual applying for Organizational membership; and shall perform all duties as assigned by the President.

Section 3. Members of the Membership Committee shall serve for one year not to exceed the term of regularly elected Officers of the Organization.

Article VIII. Endorsements

Section 1. The Organization may endorse a candidate(s) or issue(s) in any election submitted to the electorate for a vote.

Section 2. No member of the Republican Party; candidates in the Republican Primary, nor Republican candidates in a General or Non-Partisan Election are eligible for endorsement by this Organization.

Section 3. An "Endorsement Committee" shall be a standing committee of this Organization, and shall consist of members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the President.

Section 4. The Endorsement Committee shall be in charge of creating the procedures and implementing the process by which candidates and/or issues shall be selected and/or identified for possible endorsement by the Organization, and, upon the request and direction of the President and/or a majority vote of the Executive Board, prepare the list of candidates and/or issues to be submitted to the members of this Organization attending the "endorsement meeting/s" for endorsement consideration in a Primary, General, or Non-Partisan Election.

Section 5. The Endorsement Committee may, at its discretion, require candidates for endorsement to complete a questionnaire or to produce any such documents as a prerequisite for endorsement. The contents of all questionnaires must be approved prior to dissemination by majority vote of the Executive Board.

Section 6. Endorsement recommendations for a Primary, General or Non-Partisan Election shall be made by the members attending a properly called "endorsement meeting" or meetings, as needed. Candidate(s) or issue(s) for endorsement consideration must receive a majority vote of the members present at the conclusion of the final "endorsement meeting" to receive an endorsement recommendation. In the event no candidate(s) or issue(s) for endorsement consideration receives more than 50% of the vote, a runoff election must occur. A situation of no endorsement is permitted. Recommendations to vote against a candidate(s) or ballot issue(s) are also permitted.

Section 7. Prior to submission to the membership, the list of issues and/or candidates recommended for endorsement shall be approved and ratified by a majority vote of the Executive Board. When considering this list, the Executive Board, by a two-thirds majority vote, may in its discretion either (a) remove from the recommendation list a candidate or candidates who are deemed non-viable or otherwise inappropriate for endorsement consideration by the general membership, or (b) place onto the recommendation list a candidate or candidates who are deemed viable or otherwise appropriate for endorsement consideration by the general membership. Upon approval of a final list of endorsement recommendations by the Executive Board, the endorsement recommendations will be submitted for acceptance or rejection, individually or as a group, to the general membership of the Organization at a regularly scheduled membership meeting. The recommendations must be approved by a majority vote of the members present prior to dissemination to the general public.

Section 8. Members shall have the right to interrogate any candidate or candidate's representative seeking endorsement during the "endorsement meeting." Members shall further have the right to disseminate information in favor of or against any particular candidate(s) or ballot issue(s) whether produced by the candidate or the member to the members present at the "endorsement meeting." No member shall be restricted in communicating his or her opinion or views either verbally or in writing at any meeting of the Organization. No member, including members of the Executive Board, shall be barred from endorsing candidates prior to the Organization's endorsement meeting provided that the member so doing does not use the Organization's name in that endorsement in any way.

Article IX. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Organization may adopt.

Article X. Amendment of Bylaws

Amendments to these Bylaws may be offered at any regular meeting of the Organization, provided that any and all such amendments have been previously submitted to and reviewed by the Executive Board at a properly scheduled meeting of the Executive Board. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a properly called meeting of the membership shall be required for adoption of any amendment to these Bylaws.

