

BYLAWS OF THE
CAMDEN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
(amended August 13, 2024)

1.1 The name of this organization shall be the Camden County Democratic Committee

Article II. Governing Authority and Duties

2.1 The Committee shall be the governing authority of the Democratic Party in Camden County, Georgia.

2.2 Duties of the committee shall be:

- a. to promote development of democratic organizations and activities in Camden County,
- b. to seek and encourage qualified candidates for public office,
- c. to support Democratic Party nominees,
- d. to perform such primary and election functions as required by law,
- e. to maintain appropriate records,
- f. to promote and add logistic support to the State Party Affirmative Action Programs,
- g. to raise funds for the above purposes,
- h. to elect a State Committee member (or members) and perform such other duties as may be requested by the State Committee, and,
- i. to determine Democratic Party Districts and apportionment in Camden County.

Article III. Committee Members and Party Districts

3.1 The Camden County Democratic Committee shall be composed of regular and ex-officio Members.

3.2 Any person is eligible to be elected or appointed to be a regular member of the Camden County Democratic Committee if he or she:

- a. is registered to vote in Camden County and continues to reside in the Party District associated with the Post to which he or she is elected or appointed,
- b. affirms support of the goals of the Democratic Party of Georgia (DPG) as stated in the DPG Charter,
- c. is not a member of any other political party or body as defined in Georgia election code 21-2-2(23)-25, and,
- d. is not affiliated with any political group whose ideals, goals, and methods are incompatible with those of the DPG as identified by the State Party Executive Committee.

- 3.3 The Camden County Democratic Committee shall designate one-half (½) of the elected Committee Posts to be elected in Gubernatorial election years and one-half to be elected in Presidential election years. The minimum number of elected Camden County Democratic Committee members shall be one (1) for every 10,000 persons in the population of Camden County or twenty (20) in total, whichever is higher. The districts shall be numbered 1 through 5 and shall coincide in area with the five Camden County Commission Districts. There shall be 4 posts within each District and the Posts shall be numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4. Each Post Holder must be a resident of the Camden County District to which that Post Holder has been elected.
- 3.4 The immediate past Chair shall be an at-large ex-officio member of the Committee. Ex-officio Committee memberships may be offered also to representatives of other potentially affiliated organizations as appropriate. For example, if there is an active Young Democrats organization in Camden County, ex-officio memberships may be offered to a male Young Democrat and a female Young Democrat, both selected by this organization.

Article IV. Election and Terms of Regular Committee Members

- 4.1 Members to fill even-numbered Posts within each of the 5 County Commission Districts shall be elected in a gubernatorial election year (or early in the year immediately following a gubernatorial election year) and members to fill odd-numbered Posts within each of the 5 County Commission Districts shall be elected in a presidential election year (or early in the year immediately following a presidential year) . For multiple-winner elections, this voting system may be used, subject to modification, to include any mandated diversity requirements. The candidate receiving the most votes shall be seated first. The candidate of a different gender receiving the next most votes shall be seated second. This process shall continue similarly until all the allotted positions are filled. If there is not a remaining unseated candidate of a different gender, that position shall be filled by the candidate with the next highest number of votes
- 4.2 The Camden County Democratic Committee shall elect their members by public caucuses with the time, date, place and method of such caucuses set by the County Committee. If the County Committee fails to do so, the Congressional District Chair shall set the time, date, place and method of such caucuses. The Party District Caucuses shall be conducted for all 5 Camden County Districts with all odd-numbered Posts within each of the 5 County Districts during a Presidential election year; and for all even-numbered Posts within each of the 5 County Districts during a Gubernatorial election year. Any registered voter residing in Camden County, upon declaring himself or herself to be a Democrat, may vote and/or run in their County Commission District. The Committee shall ensure that all information concerning the District Caucuses shall be made available by all means possible to all eligible voters within all 5 County Districts.
- 4.3 The election of Committee members shall be decided in January of a Presidential election year or in January of a Gubernatorial election year by vote of Committee members at a regularly scheduled Committee meeting. The caucuses to elect Committee members shall then be conducted in that election year at the time, date, place and method as chosen by Committee members at a regularly scheduled Committee meeting

- 4.4 Where the caucus method is selected, such caucus shall be held within 45 days following the General Primary, or within the first two months of the year following a regular gubernatorial or presidential election. If the committee does not officially set a time and place, the County Chair shall set the time and place for the caucus.
- 4.5 Where the General Primary Ballot method is selected, the same procedure and rules as those for other county elected officials shall prevail, except that the Committee may set reasonable fees for the qualification of Committee candidates.
- 4.6 Whether the election is by Caucus or by General Primary Ballot, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected without necessity of a runoff.
- 4.7 Elected members shall take office on the first day of the first month after their election and shall serve for four (4) years from the date of the first month of their assuming office. Members who have been elected to fill a vacant Post shall serve the remainder of the term of the Post to which that Member has been elected.

Article V. Officers, Executive Committee, Other Sub-Committees

- 5.1 The Committee shall elect all Officers during the first regularly scheduled Committee meeting following the first day after the first month that newly elected regular members have taken office and no later than the meeting at which the Committee elects the next State Party member(s) from Camden County.
- 5.2 The Committee shall elect from their membership a Chair, two Vice Chairs, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Past Chair is an Officer ex-officio and may be elected to serve also as the Chair, as a Vice Chair, as the Secretary, or as the Treasurer. If the Past Chair is elected to serve as Chair, the Past Chair position is relinquished, and the previous Past Chair is retained in that ex-officio position. Where available, at least one of the Vice Chairs shall be of the opposite gender to the Chair. A person receiving a majority of votes for election to an office shall be declared elected.
- 5.3 The new Chair shall immediately upon taking office notify the Democratic State Committee Chair, the appropriate Democratic Congressional District Chair, and the Camden County Board of Elections and Registration of his/her election.
- 5.4 Officers shall serve 2-year terms, to take office at the close of the meeting at which they are elected.
- 5.5 The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected Officers and shall act on behalf of the full Committee between Committee meetings.
- 5.6 The Committee shall provide for the appointment of an Affirmative Action Subcommittee and subcommittees as the Committee may deem necessary. The Committee also may provide for the election or appointment of officers other than those specified in Section 5.2. All such officers and all members of any subcommittees elected or appointed at any time shall serve at the pleasure of the Committee.

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

5.8 The Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Committee follows the body of these bylaws as an addendum.

Article VI. Vacancies and Removal

6.1 All vacancies in County Committee Posts or Officers shall be filled by election by the remaining Committee members, providing at least three such members remain. In the absence of three remaining committee members, the general party membership may elect persons to the Committee pursuant to Sections 4.2 and 4.6.

6.2 County Committee members and officers may be removed by the County Committee for cause such as, but not limited to, lack of participation in Committee activities, at least 3 unexcused absences from regularly scheduled Committee meetings, demonstrating lack of support for Democratic goals and policies, behavior out of compliance with Committee and Community standards, and other reasonable unstated causes. The Committee member subject to removal will be given reasonable notice of action and the action must be initiated by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the County Committee provided a 40% quorum is met.

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

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

6.5 The person to be removed shall have the right to be informed of all persons who will be witnesses against him/her and who will testify in support of charges against him/her, at least ten (10) days before a hearing on said charges before the full County Committee.

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

Article VII. Committee Functions, Meetings, Records, and Certification

7.1 In accordance with 21-2-92 of the Georgia Election Code, the Committee may recommend to the Camden County Board of Elections and Registration, poll officers to conduct primaries and elections.

7.2 In accordance with 21-2-408 of the Georgia election Code, the Committee may designate up to two official poll watchers for each precinct for each election.

- 7.3 In due course after being elected, the Committee will become knowledgeable enough in the relevant provisions of the Georgia Election Code governing vacancies in party nominations for federal, state, county, and municipal offices so that the Committee is able to perform other primary and election functions as required by law.
- 7.4 Regular Meetings: The Committee shall meet regularly at least once each quarter. Regular meetings may meet more often, such as monthly or bi-monthly, as determined by the Committee Membership. The Committee Chair may call special meetings. Written notice of meeting dates, times and locations shall be provided to all members at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting and may be delivered by electronic communications technology or by regular US Postal Service. A special meeting of Members is not required to be held at a geographic location if the meeting is held by means of the internet or other electronic communications technology as long as the Members have had opportunity to read or hear the proceedings substantially concurrent with occurrence of the proceedings, note on matters submitted to the members, pose questions, and make comments.
- 7.5 Emergency Meetings: Emergency meetings may be called by the Chair upon five (5) days' notice.
- 7.6 Quorum of the Committee: A quorum for conduct of Committee business shall be 40% of the Committee members, excluding vacant District Posts from the count, unless otherwise required in these bylaws.
- 7.7 Quorum of the Executive Committee: A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be three (3) of the elected Officers specified in Section 5.2.
- 7.8 No person shall be entitled to more than one (1) vote even if serving on the Committee or a relevant subcommittee in more than one capacity. Secret Ballot shall be permissible only when electing Committee members and State Convention delegates.
- 7.9 No member of the Camden County Democratic Committee shall receive compensation for or be reimbursed for expenses in attending a County Committee meeting.
- 7.10 The Committee shall maintain records of all financial transactions, kept on a calendar year basis, and a list of all unpaid obligations. Committees shall also maintain records of other information to be filed with the State Party Chair.
- 7.11 In meeting filing requirements, the Committee shall report directly to the State Chair. The Committee shall file with the State Chair:
- a. a list of its members,
 - b. all rules, regulations, bylaws and charters of affiliates,
 - c. an annual report of activities or minutes,
 - d. the location and signatories of Committee bank accounts, and
 - e. certification by the Chair that the Committee is duly constituted and organized and is following sound financial operating procedure.

Article VIII. Election of the State Committee Members (s)

8.1 Upon notice of the DPG State Chair, the Camden County Democratic Committee will hold an election for the number of State Committee members allocated to Camden County. This election will be at a regular meeting or at a meeting called specially for this purpose, if the notice from the State Chair does not arrive in time to conduct the election at a regular meeting.

8.2 Any person desiring to be a candidate for the State Committee must sign the following affidavit:

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

8.3 The Committee may allow one short (1 minute) speech on behalf of each of those seeking to be elected to the State Committee from Camden County.

8.4 Each member of the Camden County Committee shall cast votes for as many of the candidates as the number of State Committee members allotted to Camden County. If this number ever exceeds one, the Committee will follow the procedures specified in the DPG bylaws for electing multiple candidates.

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

8.6 Within one week of election, the Camden County Chair shall certify to the State Chair the name(s), addresses(s) and phone number(s) of the person(s) elected as member(s) of the State Committee and shall file the candidacy affidavit(s) with the Congressional District Chair.

Article IX. Delegates to the State Party Convention

9.1 Upon notice by the State Party Committee of an upcoming State Party convention, the Camden County Democratic Committee will arrange for the election of the allocated number of elected delegates and alternates. One half of the delegates and alternates shall be elected by the Committee and the other half shall be elected by a Caucus for the public at large. These elected delegates do not have to be County Committee

members. In addition, any State Committee member elected in accordance with Article VIII of these bylaws is an ex-officio delegate to a State Party Convention.

9.2 The Chair of the Camden County Democratic Committee shall appoint a Caucus Chair to run the Caucus.

9.3 The Caucus shall be scheduled for a public place that would be likely to encourage the participation of all Democrats, and the Caucus must begin and end at reasonable hours.

9.4 The Caucus shall be publicized widely so as to encourage the participation of all Georgia Democrat residents in Camden County. Public notice shall be given by the Committee at least ten (10) days but not more than twenty-five (25) days before the date of the Caucus, giving the date, time, and place for the convening of the Caucus, and the purposes for which the Caucus shall be held. This notice shall be posted in the legal organ of Camden County.

9.5 A candidate for delegate or alternate, whether elected by Caucus or by the Committee, and anyone wishing to vote in the Caucus must be a registered Voter in and a resident of Camden County.

Article X. Affiliates

10.1 The Committee may recognize and allow affiliation of such county organizations as they deem appropriate, as provided for in the DPG Charter and the DPG Bylaws.

Article XI. Veto

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

11.2 The motion must be brought by a State Executive Committee member or by written petition of 20% but no fewer than 3, of the Camden County Democratic Committee members.

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

- 11.4 An appeal of the State Executive Committee's reversal must be sent in writing to the DPG State Committee chair within 30 days of the Date of the mailing pursuant to 11.3 above. The matter will then be placed on the agenda for the next DPG State Committee meeting at least 30 days after receipt of the appeal.

Article XII. Amendments

- 12.1 These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Camden County Democratic Party Committee by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the Committee members present, provided that at least a 50% quorum is present, and provided that no proposed amendment is in conflict with the provisions of the DPG Charter, the DPG Bylaws, and the Georgia Election Code. Each member of the Camden County Democratic Committee shall receive written notice including the full text of any proposed amendments at least 30 days in advance of a meeting held for this purpose.
- 12.2 Such amendments shall become effective only when copies of the amended bylaws, certified by the Committee Chair, have been filed with and approved by the State Party, and subsequently filed with the Camden County Board of Elections and Registration, pursuant to O.C.G.A 21-2-111(a) & ©.