



RULES OF THE INDIANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Revised May 24, 2005

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The rules of the Indiana Democratic Party shall be governed as follows:

I. PARTY STRUCTURE

RULE 1. PARTY COMPOSITION

- (a) The Indiana Democratic Party (“Party”) shall consist of the state central committee (“State Committee”), the congressional district committees, the county committees, and the precinct committees.
- (b) Ward, township, city, and town committees, consisting of the precinct committeepersons and vice committeepersons residing within the area designated for any such committee, may be created as provided in these rules.

II. PARTY GOVERNANCE

RULE 2. APPLICABILITY OF RULES

- (a) The precinct, county, district, and state Democratic committees shall organize and be governed in accordance with these rules.
- (b) Ward, township, city, and town committees shall be governed by all rules applicable to county committees.

RULE 3. STATE COMMITTEE AUTHORITY OVER RULES

- (a) State Committee shall have the authority to promulgate all rules necessary for governing Party affairs.
- (b) State Committee shall have the power to file and prosecute suits in its own name to enforce obedience to its rules.
- (c) These rules may be amended, repealed, or supplemented at any properly called State Committee meeting.
- (d) A written copy of any proposed rule change must be distributed to State Committee members forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

RULE 4. ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTAL RULES

All Party committees may adopt supplemental rules deemed necessary, provided they do not violate these rules.

RULE 5. RULE CONFLICTS BETWEEN COMMITTEES

If the rules of any two interdependent committees conflict, the rules of the committee with the higher jurisdiction in the Party shall prevail.

RULE 6. RULES OF ORDER

Except where inconsistent with these rules or any promulgated under Rule 4, Roberts' Rules of Order shall govern the procedure of all Party committee meetings.

RULE 7. ACCEPTANCE OF RULES

Any person accepting election or appointment in the Party agrees to accept the privileges and penalties provided for by Indiana law and these rules.

III. MEMBERSHIP AND PARTY OFFICE

RULE 8. ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP & PARTY OFFICES

- (a) Any legally qualified Indiana voter who supports the purposes of the Party may be a member.
- (b) Except where prohibited by law or these rules, any bona fide Party member may participate fully in Party meetings and be elected to Party office.
- (c) A party member may only be a candidate for precinct committeeperson or state convention delegate if:
 - (1) His or her most recent primary vote was cast in the Democratic primary;
 - (2) He or she has never voted in a primary and has declared affiliation with the Party; or
 - (3) The county chair of the county in which the person resides certifies that the person is a Democrat;
 - (4) A candidate is not disqualified for not having previously voted in a primary election.
- (d) A person who has been disqualified under Rule 19 may not serve in the Party in any capacity during the disqualification term.

IV. STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE

RULE 9. GENDER EQUALITY

- (a) Both women and men are eligible for all offices and appointments provided for by Indiana election law and these rules
- (b) To preserve equality of representation in all Party committees, the chair and vice chair or committeeperson and vice committeeperson shall be of the opposite sex. This rule does not apply to other officers, but Party members are encouraged to make determined efforts to create equal gender representation in their committees.
- (c) If a vacancy in the office of chair or committeeperson is filled with an individual of the same sex as the vice chair or vice committeeperson, the lesser office shall be automatically vacated by operation of Rule 9(b).
- (d) If approved by the county chair, a vice committeeperson may be a relative of a committeeperson who resides in the same household.

RULE 10. PARTY ACCESS

(a) Open Meetings

All public Party meetings shall be open to Party members, regardless of their race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status, sexual orientation, physical condition, or philosophical persuasion.

(b) Accessible Locations and Fair Notice

All public Party meetings shall be held in places that respect the diversity of Party members. Meeting locations shall be accessible to all Party members regardless of their physical attributes, and large enough to accommodate all interested persons. The time and place of said meetings shall be publicized in a manner providing timely notice to all interested persons.

(c) Prohibition on Discriminatory Oath

The Party may not use any membership test or loyalty oath that requires prospective or current members to condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, physical condition or economic status.

(d) Open Registration

The party shall vigorously support registration without discrimination on grounds of race, sex, age, color, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, physical condition, or economic status.

(e) Fair Notice of Officer Qualifications and Elections

The Party shall publicize a full description of the selection procedures for all Party offices and the qualifications for such offices in a manner that permits all prospective and current Party members to be fully informed in time to participate in each of the Party's selection procedures, including delegate selection.

V. PARTY COMMITTEES

RULE 11. PRECINCT COMMITTEES

(a) Committee Designation

Each precinct of the state shall have a Democratic committee designated by the (a) number of the precinct and ward; (b) name of the city or township; and (c) county in which it is located.

(b) Committee Composition

Each precinct committee shall consist of the duly elected or appointed precinct committeeperson and vice committeeperson.

(c) Elections of Committeepersons

Precinct Committeepersons shall be elected by ballot at the primary election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May of 1998 and every four years thereafter.

(d) Qualifications for Committeeperson

A person may not be a candidate for precinct committeeperson unless he or she:

- (1) is a Party member, as set forth in Rule 8(c).
- (2) is a qualified voter;
- (3) resides in the precinct in which he or she is a candidate; and

(e) Committeeperson Election and Tie Votes

The candidate for precinct committeeperson receiving the highest vote total in the primary election shall be deemed elected. The county chair shall decide any tie between candidates for precinct committeeperson before 6:00 p.m. on the Friday immediately following the primary election.

(f) Vacancies Filled by County Chair

If no candidate has filed for committeeperson in a precinct, the office shall be vacant as of the primary election date, and the county chair may fill the vacancy by appointment up until thirty (30) days prior to the county reorganization meeting. Any appointee shall serve until the next primary election at which committeepersons are elected.

(g) Appointment and Notification of Vice Committeepersons

- (1) Each precinct committee person elected in a primary shall appoint a qualified voter and Party member of the precinct, who is of the opposite sex, as vice committeeperson.
- (2) The committeeperson shall certify such appointment in writing to the county chair, via U.S. certified mail, not later than midnight on the

Thursday immediately following the primary. A post office receipt shall be evidence of the time when notice of such appointment was mailed. The county chair shall acknowledge the receipt of such certificate in writing.

- (3) In counties where absentee ballots are centrally counted, the precinct committeeperson shall have until forty-eight (48) hours after certification of his or her election to provide notice to the county chair.

(h) *Forfeiture of Right to Appoint*

An elected committeeperson who fails to appoint and properly certify a vice committeeperson forfeits the right to make such appointment to the county chair, who shall have until thirty (30) days prior to the county reorganization meeting to make such appointment. The chair shall notify each appointee by first-class mail.

(i) *Vice Committeeperson Vacancies*

- (1) If a vacancy occurs in the office of vice committeeperson, the precinct committee person has ten (10) days to submit the name of a nominee to the county chair.
- (2) The county chair shall appoint either the nominee or another qualified voter in that precinct to fill the vacancy.

(j) *Rights of Appointed Precinct Officer*

A committee person or vice committee person appointed by the county chair shall have the same rights and privileges as one elected or selected by a committee person, except that any such appointee shall serve at the pleasure of the county chair. *(As amended, January, 2005)*

(k) *Duties of Precinct Officers*

- (1) Inside his or her precinct, the precinct committeeperson's duties include:
 - (A) Polling residents;
 - (B) Registering voters;
 - (C) Maintaining a current poll list of voters;
 - (D) Identifying and assisting absentee voters to register;
 - (E) Promoting Party candidates;
 - (F) Operating an election day organization;
 - (G) Encouraging voting by persons preferring Democratic Party candidates;
 - (H) Recommending persons for the precinct election board;
 - (I) Recruiting volunteers for the Party;
 - (J) Attending training and other party-building activities sponsored by the State Committee;

- (K) Reporting periodically on the state of the Party to the county chair or his or her designee.
- (2) The precinct vice committeeperson shall assist the precinct committeeperson with these duties.
- (3) The precinct committeeperson is encouraged to appoint chairs for polling, voter registration, social activities, and finance.
- (1) *Resignation of Committeeperson Upon Change in Residency*
 - (1) If a committeeperson moves out of his or her precinct and the County chair has knowledge of the same, the chair shall notify said committeeperson by registered mail of his retirement in absentia as committeeperson.
 - (2) If the committeeperson challenges such action in writing within seven (7) days of receipt of notice, the chair shall schedule a review before the county central committee. Following this review, the committee shall vote to uphold the chair's action or find that the committeeperson is still duly qualified. A majority vote of the officers present and voting shall constitute final action.

RULE 12. CITY COMMITTEES

(a) Committee Designation

For each city in his or her county, the county chair may authorize the creation of a democratic city committee, known and designated by the name of the city. This rule shall govern such committees

(b) Committee Composition

This committee shall consist of the duly elected or appointed precinct committeepersons and vice committeepersons who represent precincts within the city

(c) Creation and Dissolution of City Committees

- (1) The county chair may create a city committee at his or her discretion. Once created, a county chair may dissolve a city committee at any time, but only for just cause.
- (2) Except as provided in (c)(1), a city committee exists until thirty (30) days after a city election, at which time the city committee shall expire and all funds shall be turned over to the treasurer of the county committee.
- (3) The county chair may, at his or her discretion, permit the city committee to continue its existence and to retain funds it has raised or received.

(d) Organization

- (1) *Deadline for Committee Formation*

If authorized, a city committee shall be reorganized no later than June 15 in the year of a municipal election or at the time fixed by the county chair.

(2) *Reorganization Meeting Procedures*

The county chair or a member of the county central committee appointed by the chair shall preside at the city committee reorganization meeting until a chair is elected. The secretary of the county central committee or a person appointed by the county chair shall act as secretary until a secretary is elected.

(3) *Notice of Reorganization Meeting*

The county chair shall notify all committee members of the time, place and purpose of the city committee organization meeting in the manner provided for with county committee quadrennial reorganization meetings. However, such notice shall be given not fewer than five (5) days before such meeting.

(4) *Election of Officers*

(A) The city committee members shall elect a chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer in that order. Said officers need not be city committee members.

(B) If provided for in its rules, the city committee may elect other officers and may provide for the election or appointment of subcommittees, as deemed necessary to perfect its organization.

(5) *Effect of Committee's Failure to Elect a Chair*

If the city committee is unable to elect a chair within twenty-four (24) hours of the time designated in the meeting notice, the committee shall stand adjourned. Within three (3) days thereafter, the county chair shall appoint any democratic voter of the city as the city chair and shall notify all committee members of this appointment in writing. Within ten (10) days of his or her appointment, the new city chair shall call a meeting of the city committee to elect its other officers.

(e) *Vacancies in Committee Offices*

(1) *Voting Procedure*

The city committee shall fill vacancies at any meeting called for such purpose upon due notice to all committee members. Such vacancies shall be filled by election by a majority of the eligible votes present at such meeting. Those elected shall serve the unexpired term of those vacating office.

(2) *Notice*

(A) *Deadline for Providing Notice*

Any city committee meeting held to fill a vacancy in any office of such committee shall be called by the remaining officers by notice issued not more than five (5) days after such vacancy occurs. If such officers fail to timely call such meeting, the county chair shall call for such meeting within five (5) days after the original period expires. If the county chair fails to call the meeting within the time specified, the district chair shall issue a call within five (5) days after the second period has expired. If said district chair also fails to call such meeting within the said time, the state chair shall call for such meeting to be held within thirty (30) days after a vacancy occurs.

(B) Form of Notice

Notice of the time, place and purpose of the meeting shall be given to the committee members in the manner prescribed for the notice of the organization meeting of such committee. However, at least five (5) days' notice shall be given.

(3) Meeting Procedure

The officer calling such meeting shall preside. The vacancy shall be filled by a majority of the members of the committee present and voting.

(f) Multiple residents in same precinct

If two or more committeepersons or vice committeepersons who are members of the county committee reside in the same precinct as it exists for a city election, the committee shall designate which members of the county committee shall be committeepersons and vice committeepersons.

(g) Duties of Officers

The chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer of the city central committee shall have the same powers and duties as the State Committee officer with the same title.

RULE 13. COUNTY COMMITTEES

(a) Committee Designation

In each county of the state, there shall be a Democratic county central committee, known and designated by the name of the county committee.

(b) Committee Composition

This committee shall consist of the duly elected or appointed precinct committeepersons and vice committeepersons within said county. The officers of that committee shall be known as the "county central committee."

(c) Notification of Vice Committee Appointments

Not later than nine a.m. on the Saturday immediately following the primary election, the county chair shall notify each vice committeeperson of his or her appointment. Such notices shall be given in writing by mail.

(d) *Reorganization Meeting*

(1) *Meeting Date*

On the first Saturday in March, 1997 and every four (4) years thereafter, at no later than one p.m., local time, such precinct committeepersons and vice-committeepersons shall meet in the county seat at a location selected by the retiring county chair and shall organize the county central committee by electing officers.

(2) *Notice of the meeting*

The call for the organization meeting shall be sent by first class U.S. mail not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting, and shall be sent to each committee person and vice committee person on the list filed with State Committee. This list shall be filed no later than noon, thirty (30) days prior to the county committee reorganization meeting. (*As amended, January, 2005*)

(3) *Prohibition on Filling Vacancies*

Any committee person or vice committeeperson vacancy may not be filled during the thirty-day period preceding the county reorganization meeting.

(4) *Candidate Filing Requirement for Officers*

The county chair may require persons desiring to be elected to county committee office to indicate that desire by filing notice of candidacy with the secretary of the county committee at least ten (10) days prior to the organization meeting. If a filing deadline is imposed that fact, the name and address of the secretary, and the date and time of the filing deadline shall be stated in the meeting notice.

(5) *Presiding Officers*

The county chair or an officer acting as chair under these rules shall preside at the reorganization meeting until a chair has been elected. The presiding officer shall cast any tie-breaking vote in the election for chair, even if he or she has already cast a ballot as a committeeperson. The retiring secretary of the county committee shall act as secretary of the reorganization meeting. Only voting officers of the county central committee may preside at reorganization meetings. This shall be the chair unless the chair recognizes one of the other officers of the county committee to preside.

(6) *Voting Procedures*

The county committee shall elect a chair, a vice chair, a secretary, and a treasurer, in that order. If voting machines are used in the election, the

offices shall be listed on the machines in that order. The person receiving a majority of the eligible votes present and voting shall be declared elected. Once a chair is elected, he or she shall cast any necessary tie-breaking votes. If a filing deadline is announced under rule 8(d)(3), no person may be nominated who has failed to timely file his or her candidacy unless permitted to do so by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the county committee present and voting.

(7) *Effect of Failure to Elect Chair*

(A) In the event no county chair is elected prior to one p.m. on the Sunday immediately following the first Saturday in March, said Committee shall stand adjourned, and State Committee, after its organization, shall direct the State Chair, or his/her designee, to conduct a new election in that county within thirty days to elect the chair and other officers of said county committee.

(B) In the event no county chair is elected by the county committee through the process described in sub-section (A), then the State Committee shall elect the Chair of the county committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

(C) If no county chair is elected by the county committee on the first Saturday in March, that county shall have no vote in the organization of the district committee. *(As amended, March, 2005)*

(8) *Multiple Ballots*

If no candidate gets a majority in an election of three or more candidates, the lowest vote getter shall drop out of subsequent ballots.

(e) *Prohibition on Filing Fees*

Candidate filing fees for reorganization meetings are prohibited.

(f) *Notification of New Officers*

The county chair, or in his absence the retiring secretary of the county committee, shall send by certified mail to the State Committee secretary the names of the newly and elected officers of the county committee. Said certification shall be deposited in the U.S. Mail not later than one p.n. on the Sunday following said organization meeting. The secretary of the county committee shall also forward a copy to the district chair

(g) *Terms of Office*

The officers elected at the reorganization meeting or at subsequent meeting to fill a vacancy shall serve until the county committee's next quadrennial reorganization meeting

(h) *Assumption of Duties for Vacant Offices*

If the county chair is absent or a vacancy occurs in said office, the vice chair shall assume the chair's duties. If there be no vice chair, the secretary shall assume said duties. Such successor shall discharge said duties until said vacancy shall have been filled.

(i) *Filling Officer Vacancies*

(1) *Voting Procedure*

The county committee shall fill any officer vacancies occurring in the committee by election at any meeting called for such purpose upon due notice to all members provided in Rule 13(i)(2). The person receiving a majority of the eligible votes present and voting at such meeting shall be declared elected.

(2) *Notice*

Any meeting of the county committee for the purpose of filling a vacancy in any office of such committee shall be called by one of the remaining committee officers in the order of the chair, vice chair, secretary or treasurer. Notice must be issued not more than ten (10) days after the vacancy has occurred. The meeting to fill such vacancy shall be held within thirty (30) days from the date the vacancy occurred. A person so elected to fill a vacancy shall take office immediately.

(3) *Failure to Call a Timely Meeting*

If committee officers fail to timely call such meeting, the district chair shall issue a call not more than five (5) days after the expiration of said original period. If the district chair fails to timely call such meeting, the state chair shall issue a call within five (5) days after the expiration of the period during which the district chair could have called it. Notice of the time, place and purpose of any such meeting shall be given to the members of any such committee in the manner in Rule 13(I)(2). At least five (5) days notice of such meeting shall be given. The officer calling such meeting shall preside.

(j) *Resignation of Officer*

If a county officer retires or moves out of the county, he or she must send a written resignation to the county secretary. If no resignation is submitted, the county chair or vice chair (in the chair's absence) shall send a notice of vacation of office by certified mail to said officer with the stipulation that notice be returned within seven (7) days, or said officer is retired in absentia.

(k) *Procedure for Regular Meetings*

The chair may call regular meetings of the county committee at any time or upon written notice signed by a majority of all members of the county committee. The county chair shall preside at such meetings and shall cast any tie-breaking votes. Written notice of such meetings shall be given to each member of the committee

as provided in Rule 13 (i)(2) not fewer than seven (7) days before the meeting date.

(l) *Committeeperson's Notice and Voting Rights*

All precinct committeepersons and vice committeepersons shall be given notice of all meetings. Except as for provided in these rules, all eligible committeepersons and vice committeepersons may vote on all matters raised at any county committee meeting.

(m) *Filling Precinct Vacancies*

The County Chair shall fill any vacancy in a precinct committeeperson or vice committeeperson position by appointment.

(n) *Forfeiture of Committeeperson Position for Serving in Other Party's Office*

(1) If a precinct committeeperson or vice committeeperson accepts or retains any office or appointment under any officer, office holder, or appointee of any political party other than the Democratic Party, the county committee, by majority vote of the members present at any meeting, may declare a vacancy in the office of such committeeperson or vice committeeperson.

(2) Nothing in this Rule prohibits a precinct committeeperson or vice committeeperson from accepting, with the consent of the county chair, an appointment that must by law be held by a member of a party other than that of the appointing authority.

(o) *Effect of Precinct Boundary Changes*

Should precinct boundary changes result in two or more duly elected and acting committeepersons or vice committeepersons residing in the same precinct, the county chair shall select the committeeperson or vice committeeperson who shall serve the newly formed precinct until the next election by committeepersons and vice committeepersons as provided by law.

(p) *State Convention Alternates*

(1) *Meeting Time and Notice*

After the primary election in even-numbered years and not later than the second Saturday after the primary elections, the county chair shall call a meeting of the county committee, or of the ward chairs, for the purpose of electing state convention alternates. This call shall be mailed not later than 9:00 a.m. the Saturday following the primary election, and shall state the purpose of the meeting, the procedure for nominating alternate delegates in advance of the meeting, the deadlines for the submission of such nominations, and the person and place to whom nominations shall be submitted.

(2) *Nomination Process*

Nominations for one or more alternates may be submitted to the county chair between May 1st and twenty-four (24) hours before the time of the meeting at which alternate delegates are to be elected. A person may nominate him or herself. A ballot shall be prepared listing the nominees in the order in which they filed. In presidential election years, the ballot should identify the nominee as to the presidential preference or uncommitted status, since an alternate may become certified to participate in the national delegate selection process. Each county shall elect no more than the same number as apportioned delegates to that county.

(3) *Notification of Election to State Committee*

The county chair shall send by certified mail to the secretary of the state committee the names and addresses of the elected alternates to the State convention. Such certification shall be deposited in the U.S. mail properly addressed to such secretary not later than one week following the meeting. The county chair shall also forward a copy of such certification forthwith to the district chair. Duly elected state convention alternates, upon certification, shall be invited to attend the state convention but may not participate or vote in such convention unless a vacancy occurs and such alternate becomes certified to replace an absent delegate.

(q) *Precinct Review Committee*

(1) *Formation Date*

After the election of officers at the reorganization meeting, the newly-elected county chair shall appoint, with the approval of a majority of the other officers of the committee and consistent with affirmative action goals of the Party, the members of the precinct review committee.

(2) *Composition of Committee*

The precinct review committee shall be composed of a number of members equal to ten (10) percent of the number of precincts in the county, but in no case shall have fewer than five (5) or more than twenty-one (21) members. Appointed members of the precinct review committee shall be precinct committeepersons. In addition to the appointed members, the county chairperson and the county vice chairperson shall serve as ex-officio members and shall be entitled to vote on all matters before the committee. The county chair shall appoint a precinct review committee chair who shall serve at the pleasure of the county chair.

(3) *Filling Vacancies*

Vacancies on the precinct review committee shall be filled by appointment by the county chair with the consent of a majority of the other members of the county committee.

(r) *Ward and Township Chairs*

The county committee may establish the offices of area chair, ward chair, and township chair. Such officers shall not gain voting membership in the county committee by virtue of appointment to the office, but may participate in all meetings of the county committee. These officers shall serve at the pleasure of the county chair. The county committee may establish by rule alternative procedures for the selection and removal of such officers.

(s) *Duties of County Chair*

The duties of the County Chair include:

- (1) submitting the following to the State Chair upon request:
 - (A) current county committee membership lists, including a listing of officers, which shall be provided within thirty (30) days of the request, or in the case of the precinct committeeperson elections and appointments, ten (10) days thereafter;
 - (B) any computer files of voter information to which the county chair has access;
 - (C) all county election results;
- (2) recruiting Democratic Party candidates for all offices at each election;
- (3) filling promptly by appointment any vacancy in any office at each election;
- (4) filling promptly by appointment any vacancy in the office of committeeperson or vice committeeperson of any precinct;
- (5) developing and implementing a polling, registration, and get-out-the-vote plan;
- (6) participating in training and other workshops;
- (7) administering county committee finances; and
- (8) enhancing the visibility of the county party.

(t) *County Committee List*

In all matters in which the state committee, a district committee, the State Chair, or a district chair must call a meeting of a county committee or a caucus of committeepersons, the list most recently filed with the state chair shall be the authoritative list of committeepersons and vice-committeepersons, except that the list of newly-elected and newly-appointed committeepersons shall be used after a primary election and before a new list is filed, and during the thirty days prior to a reorganization meeting of county committees.

Since county finance reports are filed with the county clerk and the Indiana Election Division, the county committee shall have a copy of the reports on hand for examination by committee members at their request.

(u) *Duties of Other Officers*

The vice chair, secretary, and treasurer of the county committee shall, in addition to any powers and duties specified in this rule, have the same powers and duties as the same officer of State Committee.

RULE 14. DISTRICT COMMITTEES

(a) *Designation of Committee*

Each congressional district shall have a committee known and designated by the district number.

(b) *Composition of Committee*

The district committee shall consist of the county chairs and vice chairs of each of the counties comprising the district. The officers of that committee shall be known as the “district central committee.”

(c) *Reorganization Meeting*

(1) *Purpose and Time of Meeting*

Each district committee shall meet on the Second Saturday in March of 2001 and every four (4) years thereafter, no later than one p.m. local time, for the purpose of electing officers.

(2) *Notice*

The district chair, in a manner he or she deems proper, shall notify all committee members of the meeting’s purpose, time and location, which must be within the district. Notice must be provided ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

(3) *Candidate Filing Requirements for Officers*

The district chair may require persons desiring to be elected to district committee office to indicate that desire by filing notice of candidacy with the secretary of the district committee at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the organization meeting. If a filing deadline is imposed that fact the name and address of the secretary, and the date and time of the filing deadline shall be stated in the meeting notice.

(4) *Voting Procedures*

(A) A chair, vice chair, a secretary, and a treasurer shall be elected in that order by a majority of members present. The retiring district chair shall preside until a chair has been elected and shall cast the tie-breaking vote in the election of chair

(B) If otherwise eligible, an individual need not be a county chair or vice chair in the district to be elected to a district office.

(5) *Prohibition on “Redistricted” Officers*

District officers who are “redistricted” (i.e., who no longer live within the district), may remain in office until the next reorganization but may not seek re-election, even if a portion of their county remains in the congressional district.

(6) *Notification of Results*

The district chair shall notify the State Committee chair of the election results by phone as soon as they are known and shall immediately deposit written notice in the U.S. mail.

(d) *District Chair Vacancy*

(1) *Assumption of Duties*

In case of either a chair’s absence or a vacancy in that office for any reason, the vice chair shall assume the chair’s duties.

(2) *Meeting to Fill District Chair Vacancy*

If a vacancy in the office of district chair occurs, the vice chair shall call a meeting of the district committee by giving notice of the meeting’s time and place, which must be within the district, in a manner he or she deems proper. Such meeting shall be held not fewer than seven (7) and not more than thirty (30) days after such vacancy occurs. The district vice chair shall preside and shall cast any tie-breaking votes for district chair.

(3) *Effect of District Committee’s Failure to Fill Vacancies*

(A) *State Chair Duties*

If the district committee fails to timely fill any vacancy in its offices, the State Chair shall call a district committee meeting for that purpose and shall give each committee member at least five (5) days’ written notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. The State Chair shall preside at the meeting and shall cast any tie-breaking vote.

(B) *Time for Calling Meeting*

The State Chair shall call such meeting within at least thirty days after the vacancy occurs, or the district fails to elect.

(C) *Second Failure to Elect Officers*

In the event such committee again fails to elect a chair, vice chair, secretary, or treasurer, and notice of said failure is filed by the state chair with State Committee within three (3) days after such meeting is called by the chair, State Committee shall elect, by a majority vote of the members, a qualified democratic voter, residing in said district, to any vacant office in such district committee. The officer so elected shall have all the authority and duties delegated under the law and these rules.

(e) *Meeting and Notice Generally*

The district committee may be convened at any time upon call of the chair, or upon written call of a majority of the members of said committee. The call of such meeting may be in any manner the chair deems proper, but must be given to all committee members. All meeting notices shall state the time, place, and purpose of such meeting, shall be in writing and signed by the chair or the members joining in such call, and shall be delivered to all members not joining therein at least seventy-two (72) hours before the meeting.

(f) *Minimum District Committee Meeting Requirements*

Each District Committee shall meet in person at least twice per calendar year. Such meetings shall include the reorganization meeting, in reorganization years, a meeting within ten (10) days before each state convention, and such other meetings as may be called by the State Chair or by the committee.

(g) *Duties of District Chair*

The district chair may exercise any privileges or perform any duty that a county chair or vice chair fails or refuses to exercise.

(h) *Duties of Other Officers*

The district vice chair, the secretary, and the treasurer shall, in addition to any powers and duties specified in this rule, have the same powers and duties as the same officer of State Committee.

RULE 15. STATE COMMITTEE

(a) *Committee Designation*

There shall be a permanent committee for the entire state which shall be known as the Indiana Democratic State Central Committee (“State Committee”). Subject only to the Party as assembled at the state convention, State Committee shall be the supreme party authority in Indiana.

(b) *Committee Composition*

This committee shall consist of the district chairs and vice chairs, elected National Committee members and National Committee officers of the state, and two representatives of the Indiana Young Democrats, and non-voting representatives of respective caucuses as appointed by the Chair.

(c) *Voting Rights*

- (1) Only district chairs and vice chairs or their proxies may participate and vote for the election of officers or an amendment to these rules.
- (2) Young Democrat representatives shall have one-half (1/2) vote, but they shall not be counted for purposes of establishing quorum, nor can they vote on officer elections or rule amendments.

(d) *Location of State Committee Headquarters*

State Committee shall be headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana. Subject to State Committee approval, the chair must furnish and pay for suitable rooms for the use and occupancy of State Committee members.

(e) *Reorganization Meeting Date*

The state committee shall meet at its headquarters on the third Saturday in March of 2001 and every four (4) years thereafter, no later than one o'clock local time, for the purpose of reorganizing the committee and transacting other business as may be brought before the committee.

(f) *Reorganization Meeting Procedures*

- (1) At the reorganization meeting, the retiring state chair shall preside. Officers shall be elected by majority vote in the following order: chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer. The retiring chair shall break the tie votes.
- (2) After the election of officers, the state chair shall nominate, with consent of a majority of State Committee, two persons to the officer of deputy chair. The two deputy chairs shall be of opposite sex and from regions of the state not represented by the vice chair.

(g) *Filing Deputy Chair Vacancies*

Vacancies in the office of deputy chair may be filled by appointment by the state chair, subject to approval by a majority of State Committee in its next meeting.

(h) *State Chair as Sole Binding Agent*

The State Chair is the only person empowered to incur liability binding on State Committee.

(i) *Duties of State Chair*

The duties of the chair shall be:

- (1) to call meetings and to preside at all meetings of the committee;
- (2) to cast the deciding vote in the case of a tie;
- (3) to supervise and assist in the management of political campaigns during his or her term of office;
- (4) with the advice of the committee, to carry into effect the directions of the committee;
- (5) to perform any duties prescribed by these rules or assigned by State Committee;
- (6) to exercise such discretionary powers as may be necessary and proper in the interest of the citizens of Indiana and the Democratic Party;
- (7) to prepare and distribute to the committee an agenda and minutes of the previous meeting prior to any meeting of the committee;

- (8) to appoint legal counsel and a parliamentarian with approval of the committee;
- (9) to direct preparation of an annual budget by a budget committee and present it to the State Committee for approval;
- (10) to submit to State Committee copies of all state and federal campaign finance reports and other reports that State Committee may require;
- (11) to appoint the chairman and the members of all standing and special committees except where otherwise provided by these rules;
- (12) to serve as ex-officio member of all committees of the state committee;
- (13) to be responsible for maintaining the records of the office, voter files, lists of contributors, party membership lists, computer files, records, committee reports, and all other records of the state committee, and, on such records in good order to the succeeding chairperson
- (14) to be responsible for the filing of all reports that required to be filed with the proper authorities and by the prescribed deadlines;
- (15) to have the overall responsibility for state party affairs, and to be the sole official spokesperson for the party, subject only to the state committee and state convention when it is in session;
- (16) to report annually to the committee the attendance of national committee members at meetings of the National Committee.

(j) *Duties of Vice Chair*

The duties of the vice chair shall be:

- (1) to preside at any committee meeting at which the chair is absent.
- (2) to perform all of the chair's duties while acting in such capacity; and
- (3) to perform duties delegated to him or her by the chair

(k) *Duties of Secretary*

The duties of the secretary shall be:

- (1) to keep proper records of State Committee proceedings and of the organization of the Party throughout the state;
- (2) work with State Party staff when necessary on the drafting of correspondence;
- (3) to perform such other duties delegated by the chair or assigned by the committee.

(l) *Duties of Treasurer*

The duties of the treasurer shall be:

- (1) work with State Party staff to ascertain the best procedures for the collection and custody of all money belonging to the committee;
- (2) to act as chair of the finance committee;
- (3) work with State Party staff to ensure that an accounting of the condition of the treasury is provided at each meeting;
- (4) work with State Party staff when necessary to review all payments of bills as directed by the chair or by a budget committee;
- (5) ensure that the State Party chair submits his or her books for inspection, examination, and audit when required to do so by State Committee;
- (6) to assist with fundraising;
- (7) to comply with the campaign finance provisions of the laws of the State of Indiana and of the United States;
- (8) to make all records of committee expenditures available for inspection to all members upon written request by any State Committee member. Such reports are confidential and may not be disseminated.

(m) *Duties of Deputy Chairs*

The duties of each state deputy chair shall be:

- (1) to represent the Chair as deemed necessary;
- (2) to advise the Chair on matters as deemed necessary; and
- (3) to perform duties delegated by the Chair.

(n) *Composition & Duties of Budget Committee*

- (1) The budget committee referred to in Rule 15(i)(9) shall be composed of the chairman or his designee and four members of the state central committee selected by that committee
- (2) The budget committee shall assist in the formation and prepare the state party budget and shall determine all necessary and appropriate expenditures.

(o) *State Chair Vacancy*

(1) *Assumption of Duties*

If there is no vice chair to assume a vacant State Chair's duties, then the secretary shall assume those duties until such vacancy is filled.

(2) *Call for Meeting to Fill State Chair Vacancy*

An officer who assumes the chair's duties must call a State Committee meeting to elect a new chair within two (2) weeks of assuming the chair's duties. That officer shall provide each committee member notice of the time, place, and purpose of meeting by registered mail, not fewer than five (5) days before the meeting date.

(3) *Deadline for Filling Vacancy*

A State Chair vacancy must be filled within thirty (30) days.

(4) *Meeting Procedure*

The officer issuing the call shall preside at the meeting until a state chair is elected by a majority vote of the members present. The presiding officer shall break any tie votes.

(p) *Vacancies in Other Offices*

If a vacancy in any other office occurs for any reason, a successor may be chosen at any subsequent regular or called meeting. The person chosen shall complete the term of his or her predecessor.

(q) *Terms for Officers Filling Vacancies*

Any officer elected to fill a vacancy shall complete the term of his or her predecessor.

(r) *Convening State Committee Meetings*

State Committee meetings may be convened at any time upon the call of the chair or any eleven members. Notice shall be given to each committee member by mail, email, or fax, signed by the person or persons calling such meeting at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

(s) *Recognition of Local Clubs and Parties*

No club, council, society, or organization, other than the committees authorized by these rules, shall be regarded as an official organization of the Party unless and until it has been approved as to its form, methods, and purposes by a majority vote of State Committee. Any organization failing to receive State Committee or failing to display such approval in its headquarters, publication or upon its stationary, including the date that such approval expires, is unauthorized to function in the name of the Party.

(t) *Liabilities*

(1) *Approval Needed to Incur Liability*

State Committee shall not, directly, or indirectly, assume the payment of, or responsibility for, the indebtedness or liability of any person, or committee, or other entity unless State Committee approved of such action at a meeting properly called under these rules at least ten (10) days before the indebtedness or liability was incurred.

(2) *Approval Needed to Incur Debt*

State Committee shall not, directly or indirectly, borrow money or services or assume or otherwise incur any indebtedness or other liability during the period beginning sixty (60) days prior to each general election and expiring at midnight on the day of each general election, without prior approval of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of State Committee members, as

expressed at a regular or special meeting called on notice given pursuant to these Rules.

(3) *State Chair as Sole Binding Agent*

Even if approval has been provided to incur a debt or liability, the state chair is the only person empowered to incur liability binding on State Committee.

(4) *Disputes Between State Chair and Treasurer*

Any dispute between the treasurer and Chair concerning the payment of committee obligations shall be resolved by State Committee.

(u) *Annual Convention of County Officers*

State Committee shall hold an annual convention of all county party officers within ten days of the state convention in even-numbered years and at a date of its choosing in odd-numbered years.

(v) *Minimum State Committee Meeting Requirements*

(1) State Committee shall meet at least six (6) times per calendar year. Such meetings shall include the reorganization meeting, in reorganization years, a meeting within ten days before each state convention, and such other meetings as called by the state chair by the committee.

(2) No more than two (2) meetings per year may be conducted by teleconference. Meetings whose purpose is to elect or remove officers must be conducted in person.

RULE 16. NATIONAL COMMITTEE

(a) *Committee Composition*

The members of the state committee shall elect four (4) national committeepersons to represent the Party on the Democratic National Committee (“DNC”). The state chairperson and vice chair shall also serve on the DNC with one vote each.

(b) *National Committeeperson Election Procedure*

Such national committeepersons shall be elected by a majority vote of the district chairs and vice chairs present and voting at the State Committee meeting held immediately prior to the national convention.

(c) *Terms of National Committeeperson*

National Committeepersons shall serve a four-year term beginning at the time specified by DNC rules and until their successors are elected by the State Committee and confirmed by the Democratic National Convention held following such election.

(d) *Filing Vacancies*

If a vacancy in the office of national committeeperson occurs, the same shall be filled at any State Committee meeting. Notice of time, place and purpose of such meeting shall be given to all committee members not fewer than seven (7) days before the meeting date.

(e) *Duties of National Committeepersons*

Every National Committeeperson elected by State Committee is duty bound to attend all regular meetings of the State and National Committees. State Committee may remove any national committeeperson it elected for failing to attend at least sixty (60) percent of the regular meetings of the State and National Committees during any twelve (12) consecutive-month period.

VI. THE STATE CONVENTION

RULE 17. STATE CONVENTION

(a) *Convention Organization and Operation*

(1) *Convention Governed by Party Rules*

All matters pertaining to the holding of the state convention shall be governed by these rules and by such rules as may be adopted by such convention.

(2) *Time of Convention*

The Party shall hold a state convention biennially at a time and place set by State Committee.

(3) *Call to the convention*

At least thirty (30) days prior to the state convention, the state chair shall issue the call to the convention. The call to the convention shall include the:

- (A) time and place of the convention;
- (B) number of delegates and alternates to the national convention to be selected;
- (C) procedures for nominating delegates and alternates to the national convention, including the appointment of the nominating committee for at-large delegates and alternates;
- (D) time and date for all caucus meetings of the delegates to the state convention;
- (E) procedure for certifying the names of the delegates to the state convention;

(F) procedure for electing members of the state convention committee;
and

(G) business other than the election of delegates and alternates to be
conducted by the caucus or convention

(4) *Media Notification*

Publication and notice of the convention and district caucus shall be given
to the new media at the time of the call.

(5) *Organization of Convention*

The State Chair shall make all arrangements for such convention. A
temporary chair, a permanent chair, and such other convention officers as
deemed necessary by State Committee shall be elected by a majority vote
of members present and voting at any meeting of the State Committee
designated for the purpose of electing officers of the convention. The
state chair, with the approval of the State Committee, may appoint a
committee to make arrangements for such convention. All arrangements
for such committee shall be subject to the approval of State Committee in
advance of the convention.

(6) *Composition of the Convention*

The state convention shall consist of delegates elected from each county of
the state at the primary election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday
in May in even numbered years.

(7) *Apportionment of Delegates*

The number of state convention delegates for each county shall be
determined by State Committee.

(8) *District Caucus Duties*

The delegates to the state convention from each congressional district shall
caucus at the state convention at a time and place designated by the chair
and the secretary of state committee in the official call for the convention.
The district chair shall preside at such meeting at which delegates will
elect the district's representative on the various convention committees as
follows:

(A) One member of the committee on rules and permanent organization;

(B) One member of the committee on resolutions;

(C) One member of the committee on credentials;

(D) Officers of the convention as follows:

(i) One vice president of the convention;

(ii) One assistant secretary of the convention;

(iii) One assistant sergeant-at-arms of the convention; and

(iv) The following officers of the national party:

1. One presidential elector and one alternate presidential elector;
2. Delegates to the Democratic National Convention; and
3. Alternate delegates to the Democratic National Convention. In addition, at each such district meeting, the district delegates will vote on two (2) at-large candidates for presidential elector and two (2) alternate at-large candidates for presidential elector. The district chair shall thereafter tabulate such votes.
(As Amended May, 2004)

In addition, at each such district meeting, the district delegates will vote on two (2) at-large candidates for presidential elector and two (2) alternate at-large candidates for presidential elector. The district chair shall thereafter tabulate such votes.

(9) *Obligations of Convention Committees*

The committee on rules and permanent organization shall propose the rules; the committee on resolutions shall propose the resolutions; and the committee on credentials shall report on all challenges for the delegates to the convention.

(10) *Minority Reports*

Upon the vote of a majority of the state convention delegates or upon written petition signed by ten percent (10%) percent of the state convention delegates or upon motion of thirty-five percent (35%) of the members of any state convention committee, a minority report shall be prepared by those representing the minority and presented on the floor of the convention.

(b) *State Delegates*

(1) *State Delegate Qualifications*

A party member may not be a candidate for delegate unless he or she voted Democrat in the most recent primary election at which he or she voted. A person is not disqualified for failing to vote in a primary

(2) *State Delegate Vacancies*

(A) *Duty to Notify County Chair*

Any duly elected delegate to the state convention who cannot attend such convention shall notify, in writing, the county chair of the county in which the delegate resides, of the delegate's intention to be absent.

(B) *Appointment of Alternates*

The county chair shall then certify and authorize, after payment of the assessment for party support, a duly elected alternate. The chair shall do likewise if, for any reason, a vacancy exists in the county

delegation. In the event that the county chair is not present, the vice chair shall fill such vacancy in like manner. In the event neither the chair or vice chair is present, the chair of the delegation shall fill the vacancy.

(3) *Challenge of State Delegate*

(A) *Procedure for Challenge*

Any Party member may challenge any state delegate certified to the state convention by notifying state headquarters in writing within one week after the date of the primary election. The challenger must also send a copy of the challenge to the challenged delegate and to the county chair. A challenge shall include the name and address of the challenged delegate and the grounds for the challenge.

(B) *Challenge Hearing*

- (i) State Headquarters shall send all challenges to the chair of the Committee on Credentials and to the challenged delegates immediately upon receipt.
- (ii) The Chair of the Committee on Credentials shall convene the committee at least two (2) hours before the start of the state convention.
- (iii) The Committee on Credentials shall consider any statements from the challenger, from the challenged delegate and from any other person wishing to testify on the challenge.
- (iv) In the case of a challenge, the Committee on Credentials shall report to the state convention the name of the delegates who it believes is entitled to participate in the state convention.
- (v) The State convention shall vote on each challenge reported by the Committee on Credentials. The report of the Committee on Credentials must be approved by a majority vote of the convention before a challenged delegate may participate in the convention. No challenged delegate may vote on the report of the Committee on Credentials involving the delegate's credentials.

(c) *National Delegates*

(1) *Selection Procedure*

In presidential election years, the nation convention delegation shall be elected by state convention delegates attending district caucus meetings. The national convention delegation shall be apportioned among the congressional districts in accordance with Indiana's National Delegate Selection Plan (the "Plan") approved by the Democratic National Committee in accordance with Democratic National Committee Rules. The explicit apportionment of delegates and alternates resulting from the

application of the Plan shall be announced by the state chair at least thirty (30) days prior to the state convention in the years in which delegates and alternates to the national convention are selected.

(2) *Requirements for Delegate Candidacy*

(A) Except as prohibited by these rules, any Party member may seek nomination for delegate or alternate to the national convention as long as the member is a resident of the congressional district as provided in the Plan. In all other cases, the delegate selection plan shall be utilized.

(B) In presidential election years, the nominee must make known the nominee's presidential preference or uncommitted status. Since Democratic National Committee requirements allow a presidential candidate to have the right to approve any candidate for national convention delegate identified with the candidacy, the Indiana Democratic Party shall require a certificate of such approval.

(3) *Remaining Delegate Slots & Vacancies*

The remaining members of Indiana's national convention delegation are selected in accordance with the Plan. Likewise, any vacancies on the national delegation shall be filled in accordance with the Plan.

(4) *Delegate Challenges*

A challenge to a national convention delegate or the state's national delegation is made in accordance with the Plan. Further information about the challenge procedures is available from State Committee headquarters.

(d) *Presidential Electors*

(1) Except as prohibited by these Rules, any Party member may seek to be elected by the district caucus as a presidential elector and alternate presidential elector as long as the member is a resident of the congressional district and timely files an application for election during the same period provided in the Plan for filing of national convention delegates.

(2) Except as prohibited by these Rules, any Party member may seek to be elected as an at-large presidential elector or alternate at-large presidential elector as long as the member is a resident of the State of Indiana and timely files an application for election during the same period provided in the Plan for the filing of national convention delegates.

(3) At the conclusion of district caucus meetings, each district chair shall provide to the State Chair the candidates elected by the district for presidential elector and alternate presidential elector. In addition, each district chair shall provide to the State Chair the vote tabulation for the two (2) at-large candidates for presidential elector and two (2) alternate at-large candidates for presidential elector.

- (4) After each district chair has reported to the State Chair, the State Chair shall tabulate the votes from all districts for the two (2) at-large candidates and two (2) alternate at-large candidates for presidential elector.
- (5) The State Chair shall certify to the State Election Division as required by I.C. 3-10-4-5 the names of the candidates of the Party for presidential electors and alternate electors.

VII. VACANCIES

RULE 18. CANDIDATE AND ELECTED OFFICEHOLDER VACANCIES

(a) Primary Vacancies

A candidate vacancy that exists on a primary election ballot may not be filled for the primary election.

(b) Deadline for Filling Vacancies After the Primary

Any vacancy under 18(a) must be filled by the proper committees and/or caucuses as provided in this rule, by noon, June 30, before election day.

(c) Early General Election Vacancies

- (1) A vacancy for U.S. Senate or statewide office shall be filled by State Committee.
- (2) A vacancy for U.S. House of Representatives shall be filled by a caucus of the eligible committeepersons whose precincts are within the congressional district.
- (3) Except as provided in section 13(a)(5), a vacancy for legislative office shall be filled by a caucus of the eligible committeepersons whose precincts are within the legislative district.
- (4) Except as provided in section 13(a)(5), a vacancy for local office shall be filled by a caucus of the committeepersons eligible to participate.
- (5) A precinct person is “eligible” under sections (2), (3), and (4) if he or she is entitled to vote for the office for which the candidate is selected; and is either:
 - (A) a duly elected committeeperson; or
 - (B) a committeeperson appointed at least thirty (30) days before the vacancy occurred.
- (6) Vice committeepersons may participate under this rule only as proxies and only if they meet the requirements of Rule 21. However, if a legislative vacancy results from the death of a person holding a legislative office who

also served as a precinct committeeperson, the vice committeeperson for that precinct is eligible to participate in the caucus.

- (7) If authorized by a majority vote of the county committee to do so, and if the vacant office governs only one county, a county chair, or a county central committee may fill local candidate vacancies.

(d) *Late General Election Vacancies*

This section applies when a vacancy arises due to death, candidate withdrawal, disqualification, or court order after the thirty-first (31st) day before a general, municipal, or special election.

- (1) A Vacancy for U.S. Senator shall be filled by appointment of the Party chair.
- (2) A vacancy for U.S. Representative shall be filled by the appointment of the district chair.
- (3) A vacancy for state legislative office shall be filled by a majority vote of the county chairs for all counties having territory in the senate or house district.
- (4) A vacancy in local office shall be filled by the chair from the county, except where an office represents multiple counties, in which case the vacancy shall be filled by a majority of the chairs of the counties in the circuit.
- (5) The State Chair shall break a tie vote should it occur during an election conducted under sections (3) or (4).

(e) *Caucus Procedures*

(1) *Call for meeting*

(A) If the candidate vacancy is for U.S. Senator, a statewide office, U.S. Representative, legislative officer, or circuit judge or county prosecutor in a circuit having more than one county, the call shall be made, and the caucus chaired by, the state chair or their designee.

(B) The county chair shall issue the call for other local candidate vacancies.

(2) *Form of Notice*

The call to the meeting shall state in writing the name of the meeting chair, the purpose, date, time and place and shall be sent by first class mail at least ten (10) days before the meeting to all persons eligible to participate. This notice shall be filed at least ten (10) days before the meeting with the Election Commission for vacancies addressed in section (1)(A) above and with the circuit court clerk for those in (1)(B).

(f) *Notice of Filled Late Candidate Vacancies*

Within five (5) days after a local candidate vacancy is filled, the county chair shall notify the state chair in writing of the names, addresses, and phone number of the new and replaced candidates.

(g) *Legislative Office Vacancies*

(1) *Deadline for Filling Vacancy*

A vacancy in a legislative office shall be filled by a caucus, defined above, within thirty (30) days of the vacancy.

(2) *Call for Caucus*

The state chair shall send notice of the caucus in the manner set forth in (d)(2) above.

(3) *Presiding Officer*

The state chair shall preside over the caucus.

(4) *Election*

The vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of those eligible and casting a vote.

VIII. REMOVAL

RULE 19. REMOVAL OF PARTY OFFICERS

(a) *Grounds for Removal*

Any party officer of a Party committee may be removed only for the following reasons:

- (1) Neglect of duty;
- (2) Willful violation of these rules;
- (3) Conviction of a felony;
- (4) Disloyalty to the Democratic Party; or
- (5) Any course of conduct that does not promote the best interest of the Party or creates dissension within the Party.

(b) *Initiating Removal Proceedings*

Except as provided in Rule 19(i), removal actions are initiated by filing a petition specifying the grounds for removal and the individual's conduct supporting each ground.

(c) *Parties Authorized to File Removal Petitions*

- (1) A petition to remove a committeeperson or vice committeeperson may be filed with the precinct review committee by either the county chair or at least one-third (1/3) of the other county committee members.
- (2) Except as provided in (c)(3), a petition to remove an officer of a township, city, county, district, or state committee, including national officers, may be filed by the chair of said committee or by at least one-third (1/3) of the other committee members.
- (3) A petition to remove a county chair may be filed only by at least one-half (1/2) of the other county committee members.
- (4) A removal petition initiated by “other committee members” is only valid if all signatures supporting the petition are filed simultaneously.

(d) *Costs for Petition to Remove County Chair*

Petitioners seeking to remove a county chair must tender \$1000 in the form of cash, money order, or cashier’s check to the district committee chair receiving the petition. Said funds shall be used for all reasonable and necessary costs incurred by the committee that hears the matter. Any unspent funds shall be remitted to the petitioners.

(e) *Appropriate Party to Receive and Hear Petitions*

- (1) Except in the case of a county chair, the committee receiving the removal petition shall also conduct a hearing on it if one is properly requested.
- (2) Petitions seeking to remove a committeeperson or vice committeeperson must be filed with the precinct review committee chair of the charged member’s county.
- (3) Petitions seeking to remove any township, city county, district, or state committee officer, except a county chair, must be filed with the secretary of the charged member’s committee, unless the person charged is the secretary. Then the petition shall be filed with the chair of that committee. A copy shall also be provided to the state chair.
- (4) Petitions seeking to remove a county chair must be filed with the district chair whose district contains the largest number of precincts within the officer’s county. If, however, the person sought to be removed is the district chair, the petition shall be filed with the vice chair. Charges against a county chair shall be heard before the county committee, except when State Committee exercises its jurisdiction and directs the matter be heard before it.

(f) *Notice*

(1) *Notice to the Person Charges*

Notice of the time and place of a removal hearing and the charges filed shall be given to the person charged by certified mail not fewer than ten (10) days prior to the date fixed for such hearing.

(2) *Notice to Committee Members*

Notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting at which the removal hearing is to be held shall be given to all members and officer of the committee by mail not fewer than seven (7) days prior to the date of any such meeting.

(g) *Removal Hearing Date*

Except as stated in Rule 14(m)(3), the hearing date on a petition for removal shall be fixed within a period of not fewer than ten (10) days, and the hearing shall be had within thirty (30) days from the date the petition was filed.

(h) *Removal Hearing Rights*

At all removal hearings and appeals authorized under this rule, both the individual charged and the individual(s) bringing the charge(s) shall have the right to present evidence and witnesses.

(i) *Votes Required for Removal*

- (1) Except as in section (2), to remove any officer requires two-thirds (2/3) of all committee members to find the individual guilty of the charge(s) alleged.
- (2) In the case of a county chair or precinct officer, only two-thirds (2/3) of those eligible, present, and voting must find the individual guilty of the charge(s) alleged.

(j) *Charged Party's Right to Notice of Decision*

In all hearings conducted under this rule, the secretary of the committee hearing the matter shall notify the charged party of the committee's decision, unless the charged party is the secretary, in which case notice shall come from the chair.

(k) *Appeals*

(1) *Appeal able Orders*

- (A) Any officer removed from a committee may appeal the removal order, except for a State Committee member.
- (B) All decisions removing an officer may be appealed, except for decisions made by State Committee, which are final and conclusive.

(2) *Committee to Whom Appeal is Made*

- (A) If a removed committeeperson or vice committeeperson makes an appeal, it shall be filed when the chair of the county in which the precinct resides;
- (B) If a removed county officer makes an appeal, it shall be to the district committee;
- (C) If a removed district officer makes an appeal, it shall be to the State Committee.

(3) *Deadline for Appeal*

A notice of appeal must be filed with the appropriate committee within fifteen (15) days of the removal order.

(4) *Finality of Order*

A removal order becomes final either when the time for filing a timely appeal expires or when the removed officer is notified that the committee reviewing the removal order affirmed it by a majority vote of its members.

(5) *Appeals Hearing Date*

If an appeal notice is timely filed, a date for hearing shall be fixed not fewer than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days from the date of the filing of notice of appeal.

(6) *Status of Duties Pending Appeal*

An officer who is removed shall have his or her duties suspended pending appeal.

(1) *Duties of Committees Following Removal*

A committee that votes to remove an officer shall elect his or her successor, except in the event a committeeperson is removed, in which instance the county chair shall appoint a successor. If a decision to remove an officer becomes final, the successor elected or appointed shall fill the remaining term of the removed officer.

(m) *Removal of Committeepersons*

(1) *Hearing Date Set by Precinct Review Committee Chair*

Upon receiving a petition filed under Rule 19(c)(1), a county chair shall instruct his or her precinct review committee chair to fix a hearing date in compliance with Rule 19(e)(1).

(2) *Response to Petition by Charged Party*

(A) *Deadline and Form for Response*

The person charged shall have ten (10) days from receipt of notice to respond to the charge(s) by delivering a written response to the precinct review committee chair. If the person charged responds in accordance with this rule, the removal hearing shall be held.

(B) *Effect of Failure to Respond*

If no timely response is received, the precinct review committee chair shall notify the county chair, who shall declare the seat vacant and shall appoint a successor.

(3) *Quorum Requirement*

To vote on removal of a committeeperson or vice committeeperson, a majority of offices filled must be present and voting.

(n) *Hearing for Removal of County Chair*

(1) *Presiding Officer*

The district chairperson having the largest number of precincts within the county shall preside over the hearing or shall designate a chair for the hearing.

(2) *Presiding Officer's Preliminary Duties*

Upon receipt of a petition, the district chair shall determine whether the petition has been signed by the requisite number of county committee members. In making this determination, the district chair shall ascertain that the names and signatures on the petition are those of committee members by using the last precinct committeeperson or other officer list filed with State Committee.

(3) *Hearing Date*

The district chairperson may call a hearing within thirty (30) days of the filing of charges and shall do so within sixty (60) days of the said filing. If the charges are signed by at least fifty (50) percent of the members of the county central committee, the district chairperson shall call a hearing within thirty (30) days of the filing of the charges.

(4) *Revocation of Signature*

Any member of the committee who has signed a petition to remove the county chair under Rule 14(c)(3) may remove his or her signature within thirty (30) days of the filing of the petition.

(o) *Removal Hearing by State Committee*

At any State Committee meeting, charges may be brought against any officer of any township, city, county, or district committee. The decision by the State Committee shall be final and conclusive.

(1) *Final Order*

The action of the State Committee on removing any committeeperson or vice committeeperson shall be final and conclusive.

(2) *State Committee Duty to Fill Vacancy*

If State Committee removes a national committee or vice committeeperson, it shall elect a successor to complete the removed officer's term.

(p) *Other Sanctions*

(1) *Censure*

State Committee or the committee on which an officer serves may be censure the officer in lieu of, or in addition to, removal. An elected official who renounces the party or switches to another party may be publicly denounced.

(2) *Disqualification*

(A) *Mandatory Disqualification Upon Felony Conviction*

Any person found to have been convicted of a felony shall be removed and may not hold any Party position for ten (10) years following the date of the conviction unless reinstated.

(B) *Discretionary Disqualification*

Any person removed or censured under Rule 19 may be disqualified from serving in party office, and may not be appointed to party office for a definite period, not to exceed four years, if two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting at the removal hearing support such action.

(C) *Notice to State Committee*

Any committee that disqualifies a person from holding a Party office shall notify the secretary of the State Committee by certified mail within ten (10) days of the disqualification vote. State Committee may compile information regarding disqualification of Party officers and may disseminate this information on its own initiative or upon written request.

(3) *Reinstatement*

A term of disqualification may be lifted by State Committee or by the committee imposing the condition. A disqualified person shall not be considered a party member.

IX. CONTROVERSIES

RULE 20. CONTROVERSIES

(a) *Precinct Committee Disputes*

All disputes arising from the organization of a precinct committee shall, by proper petition, be brought before and settled by the county committee after written notice by mail has been given in a manner the county committee deems sufficient.

(b) *Appeal to District Committee*

Any person involved may appeal the county committee's decision to the district committee. The procedure as to notice of appeal, notice of hearing, time and place of the hearing, and the hearing procedure shall be governed by Rule 19.

(c) *County Committee Disputes*

All disputes and controversies arising from the organization of a county committee shall, by proper petition, be brought before and settled by the district committee. The hearing procedures notice of hearing, and the time, place and date of the hearing shall be fixed and determined in the same manner as provided in Rule 19.

(d) *Hearing Rights*

All parties concerned about controversies addressed by this rule shall have the right to appear before and to be heard by the committee adjudicating the controversy.

(e) *Original Jurisdiction of State Committee*

Upon a majority of its members, State Committee may assume original jurisdiction over any case it deems to affect the:

- (1) Interest of the Party;
- (2) rights of any member or officer of the Party;
- (3) rights of a candidate for a nomination;
- (4) rights of any duly chosen nominee; or
- (5) right of any person to hold position in the Party.

(f) *Preference for Local Resolution*

All efforts to resolve disputes shall first be made at the local, county, or district levels. If disputes cannot be resolved at the local, county, or district level, then after a petition is brought before the State Committee, the committee shall appoint its legal counsel as hearing officer to make an evidentiary finding of the allegations and report to the State Committee.

X. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

RULE 21. PROXIES

(a) *Who May Authorize Proxies*

Any precinct committeeperson, county or district chair or vice chair, or state committee member who cannot attend a meeting of his or her committee may vote by proxy.

(b) *Procedural Requirements*

The proxy must be either approved in writing by the official's county chair or acknowledged before a notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths.

(c) *Who May Carry Proxies*

- (1) No proxies may be carried by a non-member of the Party.
- (2) Only a resident of the precinct represented by the absent member may carry a proxy for that member at a county committee meeting.
- (3) Only a resident of the county represented by the absent member may carry a proxy for that member at a district committee meeting.
- (4) Only a resident of the district represented by the absent member or another State Committee member may carry a proxy for the absent member at a State Committee meeting. No member or officer of State Committee may carry more than one proxy.
- (5) Only an Indiana resident may carry a proxy for a representative of the Indiana Young Democrats.

(d) *Restrictions on Proxy Use at County Committee Meetings*

No proxy shall be valid at the organization meeting of a county central committee, on any vote to fill a vacancy among the officers of a county central committee, or on any vote to remove a county chair.

(e) *Restrictions on Proxy Use at Caucuses Called to Fill Candidate Vacancies*

- (1) Except as provided in subsection (e)(2), no proxy is allowed at a caucus meeting to fill a candidate vacancy.
- (2) A precinct committeeperson may designate a vice committeeperson to carry a proxy, provided that person
 - (A) Is the vice committeeman for the committeeman's precinct; and
 - (B) Has served continuously for a period of beginning thirty (30) days before the vacancy occurred.
- (3) A precinct committeeperson who is not eligible to participate in a caucus may designate a precinct vice committeeman who is eligible to participate as a representative of the precinct. To be effective, the designation must be filed with the chair of the caucus at least seventy-two (72) hours before the meeting.
- (4) The chair of the caucus meeting shall read the list of the persons eligible to vote by proxy in the caucus before voting occurs.
- (5) A proxy may not be revoked after it is filed with the chair of the caucus meeting.

RULE 22. QUORUM

- (a) Except as provided in "c" below, for all meetings of all Party committees, a majority of the eligible members of the full committee constitutes a quorum.
- (b) No vote to elect or remove a Party officer may occur absent a quorum.

- (c) If a county chair invokes the 10-day notice of candidacy rule for county central committee office, and the election for said office is uncontested, a majority of the eligible members present and voting constitutes a quorum.

RULE 23. SECRET BALLOTS

- (a) *Mandatory Secret Ballot*

Any vote taken at a caucus to fill a candidate vacancy must be conducted by secret ballot.

- (b) *Permissible Secret Ballot*

Unless otherwise prohibited, a secret ballot may be had if three members of any Party committee make an oral request on any matter subject to vote a Party meeting.

- (c) *Prohibited Secret Ballot*

No vote for State Committee or DNC officers may be conducted by secret ballot.

RULE 24. CHANGES OF OFFICE PROVIDED IN WRITING

- (a) All appointments, resignations, and removals of officers and members of the committees in these rules shall be executed in writing, and copies of the same shall be maintained by the secretary of the committee
- (b) All changes of officers shall be submitted by the committee in a timely fashion to State Committee

RULE 25. BOND OF TREASURER

- (a) Except as provided in Rule 25(b), before discharging his or her duties, the treasurer of any committee contemplated by these rules shall execute a bond with good and sufficient sureties as guarantors to the committee's satisfaction, conditioned to pay over and account for a demand of such committee any and all monies that may come into his or her hands as treasurer and for the faithful performance of the duties of his or her office without loss or injury to the party, the committee, or any person
- (b) The treasurer of a county committee may be excluded from Rule 25(a) at the county chair's discretion.