

BYLAWS OF THE PROGRESSIVE COUNCIL

Adopted Pursuant to the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Georgia

ARTICLE ONE. NAME, PURPOSE, DUTIES AND POWERS

Section 1. Name and Purpose

This organization shall be known as the Democratic Party of Georgia Progressive Council. It shall make recommendations to the Democratic Party of Georgia on strategy and policy regarding progressive values and issues, subject to the provisions of these Bylaws. Activities of the Council shall include but not be limited to the following:

- (a) Unite progressive members within the Democratic Party of Georgia;
- (b) Give a united voice to all progressive individuals and organizations statewide;
- (c) Seek, endorse, promote, and support progressive Democratic candidates to run for political office;
- (d) Actively lobby and work for all social and economic issues this body endorses;
- (e) Promote and support the democratic process within the Democratic Party of Georgia.
- (f) Assist the Democratic Party of Georgia in developing strategies to advocate for progressive values and issues, including human rights, social justice, economic justice (i.e., labor rights), anti-racism, and gender equality, as part of its ongoing agenda;
- (g) Monitor and advocate progress by the Democratic Party of Georgia toward implementation of a firm and serious commitment to progressive values in the formation of policy and the conduct of the Party;
- (h) Recommend means by which Democratic Party organizations can develop effective progressive programs with specific goals and timetables for achieving results;
- (i) Establish networks and leadership for the development of grassroots support of the progressive values of the Democratic Party of Georgia;
- (j) Take such other actions as may be necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE TWO. DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Definitions

- (a) "Council" or "Progressive Council" shall mean the Democratic Party of Georgia Progressive Council.
- (b) "The Democratic Party" shall mean the Democratic Party of Georgia.

ARTICLE THREE. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Voting Membership

Voting membership of the Democratic Party of Georgia Progressive Council shall be limited to affirmed Democrats (in accordance with section BL1.2 of the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Georgia, September 8, 2011 edition) who have submitted a membership application to the Secretary of the Progressive Council, which application has been certified by signature of the Secretary as in compliance with the provisions of that application and Council Bylaws.

Section 2. Removal of Voting Members

After a minimum of ten days' notice and opportunity for a hearing before the Council, upon grounds found by the Council to constitute good and sufficient cause, the Progressive Council may remove a voting member by two-thirds vote of the entire membership.

Section 3. Other Participants

Individuals who are members or employees of progressive nonpartisan (such as 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4)) organizations may request to participate in meetings, including limited-participation meetings, of the Progressive Council or committees of the Council as Advisors instead of as Voting Members. A form for such request will gather contact and interest information sufficient to notify such individuals of meetings in which they may wish to participate. Advisors may serve as nonvoting members of committees of the Council upon appointment by the Council Chair. Advisors are especially welcome to submit position papers and advice on issues in which the organizations of which they are members or employees specialize.

ARTICLE FOUR. MEETINGS

Section 1. Organizational Meeting

The Democratic Party of Georgia Progressive Council shall hold an Organizational Meeting every four years, concurrent with the meeting held by the Democratic Party of Georgia State Committee for the purpose of election of Democratic Party of Georgia officers, for the purpose of election of Council officers and any other organizational business that may come before the Council. The Organizational Meeting shall be conducted in the same manner as the State Committee meeting (in person or by conference call or videoconference).

Section 2. Regular Meetings

The Progressive Council shall hold regular meetings concurrent with Democratic Party of Georgia State Committee meetings. Regular meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as the State Committee meeting (in person or by conference call or videoconference).

Section 3. Special Meetings

(a) Special meetings of the Progressive Council may also be called by the Chair or by written request of no fewer than one-quarter (25%) of the members of the Council. It shall be the duty of the Council Chair to honor a qualified written request from members of the Council and call the Special Meeting within ten (10) days of the receipt of the request. The date of such meeting shall be fixed by the Chair not later than thirty (30) days nor earlier than ten (10) days from the date of the call.

(b) If announced by the Executive Committee to be an executive session (in accordance with DPG Bylaws, not open to the general public), a special meeting discussing political strategies or similarly sensitive matters may **limit attendance** to persons who are Voting Members; officers, staff, and State Committee and Executive Committee members of the Democratic Party of Georgia; and specific **Advisors**.

(c) Special meetings may be may be convened in person or by conference call or videoconference.

Section 4. Call to Meetings

No later than ten days before each scheduled meeting, the members of the Progressive Council shall receive written notice by US Mail, fax, or email of the date, time and place of such meeting and the tentative agenda.

Section 5. Quorum and Voting Privileges

(a) Twenty percent (20%) of the current voting membership of the Council and no fewer than five (5) members in good standing shall constitute a quorum.

(b) Voting privileges shall be reserved for those Progressive Council voting members who have had their membership application recorded by the Secretary of the Progressive Council for at least one previous meeting of the Council. This provision shall not apply at the Organizational Meeting.

(c) Each member having voting privileges shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each issue before it.

ARTICLE FIVE. OFFICERS

Section 1. Election and Tenure of Officers

The officers of the Democratic Party of Georgia Progressive Council shall consist of a Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, and Secretary. Officers shall be elected by a majority of Council voting members present at each Organizational Meeting. Officers shall be chosen from the Voting Members of the Progressive Council.

- (a) The term of office shall be four years, and until a successor shall be elected.
- (b) The offices of Chair and Vice Chairs shall be gender balanced.

Section 2. Duties and Responsibilities of the Chair

The Chair shall be the chief presiding officer of the Council and its Executive Committee and shall exercise the authority delegated to her/him by the Council. She/he shall be required to attend all meetings except for good and sufficient cause.

- (a) The Chair shall appoint a Parliamentarian and Sergeant at Arms as needed.
- (b) Subject to Article Seven of these bylaws, the Chair shall appoint such committees as the business of the Council shall require.
- (c) The Chair shall contribute to the formation of Party and Council policy.
- (d) The Chair shall execute all other actions necessary or appropriate in order to carry out the provisions of the Bylaws of the Council and to secure full and adequate participation by Progressives in all Party affairs.

Section 3. Duties and Responsibilities of the 1st Vice Chair

The 1st Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair and may perform any other duties necessary to carry out the provisions of the Council Bylaws. She/he shall be required to attend all meetings except for good and sufficient cause.

Section 3a. Duties and Responsibilities of the 2nd Vice Chair

The 2nd Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence of both the Chair and the 1st Vice Chair; shall be responsible for outreach to build membership of the Council, in cooperation with the Secretary, and to communicate with progressive organizations to advance the purposes of the Council; and may perform any other duties necessary to carry out the provisions of the Council Bylaws. She/he shall be required to attend all meetings except for good and sufficient cause.

Section 4. Duties and Responsibilities of the Secretary

The Secretary shall take and keep the minutes of all Council meetings and may perform any other duties necessary to carry out the provisions of the Council Bylaws. She/he shall be required to attend all meetings except for good and sufficient cause.

Section 5. Removal from Office

- (a) An officer of the Council may resign by written notice to the Chair of the Council, or in a case of resignation of the Chair, to the 1st Vice Chair. Such resignation shall be effective immediately.
- (b) After a minimum of ten days' notice and opportunity for a hearing before the Council, and upon grounds found by the Council to constitute good and sufficient cause, the Council may remove an officer by two-thirds vote of the entire membership.
- (c) An officer will be presumed to have resigned from her/his office if she/he fails to attend three consecutive Progressive Council meetings without notifying another member of the Executive Committee prior to such absences.

Section 6. Vacancies

Vacancies created by death, resignation, or removal of any officer of the Council shall be filled by the election of a replacement officer by a majority of members present at the next regular meeting

of the Council. Any replacement so elected shall serve for the remainder of the original officer's term and until a new successor shall be elected.

(a) The Chair may make an interim appointment for the purpose of filling said vacancy until the full Council is convened.

ARTICLE SIX. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Composition

The Executive Committee of the Progressive Council shall consist of five members comprised of its current Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, and Secretary, plus its immediate Past Chair. In the event that there is no immediate Past Chair or the immediate Past Chair declines Executive Committee membership, is no longer a voting member of the Progressive Council, or is elected to another office for the current term, the Council shall elect one other voting member to serve as an at-large member of the Executive Committee in place of the immediate Past Chair.

Section 2. Powers and Duties

The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Council between meetings, shall consult with the membership and make recommendations to it, and shall perform such other duties as these Council Bylaws or the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Georgia shall require. The Executive Committee shall be subject to actions of the Council, and none of its acts shall conflict with actions taken by the Council or by the Democratic Party of Georgia.

Section 3. Meetings and Votes of the Executive Committee

(a) Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be called and convened by the Council Chair in person or by conference call or videoconference.

(b) Members of the Executive Committee may vote by voice or standing vote, or by telephone, email, or other electronic means.

ARTICLE SEVEN. OTHER COMMITTEES

Section 1. Authorization

The Council may from time to time create such standing or ad hoc committees as it shall deem appropriate.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the members of all committees of the Council shall be appointed by the Chair of the Progressive Council, subject to ratification by the Council.

(b) All matters referred to any special committee, standing committee, or other sub-group shall not be in conflict with Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Georgia and must be acted upon and said action reported to the body that originated the committee.

ARTICLE EIGHT. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Procedure for Amendment

The Bylaws of the Progressive Council may be amended by vote of a two-thirds majority of the entire membership at any meeting of the Council duly called and convened, provided that notice of the proposed amendment(s) and a copy thereof is submitted to all Council members in writing by US Mail or email, with or prior to the Ten-Day Call to the Meeting.

ARTICLE NINE. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority

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

ARTICLE TEN. SEVERABILITY

Section 1. Severability

Any article or section of these bylaws found to be in conflict with those of the Democratic Party of Georgia, or with applicable state or federal law, shall be null and void. In such case, the remaining articles and sections shall remain valid and in force until amended as provided herein.

ADOPTED: Jan. 12, 2021

REVISED: September 4, 2021