

**BYLAWS  
OF THE  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF GEORGIA**

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Amended December 15, 2009

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## **BYLAWS AND AMENDMENTS**

### **BYLAWS ARTICLE I** **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **SECTION 1. PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE PARTY**

BL1.1.1 Unless the body votes to go into executive session, all meetings of each body of the State Party shall be open to the public.

BL1.1.2 The State Party may establish standards and rules of procedure to afford all members full, timely, and equal opportunity to participate in decisions concerning the formulation of policy and the conduct of Party affairs.

BL1.1.3 In order to encourage full, timely and equal opportunity to participate to all segments of the population, the State Party shall adopt and implement affirmative action programs in compliance with the Charter of the National Democratic Party.

#### **SECTION 2. RESIDENCE, REGISTRATION AND AFFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS**

BL1.2 No person shall be entitled to be voted for, to be nominated for, to be elected to, or to be appointed to, nor may any person hold a Party office or position to represent a particular district or representative area (such representative area may be the State at large) unless such person is registered to vote in and continues to reside in such district or area, and affirms belief in the goals of the Democratic Party as stated in the Charter, is not a member of any other political party or body as defined in the Georgia Election Code, and is not affiliated with any political group whose ideals, goals, and methods are incompatible with those of the State Party as identified by the Executive Committee.

#### **SECTION 3. FEES**

BL1.3.1 County Committees may request fees, but no one shall be denied participation for failure to pay.

BL1.3.2 The State Party may request Convention Fees, but no one shall be denied participation for failure to pay.

#### **SECTION 4. VOTING**

BL1.4.1 No person shall be entitled to more than one vote in or on any convention, caucus, committee, or any affiliated organization, even though such person shall be a member of, or delegate, or alternate to any of the foregoing in more than one capacity.

BL1.4.2 Voting by proxy shall not be permitted except where specifically provided for.

BL1.4.3 Secret ballot shall be permissible only when Caucuses elect County Committee Members and State Convention Delegates.

BL1.4.4 The State Party shall not require a delegate or a member to cast a vote contrary to the expressed preference of that delegate or member.

#### SECTION 5. ROBERT'S RULES

BL1.5 Unless otherwise provided for in this Charter or the Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order as most recently revised shall govern the conduct of all meetings of each body of the State Party, including affiliates.

#### SECTION 6. STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EMPLOYEES

BL1.6.1 The State Executive Director shall be appointed by the State Chair with the approval of the Executive Committee and may be dismissed by the State Chair with the approval of the Executive Committee.

BL1.6.2 The Executive Director shall be responsible for administrative affairs of the State Party under the general direction of the State Chair and in accordance with policies and directives of the Executive Committee and the State Committee. The State Chair may delegate to the Executive Director any duties and responsibilities required of the State Chair under this Charter and the Bylaws.

BL1.6.3 The Executive Director shall serve full time and receive compensation as may be determined by the State Chair with the approval of the Executive Committee.

BL1.6.4 The Executive Director shall propose such staff positions as necessary to carry out the functions of the State Party, along with salaries to be paid. Such proposals shall be forwarded to the State Chair for inclusion or modification in the proposed annual budget. Except for temporary office help involving total expenditure of \$2500 or less, all unbudgeted positions or changes in salaries of budgeted positions must be approved by the State Chair and the Executive Committee.

BL1.6.5 The Executive Director shall be responsible for the hiring of qualified staff members for all budgeted and other approved or temporary positions and institute dismissal or other disciplinary actions as necessary against such employees.

BL1.6.6 Appeals from disciplinary actions affecting the Executive Director or employees shall be made to the Executive Committee.

#### SECTION 7. PROHIBITIONS

BL1.7 The State Committee, Executive Committee, County Committees, and Affiliates are explicitly prohibited from supporting a Democratic candidate who has opposition during a primary or Democratic opposition during a special election, nor shall any Party member use

his/her office to support an opposed primary candidate or a candidate who has Democratic opposition in a special election. No Party member shall publicly support another candidate other than the Democratic nominee in a General Election; provided, however, nothing herein shall prevent any Party member from making any endorsement in a non-partisan election.

#### SECTION 8. CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES

BL1.8.1 Any contributions to a candidate for public office shall be accompanied by a cover letter which shall state in substance, "This contribution is made on the express condition that, after election, you remain a member of the Democratic Party. Your acceptance and/or use of this contribution is your personal acknowledgement and contract that should you win election yet at any time prior to the end of your term change parties or leave the Democratic Party, you will repay these amounts and any costs, including attorney's fees, associated with seeking such repayment."

BL1.8.2 The State Party shall seek reimbursement of any contribution, whether real or in-kind, made to a candidate who qualifies for office as a Democrat and, after qualification, switches to another party.

#### SECTION 9. CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION AND WITHDRAWAL

BL1.9.1 In conducting qualifying for local, state, or federal office as directed by the laws of the State of Georgia, the State Party, or any appropriate County Committee, may refuse, in its discretion, to accept the withdrawal of a candidate who has completed the appropriate qualifying affidavit and submitted the required fee, and/or may delay accepting such withdrawal until after the time for qualifying has closed.

**Added by Amendment April 21, 2006. See BL10.3.1**

### **BYLAWS ARTICLE II** **STATE COMMITTEE**

#### SECTION 1. ELECTION OF REGULAR MEMBERS

BL2.1.1 Regular State Committee members shall be elected by County Committees according to the population based formula described in Section 2.1.4 below.

BL2.1.2 At a minimum, there shall be at least one member per County Committee.

BL2.1.3 A person does not have to be a County Committee member to be elected to the State Committee.

BL2.1.4 In determining the number of Regular State Committee Members to be elected in each County, the population of the State according to the latest decennial census shall be divided by 233.

BL2.1.5 The State Chair shall notify all County Chairs and Congressional District Chairs of the date by which County Committees must hold elections for State Committee members. That date must be between February 1 and February 28 immediately following the regular gubernatorial election.

**Amended July 29, 2006. See BL10.3.4**

BL2.1.6 Either at a regular meeting or at a meeting called specially for this purpose, each County shall elect the number of State Committee members allotted to that County.

BL2.1.7 All persons desiring to be candidates for the State Committee must sign the following affidavit:

\_\_\_\_\_ County, GA  
 I am a resident and registered voter in \_\_\_\_\_ County, GA. I hereby make application to be an elected member of the Democratic Party of Georgia State Committee. I believe in the goals of the Democratic Party of Georgia, am not a member of any other political party or body (as defined in the Georgia Election Code), and am not affiliated with any political group whose ideal, goals, and methods are incompatible with that of the Democratic Party of Georgia (as identified by the Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of Georgia).

\_\_\_\_\_ Applicant  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Address  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Email

BL2.1.8 The County Committee may allow one short (1 minute) speech on behalf of those seeking to be elected to the State Committee.

BL2.1.9 Each member of the County Committee should vote for the number of State Committee members allotted to that county.

BL2.1.10 County Committees shall ensure that there is racial and gender diversity among the Committee members elected. Counties that elect more than 10 State Committee members shall also insure there is geographical diversity among State Committee members elected. A plan for insuring geographical diversity must be submitted to the County Affairs Committee for approval. Any affected person or county may appeal the decision of the County Affairs Committee to the Executive Committee.

BL2.1.11 The candidate receiving the most votes shall be seated first. The candidate of the opposite gender receiving the most votes shall be seated second. This process will continue until all of the allotted State Committee positions are filled. If there is not a candidate of appropriate gender, that position shall be filled by the candidate with the next highest number of votes.

BL2.1.12 All votes shall be by signed paper ballot, a show of hands, or voice vote.

BL2.1.13 Within one week of election, the County Chair shall certify to the State Chair the names, addresses, and phone numbers of those persons elected as members of the State Committee and shall file their candidacy affidavits with the Congressional District Chair.

## SECTION 2. MEETINGS

BL2.2.1 The State Committee shall convene for a regular meeting at least once yearly at such times and places designated by the State Chair. The Chair shall give at least 30 days written notice to each State Committee member. Such notice shall include a proposed agenda for such meeting. The notice may be given electronically.

BL2.2.2 A majority of the Executive Committee or twenty percent of State Committee members, upon written notice signed by the requisite number and delivered to the State Chair, may also call for a meeting. Where 20% of the membership of the State Committee or a majority of the Executive Committee calls for a meeting and the State Chair fails within 21 days from the receipt of said notice to call such meeting, the aforementioned 20% or majority who called for such meeting may give notice in writing to State Committee members setting out a proposed agenda and establishing the date, time, and place of such meeting. Such notice must be given at least 30 days prior to the called meeting.

BL2.2.3 Notices to State Committee members may be given electronically where an email address has been given by the member or otherwise by regular mail to the last known address of such member.

## SECTION 3. QUORUM

BL2.3 A quorum for a meeting of the State Committee shall be 20% of the Regular membership except as otherwise provided in the Charter or Bylaws.

## SECTION 4. COMMITTEES

BL2.4.1 The members of all committees and caucuses, including Chairs, need not be Members of the State Committee.

**Amended December 15, 2009. See BL10.3.7**

BL2.4.2 Unless provided differently in the Charter or these Bylaws, the State Chair shall appoint all committee members and all committee chairs.

BL2.4.3 There shall be the following Standing Committees:

Affirmative Action Committee  
State Finance Committee  
Unified Campaign Sub-Committee  
Compliance Review Committee  
Affiliate Organizations Committee  
Charter and Bylaws Committee  
County Affairs Committee  
Rules Committee  
Strategic Planning Committee  
Constituent Advisory Committee

BL2.4.4 The **Affirmative Action Committee** shall function in compliance with National Democratic Party guidelines. Congressional District Chairs shall serve as ex-officio members.

BL2.4.5 The **State Finance Committee** shall have general responsibility for the financial support of the State Party. The State Finance Committee shall raise funds to support the State Party and shall advise and assist County Committees and Democratic nominees in securing funds for their purposes.

BL2.4.6 The members of this committee need not be State Committee Members. The State Treasurer shall serve ex-officio.

BL2.4.7 The State Finance Committee shall produce and submit to the State Committee no later than January 31 of each year a written financial report, containing a detailed record of all its revenues and expenses during the previous calendar year. A copy of this shall be available for review by every member of the State Committee.

BL2.4.8 The **Unified Campaign Sub-Committee of the State Finance Committee** (UCC) shall have authority for raising and disbursing financial support for the benefit of the nominees of the State Party in the General Election, as determined by its Steering Committee.

BL2.4.9 Members need not be members of the State Committee.

BL2.4.10 The authority of the UCC shall be vested in its Steering Committee which shall be composed of the State Chair; the State Constitutional Officer Nominees (or their designees); the Finance Committee Chair; a member of the Democratic Congressional Delegation, elected by that delegation; the Chair of the State House Democratic Caucus; the Chair of the State Senate Democratic Caucus; and three (3) members of the State Committee elected by the State Executive Committee.

BL2.4.11 The **Compliance Review Committee** shall ensure compliance with the State Party Charter and Bylaws through inquiry, review, and recommendation of remedy.



BL2.4.12 The membership of the Compliance Review Committee shall consist of the Chairs of the State Affirmative Action Committee, Charter and Bylaws Committee, County Affairs Committee, the President of the Georgia Association of Democratic County Chairs, and three members of the State Committee appointed by the State Chair.

BL2.4.13 The Compliance Review Committee shall from time to time establish its methods of operations, as long as such methods allow notice and an opportunity to be heard.

BL2.4.14 The State Chair shall name from among the members the Chair of the Compliance Review Committee.

BL2.4.15 The **Affiliate Organizations Committee** shall review the rules and activities of State Party Affiliates and provide for direct communication between such affiliates and the State Committee.

BL2.4.16 The **Charter and Bylaws Committee** shall review the structure and procedures of the State Party and recommend any additions or changes to assure its effective operation, in compliance with the governing rules of the National Party.

BL2.4.17 The **County Affairs Committee** shall be composed of at least two members from each Congressional District, and shall assure coordination of County Committee and State Party activities, provide information about and assist in the implementation of State Party Charter and Bylaws standards, audit the status of County Committee organizations and activities, and provide recommendations and mechanisms for counties failing to organize in a manner consistent with State Party standards.

BL2.4.18 The **Rules Committee** shall be composed of at least one member from each Congressional District, the Party Parliamentarian, and such additional members as the State Chair shall appoint. The Rules Committee shall consider proposed resolutions and special rules for the conduct of State Committee meetings.

BL2.4.19 The **Strategic Planning Committee** shall before January 31 of each year formulate and submit to the Executive Committee a strategic plan for the Party for the next two election cycles. The Strategic Plan shall contain funding, grass-roots structure, and implementation plans to accomplish the strategic goals of the Party.

BL2.4.20 The **Constituent Advisory Committee** shall report to the Constituency Group Vice-Chair, be made up of each Chair of a duly organized Caucus, have such additional members as designated by the Constituency Group Vice-Chair and provide advice to such Vice-Chair regarding constituency group matters.

BL2.4.21 The State Chair may establish such other Committees as the Chair or the State Committee deems necessary.

## SECTION 5. STATE ADVISORY CAUCUSES

BL2.5.1       Caucuses for constituent groups may be formed upon the request of twenty-five (25) members of the State Committee and a vote of two-thirds of the State Committee, provided there is a fifty percent quorum.

BL2.5.2       The members of all committees and caucuses, including Chairs, need not be Members of the State Committee.

**Amended December 15, 2009. See BL10.3.7**

BL2.5.3       Each Caucus shall elect a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary at the first meeting of the State Committee after its formation. Only members of the Caucus may vote or run for a Caucus office. The term of office shall be four years.

BL2.5.4       The Chair of each Caucus shall serve on the Constituent Advisory Committee.

## SECTION 6. ELECTION OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BL2.6         Consistent with the Charter, Bylaws, and Rules of the Democratic National Committee, and pursuant to the procedures of Article VIII, Section 1 of these Bylaws, the members of the State Committee shall elect the State's allotted members of the Democratic National Committee.

## SECTION 7. VACANCIES

BL2.7.1       Unless provided differently in these Bylaws, a vacancy in any position shall be filled by a special election by the body that selected the original position holder.

BL2.7.2       In case of a State Committee office or National Committeeman, such special election shall be called within 10 days of the vacancy and such notice shall specify an election date no less than 60 and no more than 70 days from the date of the notice. Any person desiring to fill the vacancy must file a notice of candidacy with the State Chair no later than 30 days before the election date. Such special election shall be called by the State Chair for a State Party office or a Congressional District Chair vacancy, and by the appropriate County Chair for a State Committee member vacancy.

BL2.7.3       If there is no Vice-Chair to fill a Chair vacancy, the State Chair may appoint an interim Chair to fill such vacancy until such special election can be held.

BL2.7.4       A vacancy in an appointed position shall be filled by the office that appointed the position holder.

## SECTION 8. REMOVAL

BL2.8.1 Officers or members may be removed for cause by a 2/3 vote of the State Committee, provided there is a fifty percent quorum.

BL2.8.2 Cause may include:

The endorsement of, support of, or contribution to a candidate of another party.

Failure to perform the designated duties of office.

Conduct or circumstances which reflect discredit or disrepute upon the Party.

Public disclaimer of Party affiliation.

Intentional misrepresentation of positions or policies of the Party.

Conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude or which otherwise reflects discredit or disrepute upon the Party.

Any violation of these bylaws.

BL2.8.3 The person to be removed shall have the right to written notice, at least 10 days before a hearing on said charges before the full State Committee, of the reasons for removal and the names of all persons who will testify in support of the charges against him/her.

BL2.8.4 The person to be removed shall have the right to counsel and to present all witnesses, documents and arguments in support of his position.

## **BYLAWS ARTICLE III STATE CONVENTION**

### SECTION 1. DELEGATE ELECTION METHOD

BL3.1.1 One-half of the delegates and one-half of the alternates selected pursuant to Charter, Article III, Section 3.4 shall be elected by the appropriate County Committee. If there are an odd number of alternates, the County Committee shall elect the additional alternate.

**Amended April 21, 2006. See BL10.3.2**

BL3.1.2 One-half of the delegates and one-half of the alternates selected pursuant to Charter, Article III, Section 3.4 shall be elected by a county caucus. See BL3.1.1 regarding an odd number of alternates.

**Amended April 21, 2006. See BL10.3.2**

BL3.1.3 The State Chair shall notify all County Chairs and Congressional District Chairs of the date by which to elect State Convention delegates. That date shall be after the Democratic Primary and before the General Election.

BL3.1.4 Provided that the following conditions are met, each County shall select the best method for holding a caucus for the public at large to elect the remaining one-half of that County's delegates.

BL3.1.5 County Committee elected delegates and alternates must be elected prior to the County Caucus elections of delegates and alternates.

BL3.1.6 The County Chair shall appoint a caucus chair to run the caucus.

BL3.1.7 Such caucuses shall be scheduled for public places which would be the most likely to encourage the participation of all Democrats, and the caucus must begin and end at reasonable hours.

BL3.1.8 The local caucus shall be publicized widely so as to encourage the participation of all Georgia Democrats.

BL3.1.9 The Executive Director of the State Democratic Party shall, well in advance of the local caucuses, undertake, through mass mailings to sustaining members of the Democratic Party of Georgia and through dissemination of such information to youth, women's' and minority organizations affiliated with or supportive of the Democratic Party of Georgia, a comprehensive publicity campaign to inform the public of the purpose of the Convention, the mechanics of the election process, who is eligible to participate in the process and become a delegate to the Convention, and where to obtain providing complete information on how to become a delegate to the Convention. Such information shall also be posted on the State Democratic Party website.

BL3.1.10 Additional public notice shall be given by the County Democratic Committee at least ten, but not more than twenty-five days before, the date of the local caucus, giving the date, time, and place for the convening of the caucus, and the purposes for which the caucus shall be held. Such notices shall be posted at the County Courthouse in each county, and the County Democratic Committee shall give such other notice as it deems appropriate to publicize the conventions most effectively in that County.

BL3.1.11 A candidate for delegate or alternate, whether elected by Caucus or Committee, and anyone wishing to vote in the Caucus must be a registered voter in and a resident of the County holding the election.

BL3.1.12 Candidates for delegate and alternate do not have to be a member of the County Committee.

BL3.1.13 All persons desiring to be delegates or alternates to the State Convention shall give notice in writing no later than the close of nominations for delegate election. Such notice shall be given to the Caucus Chair and meet the requirements of Section BL3.1.14 below.

BL3.1.14 Any registered voter of the County in which the local caucus is held may be a member of that caucus and may be a candidate for delegate, provided each person executes the following affidavit:

\_\_\_\_\_ County, GA  
I am a resident and registered voter in \_\_\_\_\_ County, GA. I hereby make application to be an elected delegate and/or an elector of a delegate to the Democratic Party of Georgia State Convention. I believe in the goals of the Democratic Party of Georgia, am not a member of any other political party or body (as defined in the Georgia Election Code), and am not affiliated with any political group whose ideal, goals, and methods are incompatible with that of the Democratic Party of Georgia (as identified by the Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of Georgia).  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant  
Address

BL3.1.15 All persons who sign such affidavits shall be entitled to vote at the caucus held in their County.

BL3.1.16 One short (one minute) speech may be made in behalf of those seeking to be delegates or alternates to the State Convention.

BL3.1.17 Each voter shall cast votes for up to the number of delegates to be elected.

BL3.1.18 The candidate receiving the most votes shall be seated first. The candidate of the opposite gender with the most votes shall be seated second. This process shall continue until all delegate and alternate positions have been filled. If there is not a candidate of appropriate gender, that position shall be filled by the candidate with next highest number of votes. If there are no remaining candidates for positions, those positions shall be left vacant and filled in accordance with section 3.1.21 below. This process shall be followed by both the County Committees and the County Caucuses.

BL3.1.19 All Caucus votes shall be by secret ballot.

BL3.1.20 All Committee votes shall be by signed paper ballot, a show of hands, or voice vote.

BL3.1.21 Either at a specially called meeting or at the next regular meeting after the County Caucus, each County Committee may elect any remaining number of that County's delegates and alternates, if there are still vacancies. If any vacancies exist ten (10) days prior to the State Convention, the County Chair may appoint delegates, so long as such delegates live in the County with the vacancy.

BL3.1.22 Within one week of the County Caucus election or the meeting pursuant to 3.1.21 above, whichever is later, the County Chair shall certify to the State Chair the names, addresses,

phone numbers, and email addresses of those persons elected as delegates and alternates to the State Convention and shall file their candidacy affidavits with the Congressional District Chair.

BL3.1.23 In the event there is no County Committee properly formed and recognized by the State Committee, the Congressional District Chair for that County shall perform the requirements of and have the power of the County Chair with respect to such County.

## SECTION 2. RULES FOR CONVENTION PROCEDURE

BL3.2.1 The term “delegates” shall mean all delegates set forth in Article 3, Section 3 of the Charter.

BL3.2.2 The term "elected delegates" or "delegates elected to the convention" means those delegates elected by County Committees and Caucuses.

BL3.2.3 The term "Chair" shall mean such person who shall be acting as the presiding officer of the State Convention from time to time.

BL3.2.4 The Chair shall not be entitled to speak to any matter, but may vote if a delegate to the State Convention. The Chair may, however, vacate his/her position and appoint another person to serve as presiding officer of the State Convention, and take the floor and speak on any matter, provided that the person who was in the Chair may not then resume the Chair until the completion of the matter on which the Chair has spoken.

BL3.2.5 The Chair may from time to time, at its discretion, appoint other persons to serve as presiding officer, but may resume the Chair as desired from time to time.

BL3.2.6 The Chair may appoint a Parliamentarian or Parliamentarians for the purpose of interpreting the Charter, the Bylaws, and any Rules of the Convention. However, all rulings as to interpretation shall be made by the Chair, and the Chair shall not be bound to comply with the advice of the Parliamentarian.

BL3.2.7 A majority of the delegates entitled to vote at the State Convention shall constitute a quorum for all purposes at the State Convention. When a quorum is once declared to organize a meeting of the State Convention, a quorum shall be conclusively presumed for all subsequent business until adjournment of the Convention.

BL3.2.8 Actions of the State Convention shall require a majority vote of those present and voting, unless the vote of a greater number is required by the Charter or Bylaws.

BL3.2.9 Voting shall be by voice vote, or, at the discretion of the Chair or the demand of any delegate shall be by standing vote (but in the latter case, the Chair shall not count the members but shall make only a visual comparison of the delegate standing for or against a proposition.) A roll call vote shall be conducted if the Chair is in doubt as to the vote or upon the demand of either (i) twenty percent of the delegates of the Convention present at the time (such

percentage to be determined at the discretion of the Chair); or (ii) a majority of the Congressional District Chairs.

BL3.2.10 When a question has been put, the vote thereon may not be interrupted for any purpose other than demand for a roll call vote or a point of order directed to the conduct of the vote.

BL3.2.11 Only those persons who are duly certified delegates to the State Convention (or duly certified alternates in their absence) may vote on any issue before the Convention and/or be recognized to speak on questions before the Convention.

BL3.2.12 Delegates and alternates shall be seated on the floor in designated areas according to their respective Counties. Access to the floor shall be restricted to delegates, alternates, and persons bearing credentials under the authority of the State Convention.

BL3.2.13 Adoption of the rules and agenda shall be the first order of business.

BL3.2.14 Immediately after the State Convention has been convened, delegates from each County shall caucus and select a Chair who, should a roll call vote be required, shall poll the members of his/her delegation and report to the Convention Chair the number of ayes and nays on said proposition under consideration.

BL3.2.15 At least ten days before the Convention date, delegates to the State Convention shall be provided with the proposed agenda, rules of the Convention, delegate seating plan, and accommodations availability by the State Party Office.

BL3.2.16 All proposed resolutions for consideration by the State Convention shall be submitted in writing to the Resolutions Committee and shall be signed by at least one delegate to the State Convention. Resolutions received by the State Party Office at least five days prior to the meeting of the State Convention shall require only one such signature. Resolutions received later than five days prior to such meeting shall require the signature from at least one delegate from each of the Congressional Districts. Rules of the State Convention shall designate the time at which all resolutions to be considered by the Convention must be received.

### SECTION 3. STANDING CONVENTION COMMITTEES

BL3.3.1 Prior to the State Convention, the following Committees shall be appointed by the State Chair from among Convention delegates. In making these appointments, the State Chair shall seek recommendations from Congressional District Chairs.

BL3.3.2 The Rules Committee shall be composed of the members of Rules Committee of the State Committee, plus one additional member from each Congressional District and shall formulate rules and an agenda for the conduct of convention business.

BL3.3.3 The Platform Committee shall be composed of at least three members from each Congressional District and shall formulate platform resolutions for consideration by the State Convention.

BL3.3.4 The Credentials Committee shall be composed of at least two members from each Congressional District and shall establish credentials criteria and arbitrate credentials disputes prior to the State Convention.

BL3.3.5 The Resolutions Committee shall be composed of at least three members from each Congressional District and shall receive and recommend resolutions to the State Convention for consideration.

BL3.3.6 Reports of Convention Committees shall be as specified in the call for the State Convention.

BL3.3.7 Minority reports from any Convention Committee shall be considered by the Convention if supported by a petition signed by 20% of the Committee membership.

## **BYLAWS ARTICLE IV** **STATE PARTY OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1. DUTIES OF STATE OFFICERS**

#### **Chair**

BL4.1.1 The Chair shall have over-all responsibility for the State Party affairs and shall be the official spokesperson for the Party subject to the provisions of the Charter and these Bylaws and to such directives as may be given from time to time by the State Committee and the Executive Committee.

BL4.1.2 The Chair shall be responsible for maintaining the records of office, including lists of Party officers, members, and contributors, reports and official documents, and at the expiration of the term shall turn these Party records over to the succeeding Chair. The Chair shall have the specific responsibility to formulate each year, with the Strategic Plan Committee, a Strategic Plan for the Party for that year through the next two election cycles and to present that plan for approval by the Executive Committee and the State Committee.

BL4.1.3 In addition to appointments specified elsewhere in the Charter and Bylaws, the Chair may appoint:

- Special Committees
- Parliamentarian
- Legal Counsel
- Web Master

With concurrence of the Executive Committee, the Chair may create other positions as the Chair deems appropriate.



BL4.1.4 All persons appointed by the State Chair shall serve at the pleasure of the State Chair.

### **Vice-Chairs**

BL4.1.5 There shall be four Vice-Chairs of the Party, one of whom will be the First Vice-Chair. The other Vice-Chairs shall be designated by their responsibilities.

BL4.1.6 The **First Vice-Chair** shall preside at meetings of the State Committee in the absence of the Chair and shall perform such other duties as may be delegated by the Chair. The First Vice-Chair shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of the State Committee. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chair, the First Vice-Chair shall become Acting Chair and shall have the authority, powers and duties of the Chair. The First Vice-Chair shall, with the Treasurer, interact with the activities of the Finance Committee to assure the Party has the resources to meet its Strategic Plan.

BL4.1.7 The **Congressional District/County Liaison Vice-Chair** shall be the primary point of contact for all Congressional District and County Chairs. Such Vice-Chair shall hold a meeting with the Executive Director and the Congressional District Chairs and County Chairs at least twice annually. Such Vice-Chair shall be an ex-officio member of the County Affairs Committee to assure its goals are achieved by the Party. Such Vice-Chair shall perform such other duties as may be delegated by the State Chair.

BL4.1.8 The **Constituency Group Vice-Chair** shall be the primary contact for constituency groups. Such Vice-Chair shall create and maintain relationships with the constituency facets of the Democratic Party of Georgia. These contacts shall include, but not be limited to: Minority (African-American, Latino, et al.), Women, GLBT, Labor, and Environment. Such Vice-Chair shall interact with the State Committee Caucuses to assure their concerns are recognized by the State Committee. Such Vice-Chair shall perform other such duties as may be delegated the State Chair. The Constituency Group Vice-Chair shall be an ex-officio member of the Affirmative Action Committee and of the Affiliates Organization Committee.

BL4.1.9 The **Candidate Recruitment Vice-Chair** shall have primary responsibility for creation and implementation of candidate recruitment plans. Such Vice-Chair shall perform such other duties as may be delegated by the State Chair.

### **Secretary**

BL4.1.10 The Secretary shall keep and distribute all official minutes of the State Convention, the State Committee, and the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall distribute the minutes of the Convention and the State Committee meetings to State Committee members within thirty (30) days of the appropriate meeting. The Secretary shall mail minutes of the Executive Committee meetings to all members of the State Committee as soon as possible, but not later than fourteen (14) days after the meeting. Minutes of the State Convention shall be made available to convention delegates.

BL4.1.11 The Secretary shall ensure that accurate records of official State Party activities are maintained.

BL4.1.12 The Secretary shall certify all delegates to the State Convention, all members of the State Committee, and all members of the Executive Committee, as well as issuing certificate of election to all newly elected officers of the State Party.

BL4.1.13 When required, the Secretary shall attest the signature of the Chair on State Party documents. Such attestation shall be conclusive evidence as to the official action of the State Party.

BL4.1.14 The Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of the Charter and Bylaws Committee, of the Rules Committee, and of the Compliance Review Committee.

### **Treasurer**

BL4.1.15 The Treasurer shall serve as custodian of State Party funds and moneys, serve as a member of the State Finance Council and maintain financial records subject to audit and review by the State Committee.

BL4.1.16 The Treasurer shall provide semiannually, to State Committee members, a financial report to be in such form and contain such information as the State Committee shall determine from time to time.

BL4.1.17 The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee

## SECTION 2. ELECTION OF STATE OFFICERS

**Historical Note: Article IV, Section 2 was originally Article III, Section 4 of the revised Bylaws approved May 22, 2004. By Amendment July 29, 2006 Article III, Section 4 was moved to this Article IV, Section 2.**

BL4.2.1 Election of State Officers shall be by roll call vote unless no more than one person is nominated for a State Office. Only State Committee Members may vote for State Officers.

BL4.2.2 State Officers shall be elected ad seriatim and in the following order: State Chair, First Vice-Chair, Congressional District/County Liaison Vice-Chair, Constituency Group Vice-Chair, Candidate Recruitment Vice-Chair, State Secretary, State Treasurer.

BL4.2.3 Those persons interested in running for a State Officer position shall file an "intent to run" statement with the State Party office no later than ten days before the State Committee meeting. A non-State Committee Member wishing to run for any office must submit such "intent to run" with the endorsement of no less than thirty State Committee Members and submit such no later than ten days before the State Committee meeting.

BL4.2.4 A brief (3-4 minute) nominating speech may be made for each candidate. A (1 minute) seconding speech may also be made. The nominees may then address the State Committee for no more than 5 minutes.

BL4.2.5 Balloting will proceed by ballots prepared by the Executive Director and the Executive Director shall ensure only State Committee Members vote for State Officers.

### SECTION 3. REMOVAL

BL4.3 Officers are subject to removal pursuant to Article II, Section 8 of these Bylaws.  
**Added by Amendment July 29, 2006. See BL10.3.5.**

## **BYLAWS ARTICLE V** **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CHAIRS**

### SECTION 1. ELECTION

**Historical Note: BL5.1.1 was originally BL3.5 (Article III, Section 5) of the revised Bylaws approved May 22, 2004. By Amendment July 29, 2006 BL3.5 was moved to this BL5.1.1.**

BL5.1.1 Immediately following completion of the election of the State Officers and such acceptance speeches and other related actions as shall be required, the meeting shall be recessed by the Chair, to allow the delegates to meet by Congressional Districts, to elect Congressional District Chairs.

BL5.1.2 State Committee Members shall meet according to the Congressional District in which such Members reside, under the Chairmanship of the existing Congressional District Chair, unless such Chair is placing himself or herself for re-election, in which case the State Chair shall appoint a Congressional District Caucus Chair to conduct the election process in such Congressional District (which shall be the Vice-Chair, unless such Vice-Chair is placing himself or herself for election).

BL5.1.3 To the extent not provided for in the Charter, the Bylaws, or the Rules of the Convention, the most recently revised edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of all Congressional District Caucuses. All rulings as to interpretation shall be made by the Chair presiding at a Congressional District Caucus.

BL5.1.4 Those persons interested in running for a Congressional District Chair position shall file an "intent to run" statement with the State Party office no later than ten days before the State Committee meeting. A non-State Committee Member wishing to run for a Congressional District Chair must submit such "intent to run" with the endorsement of no less than thirty State Committee Members and submit same no later than ten days before the State Committee meeting.

BL5.1.5 All votes shall be by a show of hands or signed paper ballot as determined by each Congressional District Caucus Chair.

BL5.1.6 A quorum for the purpose of a Congressional District Caucus shall be a majority of the seated State Committee Members residing in that particular Congressional District.  
**Amended July 29, 2006. See BL10.3.6**

BL5.1.7 Pursuant to the procedure for the Election of Congressional District Chairs under the Charter and Bylaws, each Congressional District Caucus shall proceed to elect by a majority of those State Committee Members present and voting, provided a quorum is present, a Congressional District chair.

**Amended July 29, 2006. See BL10.3.6**

BL5.1.8 Once the Congressional District Chair has been elected, such Chair shall appoint a Vice-Chair, except that the Vice-Chair shall be of the opposite gender of the Chair. In case of a vacancy in the position of Congressional District Chair, the Vice-Chair shall serve as Chair until the State Committee Members from the district elect a new Chair. If there is any vacancy of a Vice-Chair, the Congressional Chair may appoint a replacement Vice-Chair.

## SECTION 2. DUTIES

BL5.2.1 Each Congressional District Chair shall within their respective Congressional Districts coordinate the affairs of the Party, assist in the election of Democratic Members of Congress, review reports of the activities and membership of County Committees, assist County Committees in their operation and compliance with the Charter and Bylaws, and perform other such duties as may be delegated to them by the State Committee and Executive Committee. Each Congressional District Chair shall also appoint a District Coordinating Committee from among State Committee members residing within their Congressional Districts to assist in the performance of these duties.

BL5.2.2 If a County lies in more than one Congressional District, the Congressional District Chairs and the County Chair for that County shall decide among themselves which Congressional District Chair shall be the Chair for that County.

BL5.2.3 Whenever a county does not have a chartered County Committee, the Congressional District Chair may appoint a person to act as that County Chair.

## SECTION 3. REMOVAL

BL5.3 Congressional District Chairs and Vice-Chairs may be removed from office by either (i) a 2/3 vote of the State Committee; or (ii) a 2/3 vote of Committee Members from that Congressional District; or (iii) a majority vote of the Executive Committee if for cause, provided a 50% quorum is present in each case. For purposes hereof, "cause" shall be failure to perform his or her duties as specified from time to time for all Congressional District Chairs or Vice-Chairs (as the case may be) by the Executive Committee or any of the reasons provided in BL2.8.2 hereof.

**BYLAWS ARTICLE VI**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**SECTION 1. AUTHORITY, AND DUTIES**

BL6.1.1 The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of the State Committee between State Committee meetings.

BL6.1.2 The Executive Committee may act by subcommittees of its own choosing.

**SECTION 2. MEETINGS**

BL6.2.1 Regular meetings of the Executive Committee may be set by the State Chair or a majority of the Executive Committee.

BL6.2.2 Special Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the State Chair or at least 1/4 of the membership of the Executive Committee upon receipt by all members of written notice 2 days prior to such meeting. Such notice may be given electronically.

BL6.2.3 Meetings of the Executive Committee may be conducted by telephone.

**SECTION 3. QUORUM/VOTE**

BL6.3 A quorum for the conduct of Executive Committee business shall be a majority of the membership of the Executive Committee. A majority vote is required for passage of Executive Committee actions.

**BYLAWS ARTICLE VII**  
**COUNTY COMMITTEES**

**SECTION 1. PARTY DISTRICTS AND APPORTIONMENT PLAN**

BL7.1.1 Each County Committee shall determine the Party Districts and Apportionment of a County Committee, and include such determinations in the Bylaws of that Committee. Newly organized Committees may designate their county as a single District for the purpose of organization. Changes in Party Districts or Apportionment shall be filed promptly with the State Chair and the County Election Superintendent. Information to be filed shall include the designations and boundaries of Party Districts, the approximate number of persons residing within each such district, the number of County Committee members to be elected from each district, and any reasons for unequal districts if such districts are designated. For purposes of these Bylaws, a County Committee shall only be considered “new” if no County Committee for the County accepted filing fees and acted as the qualifying agent for local County elections for the most recent such local elections held in such County.

BL7.1.2 In establishing Party Districts and allocating Committee Posts, the County Committee shall make a good faith effort to ensure that all segments of the population, including

the minority population, are fairly and evenly represented on the County Committee. Where practicable, the County Committee shall apportion each Party District substantially equal on the basis of population; unless impractical, each Party District shall be represented by an equal number of Committee members, and where representation is unequal, such districts shall be apportioned as nearly as practicable to population.

BL7.1.3 Within 12 months of organizing pursuant to Section 7.1.1 above, each county of 10,000 or less population must have two or more Party Districts and counties of over 10,000 population must have at least one additional Party District for each 10,000 population; provided however, that counties containing at least 4 State House Districts, located wholly within the county, may elect to apportion Party Districts on the basis of House Districts or portions thereof.

BL7.1.4 Each County Committee shall establish Party Districts and allocate Committee positions following any census at which reapportionment of the General Assembly is mandated, within a time designated by the State Chair. A County Committee may also establish Party Districts as necessary, provided the Committee does so in an odd numbered year. Furthermore, the County Committee may, at any time, vote to change the number of posts allocated per Party District.

BL7.1.5 An individual who voted in the most recent Democratic Primary and who is a member the State Party shall have standing to challenge the drawing of Party District lines or the allocation of County Committee positions on the grounds that such districts or allocation preclude or substantially diminish fair representation for significant segments of the population.

## SECTION 2. CHALLENGE TO THE COUNTY APPORTIONMENT PLAN

BL7.2.1 Challenge of the Apportionment Plan may be made by executing a petition, setting forth the objections, and by filing the petition with the Chair or Secretary of the County Committee.

BL7.2.2 The petition may be filed at any time, provided, however, that after a primary election held by the Democratic Party of Georgia, the relief granted in the case of any successful petition may take into account the fact that the petition was filed subsequent to the date on which members of the County Committee were last elected (if they were elected in a primary election) insofar as the relief may be prospective rather than retroactive, and thus allow elected members to continue to hold their office until the next election.

BL7.2.3 The County Committee shall have forty-five (45) days from the date of receipt of a validly-filed petition to meet thereon and rule and/or act upon such petition. If the County Committee does not rule and/or act upon the petition within said time, the State Democratic Party's Compliance Review Committee (CRC) shall have full jurisdiction to hear the challenge, as set forth in Section 7.2.4 below.

BL7.2.4 If the response by the County Committee to the petition is unsatisfactory to any petitioner, or if the County Committee fails to act within the forty-five (45) day period set forth in Section 7.2.3 above, he/she may file an appeal in writing to the CRC at State Party Office

within thirty (30) days from the earlier of (1) the date of the decision by the County Committee or, (2) in the event of failure to act on the petition on the part of the County Committee by the expiration of the forty-five day period set forth in Section 7.2.3 above, the expiration of such forty-five (45) day period. The CRC shall thereafter have sixty (60) days from receipt of the notice of appeal to hear the matter and render a decision and/or fashion appropriate remedies.

BL7.2.5 In acting on such challenge or appeal, the CRC shall have authority to (1) appoint such fact-finding body as it considers necessary and appropriate and may act on the basis of such facts as determined by such fact-finding body, and (2) to render any decision and/or fashion appropriate remedies including, without limitation, expulsion of or expansion of the County Committee through the appointment by the CRC or by local caucus of additional members, the establishment of a redistricting plan to provide for the election of County Committee members at a special or other election or any combination of such relief. Copies of any such decisions of the CRC shall be delivered by the CRC to the State Chair, the State First Vice-Chair, the Executive Director, and the General Counsel, and such rulings shall not become effective for thirty (30) days thereafter, during which time any one or more of the aforesaid officers and officials of the Party may refer the matter to the Executive Committee, which shall review the ruling as provided in Section 7.2.6 below. No ruling of the CRC pursuant to this Section 7.2.5 shall become final if the same is pending before the Executive Committee, until the Executive Committee rules thereon.

BL7.2.6 Any party to a proceeding under this Section 2 of Article VII who is not satisfied with the ruling issued by the CRC pursuant to Section 7.2.5 above, may, within thirty (30) days of the date of such ruling, file an application for discretionary review with the Executive Committee of the State Committee, which may, if it desires in its sole discretion to do so, review the CRC ruling and render a final decision thereon.

BL7.2.7 This Section 2 of Article VII shall not be construed to require or constitute the implementation of any quotas, and the failure to have a certain number of minority members on the County Committee shall not be deemed in and of itself to set forth a conclusive ground for a challenge. Such under representation shall, however, constitute proof of violation of Article VII, Section 1, however, in the absence of a countervailing showing that sufficient efforts were made to comply with the requirements of Article VII, Section 1.

BL7.2.8 Whenever this Section 2 of Article VII requires that an act be done within specified period of time, such period of time may be extended by mutual consent of the parties to the subject proceeding.

BL7.2.9 Any notices required to be given pursuant to the provisions of this Section 2 of Article VII shall be required to be either hand delivered or mailed by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested to the appropriate opposite party, and shall be deemed to be delivered as of the date of receipt of any hand delivery or the date of the signed receipt for the registered or certified mailing.

### SECTION 3. DESIGNATION OF POSTS AND TERMS

BL7.3 Each County Committee shall designate one-half of the elected Committee Posts to be elected in Gubernatorial election years and one-half to be elected in Presidential election years.

### SECTION 4. SELECTION OF METHOD OF ELECTION

BL7.4 The method of election of the members of County Committee may be selected by each Committee provided that the selection of the method takes place in an odd numbered year, and that the method selected is either General Primary Ballot or a Party District Caucus. If by caucus, elections for County Committee members shall be held within 45 days following the General Primary. The method and time of qualification and election of members of County Committees shall be set forth in the Bylaws of each County Committee.

### SECTION 5. ELECTION PROCEDURE

BL7.5.1 County Committee members shall take office on the first day of the first month after their elections.

BL7.5.2 Where members of the County Committee are to be elected on the General Primary ballot, the same procedures and rules as those for other county elected officials shall prevail, except that the Committee may set reasonable fees for the qualification of Committee candidates, and except that each candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected without the necessity of a run-off.

BL7.5.3 Should a County Committee decide to elect its members by public caucuses, the time, place, and method of such caucuses shall be set by the County Committee.

### SECTION 6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

BL7.6.1 Each County Committee shall elect its officers by majority vote, no later than December 31 of the appropriate year. The new chair shall immediately upon taking office notify the State Chair and appropriate Congressional District Chair of his/her election.

**Amended April 21, 2006. See BL10.3.3**

**Amended December 15, 2009. See BL10.3.8**

BL7.6.2 Each County Committee shall elect from its membership a Chair, two or more Vice-Chairs, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Where available, at least one of the Vice Chairs shall be of the opposite gender to the Chair. In addition, the County Committee shall elect such other officers as deemed necessary. A person receiving a majority of votes for election to an office shall be declared elected.

BL7.6.3 Each Committee may provide for the election or appointment of such sub-committees as they may be deemed necessary.



BL7.6.4 The Chair, Vice-Chairs, Secretary, and the Treasurer of the Committee shall serve 2 year terms, beginning at the close of the meeting at which they are elected. All other officers of the Committee and all members of any sub-committees, elected or appointed at any time and shall serve at the pleasure of the Committee

**Amended April 21, 2006. See BL10.3.3**

BL7.6.5 All County Committee reports, records, and files must be promptly turned over to newly elected officers.

**Added by amendment December 15, 2009. See BL10.3.9.**

## SECTION 7. ELECTION DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS

BL7.7.1 In Counties where municipal primaries are held, the County Committee shall be responsible for holding such primaries. The County Committee may delegate this responsibility to a Municipal Executive Committee as provided for in the Georgia Municipal Code. Such Municipal Primary Committee shall be composed of three or more citizens from the municipality and shall be empowered by such designation to perform all the duties and responsibilities required by the Georgia Municipal Election Code in connection with the conduct of a Municipal Primary. It shall be the responsibility of the County Committee, at the time it certifies its members and officers with the State Committee, to file with the City Clerk of each municipality concerned, the Secretary of the State of Georgia, and the State Party Office, the names and addresses of the members and officers and other information required in the Georgia Municipal Election Code for each such Municipal Primary Committee, or to certify that the County Committee will serve as such Municipal Primary Committee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the provisions of the Georgia Election Code shall control the responsibilities provided herein and the County Committee shall see that it complies with all such provisions.

BL7.7.2 In accordance with the Georgia Election Code, poll officers to conduct primaries and elections shall be recommended by each County Committee to the County Election Superintendent.

BL7.7.3 In accordance with the Georgia Election Code, two official poll watchers may be designated by the County Committee for each precinct for each election.

BL7.7.4 Vacancies in Party nominations for Federal, State, or County offices shall be governed by the provisions of Georgia Election Code. Vacancies in any Party nomination for Municipal offices shall be governed by the provisions of Georgia Municipal Election Code.

BL7.7.5 County Committees shall maintain a list of all financial transactions (kept on a calendar year basis), and a list of all unpaid obligations. County Committees shall also maintain records of information to be filed with the State Party Chair.

BL7.7.6 In meeting filing requirements, County Committees shall report directly to the State Chair. County Committees shall file with the State Chair a list of membership, all rules, regulations, bylaws, and charters of affiliates, an annual report of activities or minutes, the location and signatories of Committee bank accounts, and certification by the County Committee

Chair that the Committee duly constituted and organized, and is following sound financial operating procedure.

BL7.7.7 Each County Committee shall meet regularly at least once each quarter. Special meetings may be called by the Committee Chair or as provided in the County Committee Bylaws. Where such meetings are not held at a previously designated time and place, all members shall be given at least 10 days notice. Emergency meetings may be called with 5 days notice upon approval of all Committee officers.

#### SECTION 8. COMMITTEES

BL7.8 Each County Committee shall provide for an Affirmative Action Subcommittee and such other sub-committees as the Committee may deem necessary.

#### SECTION 9. VACANCIES

BL7.9 All vacancies in County Committee Posts shall be filled by election by the remaining Committee members, provided at least three such members remain.

#### SECTION 10. REMOVAL PROCEDURE

BL7.10.1 County Committee members and officers may be removed by the County Committee for cause, with reasonable notice, and with the opportunity to be heard, by a 2/3 vote of the County Committee provided a 40% quorum is met.

BL7.10.2 Any person subject to removal shall receive written notice of the alleged reasons for removal.

BL7.10.3 The removal procedure shall be conducted by a subcommittee appointed by the County Committee Chair. Where the Chair is the subject of the removal procedure, the subcommittee shall be appointed a majority of the other County Committee Officers.

BL7.10.4 The person to be removed shall have the right to be informed of all persons who will be witnesses against him/her and who will testify in support of the charges against him/her, at least ten days before a hearing on said charges before the full County Committee.

BL7.10.5 The person to be removed shall have the right to counsel and to present all witnesses, documents and arguments in support of his/her position. The subcommittee which has tendered the charges may likewise have counsel and present witnesses, documents, and arguments in support of its position.

#### SECTION 11. REIMBURSEMENT PROHIBITION

BL7.11 No member of a County Committee shall receive compensation for or be reimbursed for expenses in attending a County Committee meeting.

## SECTION 12. AFFILIATES

BL7.12 Each County Committee may recognize and allow affiliation of such county organizations as it deem appropriate as provided for in the Charter and Bylaws.

## SECTION 13. COUNTIES WITHOUT DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEES

BL7.13.1 In any county not having a duly constituted County Democratic Committee the appropriate Congressional District Chair(s) may appoint an Acting County Chair and an Acting County Secretary to receive declarations of candidacy and qualifying for nomination in the Democratic Primary and to certify such candidates to the appropriate authority. Such Acting County Secretary shall forward the County Committee portion of the qualifying fees to the State Chair to be held in escrow until released by the State Chair. Alternatively, the Chair may request the Election Superintendent of the County to receive declarations of candidacy and qualifying fees from candidates desiring to qualify for nomination in the Democratic Primary and to execute appropriate certifications of candidacies. Said Election Superintendent shall forward the County Committee portion of the qualifying fees to the State Chair to be held in escrow until released by the State Chair. If a duly constituted county committee is organized within sixty (60) days following the Democratic Primary, the funds shall be paid to the committee. If a duly constituted county committee is not organized within sixty (60) days following the Democratic Primary, the funds shall be used in the current election campaign on behalf of candidates of the Democratic Party of Georgia in that County. The Congressional District Chair shall certify at least two nominations for vacancies with the State Chair. Such nominations shall be made from among those who qualified in accordance with notice procedures, provided however, that an additional name or names may be added by the Congressional District Chair where less than two persons qualified for the vacancy. The State Chair shall choose the Committee member for each vacancy from among those so nominated.

BL7.13.2 Where there is no existing County Committee, the Congressional District Chair(s) shall call an organizational meeting, specifying the time and place, or name an acting County Chair to call such a meeting. In the event that the Congressional District Chair does not so act, any person may ask the State Chair to call such a meeting or name an acting County Chair.

BL7.13.3 At the organizational meeting, any persons who are registered to vote in that County and who profess their intention to abide by the State Party Charter and Bylaws may organize a County Committee and proceed to adopt bylaws.

BL7.13.4 Within two weeks of adopting same, the acting Chair of the County Committee shall submit the proposed Bylaws and the following certification to the State Chair and to the Congressional District Chair, and request to be chartered as the Democratic County Committee of that County.

CERTIFICATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY

This is to certify that the Democratic Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Georgia has been duly organized in accordance with the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Georgia. The following members and officers were duly and properly elected:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We further certify that the officers of the County Committee have read and are familiar with the State Party Charter, Bylaws, and Rules, and the State Election Code.

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(County Committee Chair)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(County Committee Secretary)

BL7.13.5 Upon approval by the Executive Committee that County Committee shall be chartered.

SECTION 14. VETO

BL7.14.1 Pursuant to the following procedure, any action of a County Committee may be reversed by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the membership of the State Executive Committee.

BL7.14.2 The motion must be brought by an Executive Committee member or by written petition of 20% but not less than 3, of a particular county's County Committee Members.

BL7.14.3 Any decision by the Executive Committee to reverse an action of a County Committee must be sent to all State Committee members within 30 days of such reversal.

BL7.14.4 Any appeal of the Executive Committee's reversal must be sent in writing to the State Chair within 30 days of the date of the mailing pursuant to BL7.14.3 above. The matter will then be placed on the agenda for the next State Committee meeting at least 30 days after receipt of the appeal.

**BYLAWS ARTICLE VIII**  
**NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**SECTION 1. ELECTION OF MEMBERS**

BL8.1.1 Pursuant to Article Three, Section 2 of the Charter of the Democratic National Committee, the State Delegation to the National Committee shall consist of the State Chair, the next highest ranking officer of the opposite gender, plus an additional number allocated by the Democratic National Committee, and any other residents of Georgia who fit the qualifications of subsections (c) through (p) of said Article Three, Section 2.

BL8.1.2 Those members apportioned according to Article Three, Section 2 of the Charter of the Democratic National Committee shall be elected by majority vote of the State Committee Members at the regular meeting next prior to the National Convention.

**Amended December 15, 2009. See BL10.3.10**

BL8.1.3 Notice of the State Committee meeting at which National Committee members are to be elected shall be mailed to all members of the State Committee no less than 30 days before the convening of that meeting, designating time, date, and place of the meeting and including in such mailing copies of those sections of the Charter, Bylaws, and Rules governing the National Committee member selection.

BL8.1.4 Persons interested in running for a National Committee member post shall file an "intent to run" statement with the State Party office no later than ten days before the State Committee meeting. A non-State Committee Member wishing to run for a National Committee Member post must submit such "intent to run" with the endorsement of no less than thirty State Committee Members and submit such no later than ten days before the State Committee meeting.

BL8.1.5 A brief (3-4 minute) nominating speech may be made for each candidate. A (1 minute) seconding speech may also be made. The nominees may then address the State Committee for no more than 5 minutes. These speeches shall be made the following order: Post 1, Post 2, etc.

BL8.1.6 Balloting will proceed using ballots prepared by the State Party office, with a provision for write-ins.

**SECTION 2. DUTIES**

BL8.2.1 Members of the State Delegation to the National Committee shall hold themselves available for consultation prior to National Committee Meetings.

BL8.2.2 The Georgia Delegation to the National Committee shall report on the activities of the National Committee to the State Convention, State Committee, and Executive Committee.

### SECTION 3. VACANCIES

BL8.3 Vacancies among members of the National Committee elected by the State Committee shall be filled by a majority vote of the State Executive Committee to serve until the next meeting of the State Committee at which time the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the State Committee.

### SECTION 4. REMOVAL PROCEDURE

BL8.4 National Committee members may be removed from office for cause and on reasonable notice and with opportunity to be heard by a 2/3 vote of the State Committee provided 50% quorum is met, and on the same grounds and accordance with the same procedures as provided for the removal of State officers.

## **BYLAWS ARTICLE IX AFFILIATES**

### SECTION 1. CHARTERING AFFILIATES

BL9.1.1 A group of individuals seeking to organize and affiliate with the Party through the State Committee or a County Committee may petition the appropriate body for the issuance of a charter.

BL9.1.2 Where such petition is denied, the State or County Committee shall show in writing the cause for such denial.

BL9.1.3 Petitioners who have been denied a Charter may appeal to the State Chair within thirty days of receipt of denial.

BL9.1.4 Each Affiliate Organization may elect one Member to the State Committee.

### SECTION 2. REVOKING AFFILIATE CHARTERS

BL9.2.1 The State Committee or County Committees may revoke Affiliate Charters for willful violation or failure to comply with the rules and regulations of the Affiliate, County Committee or State Committee, or failure to meet minimum membership requirements.

BL9.2.2 Affiliates whose charters are revoked may appeal to the State Chair within 30 days of receipt of notice of revocation.

**BYLAWS ARTICLE X**  
**AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT PROCEDURE**

BL10.1.1 Proposed amendments to the State Party Bylaws shall be filed in writing with the State Chair at least 60 days before the meeting at which they are to be considered.

BL10.1.2 The State Chair may then forward such proposed changes to the Charter and Bylaws committee for recommendations. Committee recommendations shall be made to the State Committee in writing at least 10 days before meeting at which they are to be considered.

BL10.1.3 Amendments may be approved by a 2/3 vote of the State Committee provided a 50% quorum is met.

**SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE**

BL10.2 All amendments shall take affect as of the date stated therein, or if not date is stated, upon adoption of the amendment.

BL10.3 Because these Bylaws are being adopted midway between State Convention years, for the year 2004 only, the new post of Constituency Group Vice-Chair shall be filled after the 2004 Primary Runoffs at an August 2004 state committee meeting and all Regular State Committee members shall be elected after the 2004 General Election and before December 31, 2004.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

BL10.3.1 Adopted April 21, 2006  
Adds BL 1.9.1

**SECTION 9. CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION AND WITHDRAWAL**

BL1.9.1 In conducting qualifying for local, state, or federal office as directed by the laws of the State of Georgia, the State Party, or any appropriate County Committee, may refuse, in its discretion, to accept the withdrawal of a candidate who has completed the appropriate qualifying affidavit and submitted the required fee, and/or may delay accepting such withdrawal until after the time for qualifying has closed.

BL10.3.2 Adopted April 21, 2006  
Amended BL3.1.1 and BL3.1.2

BL3.1.1 One-half of the delegates and one-half of the alternates selected pursuant to Charter, Article III, Section 3.4 shall be elected by the appropriate County Committee. If there are an odd number of alternates, the County Committee shall elect the additional alternate.

BL3.1.2 One-half of the delegates and one-half of the alternates selected pursuant to Charter, Article III, Section 3.4 shall be elected by a county caucus. See BL3.1.1 regarding an odd number of alternates.

BL10.3.3 Adopted April 21, 2006

Amended BL7.6.1 and 7.6.4

BL7.6.1 Each County Committee shall elect its officers no later than December 31 of the appropriate year. The new chair shall immediately upon taking office notify the State Chair and appropriate Congressional District Chair of his/her election.

BL7.6.4 The Chair, Vice-Chairs, Secretary, and the Treasurer of the Committee shall serve 2 year terms, beginning at the close of the meeting at which they are elected. All other officers of the Committee and all members of any sub-committees, elected or appointed at any time and shall serve at the pleasure of the Committee.

BL10.3.4 Adopted July 29, 2006

Amended BL2.1.5

BL2.1.5 The State Chair shall notify all County Chairs and Congressional District Chairs of the date by which County Committees must hold elections for State Committee members. That date must be between February 1 and February 28 immediately following the regular gubernatorial election

BL10.3.5 Adopted July 29, 2006

Added BL4.3

BL4.3 Officers are subject to removal pursuant to Article II, Section 8 of these Bylaws

BL10.3.6 Adopted July 29, 2006

Amended BL5.1.6 and BL 5.1.7

BL5.1.6 A quorum for the purpose of a Congressional District Caucus shall be a majority of the seated State Committee Members residing in that particular Congressional District.

BL5.1.7 Pursuant to the procedure for the Election of Congressional District Chairs under the Charter and Bylaws, each Congressional District Caucus shall proceed to elect by a majority of those State Committee Members present and voting, provided a quorum is present, a Congressional District chair.

BL10.3.7 Adopted December 15, 2009

Amends BL2.4.1 and BL2.5.2

The members of all committees and caucuses, including Chairs, need not be Members of the State Committee.



- BL10.3.8      Adopted December 15, 2009  
Amends BL7.6.1  
BL7.6.1      Each County Committee shall elect its officers, by majority vote, no later than December 31 of the appropriate year. The new chair shall immediately upon taking office notify the State Chair and appropriate Congressional District Chair of his/her election.
- BL10.3.9      Adopted December 15, 2009  
Adds BL7.6.5  
BL7.6.5      All County Committee reports, records, and files must be promptly turned over to newly elected officers.
- BL10.3.10     Adopted December 15, 2009  
Amends BL8.1.2  
BL8.1.2      Those members apportioned according to Article Three, Section 2 of the Charter of the Democratic National Committee shall be elected by majority vote of State Committee Members at the regular meeting next prior to the National Convention.