

SCDWC BYLAWS
South Carolina Democratic Women’s Council

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the South Carolina Democratic Women’s Council (“SCDWC”). It shall be affiliated with and work with the South Carolina Democratic Party to achieve Democratic Party goals and to strengthen the Democratic Party in South Carolina. SCDWC shall be the official South Carolina Chapter of the National Federation of Democratic Women.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this organization shall be:

1. To support the principles and platform of the Democratic Party. “Support” includes financial, staffing, and volunteer contributions, as well as any other type of effort that may contribute to the implementation of the principles and platform of the Democratic Party in South Carolina or elsewhere.
2. To work for the election of Democratic Party candidates at all levels of government, with a primary focus on Democratic Party candidates in South Carolina.
3. To initiate, carry out and support programs and projects on behalf of the Democratic Party and its candidates.
4. To assist in organizing and maintaining active Democratic Women’s organizations at the state, district, and county levels. “Organizations” can include clubs, chapters, committees, groups, or other gatherings of Democratic Women.
5. To identify and help prepare Democratic women to run for public office.
6. To encourage and mentor women as future leaders within the Democratic Party.
7. To educate and increase awareness among members on health, social, political, and economic policies that reflect the priorities of women.
8. To encourage and support the continued participation by all women in the South Carolina Democratic Party’s planning and decision making at all levels. This includes all trans and intersex individuals who self-identify as women. This objective is intended to emphasize the inclusivity of the SCDWC, which does not discriminate against individuals based on their age, race, religion, HIV/AIDS status, sexual orientation, disabilities, trans or intersex status, or any other protected status.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this organization shall be open to all registered voters who support the principles of the Democratic Party. There shall be three categories of membership: Regular, Associate, and Student.

Regular members shall be women who are registered voters in South Carolina who support the objectives of this organization. “Women” includes all trans and intersex individuals who self-identify as women.

Associate members shall be men who are registered voters in South Carolina who wish to affiliate with the SCDWC and who support the objectives of this organization. Associate members are non-voting members and shall not hold office in this organization.

Student members shall be women under the age of thirty (30) who are registered voters in South Carolina who support the objectives of this organization and are currently enrolled in college or high school

Regular and student members shall be entitled to all benefits of membership including but not limited to attendance at meetings and conventions for member price, service on committees and as officers, and representing the SCDWC at public events.

Membership may be denied to any person who does not uphold the principles of the Democratic Party or who supports the nomination and campaign of an individual who is a candidate or elected official in a party other than the Democratic Party in an election in which the Democratic Party has offered a candidate. The membership of a person who fails to meet or ceases to meet these qualifications may be revoked by the Executive Committee of the organization.

Members may voluntarily resign from this organization at any time by means of a written communication to the president. Such resignation will take effect immediately upon delivery of such communication to the president.

Dues shall be set by the Executive Committee of the organization and shall be reviewed periodically to determine their sufficiency. Current dues are set at \$10 per year.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Elected officers of this organization shall be a President, Vice President, and seven Regional Directors, one from each Congressional District. These officers shall be elected at the annual meeting for terms of *two years* and may serve no more than two full consecutive terms in the same office. Upon the resignation or incapacitation of any elected officer, a majority of the other elected officers will appoint someone to the position to serve out the remaining term of the vacated office. Officers appointed to complete the remainder of a term in this manner shall be eligible for a full term of office in the next election.

Officers may be removed for cause (See Article 3) by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

The President shall appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer to serve for her term. The President may appoint a Communications Director and Parliamentarian who shall serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

The Immediate Past President shall be an honorary voting officer and shall serve on the Executive Committee. She shall also serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE V – QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICERS

Any regular member of this organization may serve as an officer so long as her dues are paid in full and she is a resident of the State of South Carolina, registered to vote, and supports the Democratic Party by active participation in its functions. Regional directors must reside in the South Carolina Congressional district they represent. Student members may serve as officers other than President so long as their dues are paid in full, and they are residents of the State of South Carolina, registered to vote, and support the Democratic Party.

Officers may serve in other capacities within the South Carolina or national Democratic Party so long as their duties do not conflict with the objectives and rules of this organization. Any person serving as an officer who becomes a candidate for elective office must resign from her position as an officer.

Officers acting in their official capacity as such may not publicly endorse or support a candidate in contested elections involving more than one qualified Democrat, nor may they publicly disparage a Democratic candidate. Violation of these requirements may result in removal from office as set forth in Article III.

ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The President shall preside at meetings of the Council and Executive Committee and perform such duties as ordinarily pertain to this office. She shall create committees and appoint chairs and committee members with the approval of the Executive Committee and be a voting ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Represent the SCDWC on the State level by serving on the South Carolina Democratic Party Executive Committee.

Issue by mail and/or email the Call to Convention to the total membership of this organization at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Convention. Post the Call to Convention on the SCDWC website.

Appoint an Advisory Committee if she deems it prudent or necessary to help her fulfill the duties of her office.

Appoint Special Committees with the approval of the Executive Committee as the need arises.

The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President and shall assist the President in whatever areas the President deems necessary. She shall have direct responsibility for outreach to the Directors and membership in each Congressional district.

The Directors shall maintain contact with the Democratic Party County Chairs and Democratic Women's Clubs in their respective Congressional Districts and assume other key activities as required.

The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping records of the proceedings at all meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee. She shall be responsible for conducting correspondence and maintaining a file of all records and letters of value to the organization as directed by the President.

The Treasurer shall collect dues and other revenue, make disbursements, keep accounts, make reports to the Executive Committee, make an annual report to the full membership, file all tax returns and reports required by the Democratic Party and applicable law, and perform other financial tasks as directed by the President. There shall be an internal audit by at least two Executive Committee members whenever a new Treasurer assumes office.

The Parliamentarian shall provide advice on matters of parliamentary procedure as required.

The Immediate Past President shall assist the president and other officers as required and chair the Nominating Committee.

Officers are expected to attend all Council and Executive Committee meetings. All officers shall deliver all records pertaining to the SCDWC organization to their successors within thirty (30) days after the close of their term.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers listed in Article IV and shall meet in the months between Steering Committee meetings to review, discuss and propose actions regarding SCDWC administration and activities.

The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs and conduct the business of the SCDWC between full membership meetings. Four (4) members shall constitute a quorum.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Immediate Past President, who shall serve as Chair of the Committee, and two members appointed by the Executive Committee. One member shall be a retiring member from the Executive Committee and one member shall be appointed from the general membership. Should the Immediate Past President be unwilling or unable to serve, the Executive Committee shall select one of the outgoing Regional Directors to serve as Chair. The Nominating Committee shall determine eligibility and qualifications of all proposed candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, and Regional Directors and obtain their consent to serve if elected. The Committee shall present a slate of proposed officers to the membership as described in Article VIII below.

The Women's Day in Blue Committee shall be responsible for planning the annual gathering with Democratic women serving in state government at the South Carolina Capitol. Duties include setting up meetings with members of the SC legislature, designing the one-pagers, choosing the major issues for advocacy, choosing the date of the event, coordinating meeting spaces around the State House, setting up lunch and program costs, and designing all printed materials.

The Membership Committee shall work to increase membership and involvement in this organization, reaching out to prospective members and seeking to increase the involvement of existing members. The Membership Committee shall track membership in a manner that is accessible to all members of the executive committee.

The Legislative Committee shall monitor legislation at the state level and serve as a conduit for information between the state legislature and the members of this organization. This committee also serves as the chief source for identifying elected Democratic women from around the state.

The Fundraising Committee shall work on Fund Development and shall undertake activities designed to increase the financial stability of this organization. These duties include but are not limited to planning all fundraising events, raising money, SCDP Convention Breakfast, digital membership drives and digital online fundraising.

The Awards Committee shall review candidates for possible awards from this organization and shall make recommendations to the Executive Committee. These awards include but are not limited to the Hall of Fame Award, Unsung Heroine Award, and the scholarship awards. They are also tasked with establishing and publicizing the criteria for the awards.

Ad Hoc committees shall be created as needed. No member shall serve on more than two standing and/or *ad hoc* committees at any one time.

All Committee chairs shall give reports of their committees' activities at the annual business meeting.

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

There shall be an annual business meeting for the general membership. The annual business meeting shall be held at the first meeting of the year. A quorum shall be set at 20% of the members who are current in their dues to the organization as of thirty (30) days prior to the annual business meeting.

Officers will be elected every two years at the annual business meeting and shall assume responsibilities at the meeting. Reports of past and current activities will be given and plans made for future activities.

Other general membership meetings may be called by the President.

The Executive Committee may meet at the call of the President with proper notification in a timely manner. All meetings of the general membership and Executive Committee shall be open to the public and to the news media, except in such cases as the President shall call for executive session.

ARTICLE IX – ELECTIONS

The officers shall be elected at the annual business meetings in odd-numbered years. In such years, the Nominating Committee shall present a slate of officers to the Executive Committee, which shall notify the membership in writing at least *thirty* (30) days prior to the annual meeting. Additional nominations may be made in writing to the Nominating Committee or from the floor prior to voting.

ARTICLE X – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall be from January 1 to December 31.

ARTICLE XI – DUES

The amount of annual dues of SCDWC members is determined by the Executive Committee . Dues must be received by the SCDWC Treasurer by January 31 of each membership year for existing members. New members' dues must be paid at least thirty (30) days prior to any meeting in order for the member to be in good standing. New members are encouraged to join the organization at any time; however, in order to vote, a member's dues must have been paid no less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. Dues will not be pro-rated.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to these Bylaws shall be presented to the Executive Committee in writing. Amendments approved by the Executive Committee for consideration by the general membership shall be submitted to the general membership for a vote at the annual business meeting. Only proposed amendments submitted in this manner may be considered by the general membership for adoption.

ARTICLE XIII – EFFECTIVE DATE

These Bylaws shall be in effect upon adoption by a majority of the members present at the annual meeting. The Executive Committee shall have the responsibility for abiding by and upholding the articles herein.

ARTICLE XIV-POLICY FOR AREAS NOT ADDRESSED IN BYLAWS

The SCDWC will refer to the bylaws of the National Federation of Democratic Women and/or the South Carolina Democratic Party for any issues for which these bylaws have no specific policy.

ARTICLE XV - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern this organization in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

Adopted May 11, 1999; amended June 23, 2001; amended May 3, 2003; amended October 23, 2004, amended November 15, 2008, amended December 7, 2013, amended November 13, 2021..

Approved this 13th day of November, 2021/

Melissa Watson, President, SCDWC
Trav Robertson, Chairman, SCDP