

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF STONE COUNTY BYLAWS

adopted June 17th, 2025

ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1.01. Name and Affiliation.

This organization is an affiliate, also known as a County Committee, of the Democratic Party of Arkansas (DPA) and shall be called the “Democratic Party of Stone County” (DPSC). The following bylaws are adapted from the DPA Rules that were adopted July 29, 2023.

Section 1.02. Purpose.

The purpose of the DPSC is to promote the principles of the Local, State, and National Democratic Party, to promote participation at the meetings and events of the DPSC, to recruit and support qualified Democrats candidates for office, to protect voter rights, to maintain sufficient funds to conduct party activities, and to get Democrats out to vote.

The DPSC shall support the broadest possible registration and voter participation without discrimination on grounds of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic status.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 2.01. Requirements & Open to All. The DPSC shall consist of those who have openly declared their allegiance to, and are in good faith and sympathy with the fundamental principles, purposes, objectives, platforms and practices of the Democratic Party. The DPSC shall make it a goal to have at least twenty (20) official members. There shall be no limit to the number of DPSC members. No tests for membership nor membership fees may be required by the DPSC. The DPSC shall support the broadest possible registration and voter participation without discrimination on grounds of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic status. No test for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Democratic Party will be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the above stated grounds.

Section 2.02. Eligibility. The DPSC shall be composed of members who are registered to vote in Stone County who file to join the DPSC during the party filing period established by state law. The DPSC shall also extend membership to any eligible county resident that is at least fourteen years of age seeking membership at any time outside the filing period.

Section 2.03. Term. DPSC members shall take office at the commencement of the biennial County Convention and serve until the next biennial Convention is convened. Aside from votes taken at the County Convention, in order to vote one must be a member for thirty (30) days prior to participate in votes taken by the DPSC.

Section 2.04. Attendance. Any DPSC member who misses three (3) or more consecutive County Committee meetings shall be required upon notice to show good cause or may be dismissed from the DPSC by its vote.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS

Section 3.01. Defined. DPSC shall elect a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The DPSC shall strive to have a gender diverse representation in the election of its officers. County election commissioner elections shall take place following the election of the other County Committee officers. No office shall be combined or held by more than one person at a time unless there are no other members willing to be elected. All DPSC officers must avoid public expressions of support, including campaign contributions, for candidates opposing Democratic nominees.

Section 3.02. Election. The DPSC shall convene in January following a General Election for the purpose of electing officers. Upon their election, DPSC officers shall follow DPA policies on ethics and finance training.

Section 3.03. Terms. DPSC officers shall be elected to serve for two (2) years or until their successors are elected. Their term of office shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected. Vacancies in office may be filled at any regular or special meeting of the DPSC.

Section 3.04. Notification. The DPSC Chair shall notify the DPA Chair in writing within ten (10) days of their election. Within ten (10) days of the date of the election of an Election Commissioner, the DPSC Chair or Secretary shall notify the county clerk in writing the names and addresses of those selected to serve on the county board of election commissioners in accordance with state law.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

Section 4.01. Requirements. The DPSC shall meet at least four (4) times in odd-numbered years and at least six (6) times in even-numbered years. The DPSC shall record the minutes of each meeting, which the DPA County Review Committee may inspect upon request.

Section 4.02. Notice. The DPSC shall meet at the call of the Chair at such time and place as is designated in the call. The Secretary shall distribute written notice of meetings to each member of DPSC by postal mail or electronic notification at least five (5) days prior to the meeting, provided that in case of an emergency, the Committee may be convened on two (2) days' notice.

Section 4.03. Quorum. The attendance of twenty percent (20%) of DPSC members constitutes a quorum.

Section 4.04. Proxies. Proxy voting shall be permitted at meetings of the DPSC only by a vote of the DPSC to allow proxy voting. If proxy voting is allowed, the following rules shall apply:

- (a) no member shall vote the proxy of more than one other member;
- (b) proxies shall be granted only when printed, dated, signed and filed with the Secretary by the commencement of a meeting;
- (c) no proxy shall be valid for more than one meeting;
- (d) the Secretary shall preserve said proxies for no less than one (1) year.

Section 4.05. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the DPSC may be called by the Chair or upon the written request of one-fifth (1/5) of the DPSC membership.

ARTICLE V. COUNTY CONVENTIONS

Section 5.01. Purpose. Biennial DPSC Conventions shall be held for the purpose of confirming delegates to the State Convention, electing county representatives to the State Committee as apportioned in Article IV of the DPA Rules, and for any other such purpose as may be required by state law or party rules. DPA Article IV states that each County Committee will automatically receive two representatives who shall not identify as the same sex who may or may not be the Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the County Committee. Any other County Committee members are permitted to attend and speak in State Committee meetings as emphasized in Section 1.01 of the DPA Rules.

Section 5.02. Time & Place. Not later than thirty (30) days following the date established by state law for primary runoff elections, DPSC shall hold their County Convention. The Secretary shall distribute written notice to all DPSC members, all Democratic candidates, and local news media at least two (2) weeks prior to the DPSC County Convention.

Section 5.03. Delegates. The delegates of the DPSC County Convention shall be all DPSC members. All members of the DPSC at the time of the County Convention shall be eligible to attend the State Convention as a voting delegate.

Section 5.04. Organization. The DPSC County Convention shall be called to order by the DPSC Chair. If the Chair or Vice Chair is not present, or is present and refuses to act, then any delegate to the DPSC County Convention may serve as Temporary Chair.

ARTICLE VI. REPORTING PROVISION BY THE DPA

Section 6.01. Deadlines. At its first meeting following a General Election, the DPA County Review Committee shall establish and distribute to all DPSC officers the quarterly deadlines for submitting reports for the biennium.

Section 6.02. Quarterly Reports. Within fifteen (15) days of the end of each calendar quarter or on another date established by the DPA County Review Committee, DPSC shall file a quarterly report with the DPA County Review Committee, including the following information:

- (a) Membership. A complete roster containing the full name, voting address, mailing address, email address, and phone number of each DPSC member.
- (b) Finances. A copy of the DPSC quarterly reporting form as submitted to the Secretary of State.
- (c) Meetings. The dates of each DPSC meeting held since the filing of the previous report.

Section 6.03. Annual Reports. Within ten (10) days of the first meeting in each calendar year, and not later than February 15, DPSC shall file an annual report with the DPA County Review Committee, including the following information:

- (a) Officers. The title, date of election, full name, voting address, mailing address, email address, and phone number of each DPSC officer and State Committee member.
- (b) Bylaws. An up-to-date copy of the DPSC bylaws or, if a County Committee has not adopted bylaws, a statement to that effect.
- (c) Elected Officials. The position, full name, voting address, mailing address, email address, and phone number of each Democratic elected official in the county.
- (d) Registration. A copy of a DPSC registration form which has been properly filed with the Secretary of State;

Section 6.04. Other Reports. The DPA County Review Committee may require additional reports or information to be submitted with quarterly reports, including but not limited to:

- (a) Candidate filing report. Within seven (7) days of the end of the party filing period established by state law, DPSC shall file a report including their established filing fees and the full name, voting address, mailing address, email address, and phone number of each candidate who has filed as a Democrat.
- (b) Convention certification. Within seven (7) days of the DPSC County Convention, the Chair and Secretary of the County Convention shall certify the names of the county's State Committee representatives and State Convention delegates.

ARTICLE VII. DPA COUNTY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Section 7.01. Review. The DPA County Review Committee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the reporting process, developing required reporting forms, and facilitating the training of County Committee officers about the certification process. Upon reviewing reports, the DPA County Review Committee shall categorize County Committees, such as the DPSC, as follows:

- (a) Compliant: the County Committee has submitted all reports and complies with the requirements of these Rules, state law, and the County Review Committee.
- (b) Conditionally Compliant: the County Committee has minor deficiencies but complies generally with the substance of these Rules, state law, and the County Review Committee's requirements and has agreed to a plan to reach full compliance.
- (c) Non-compliant: the County Committee is deficient in some material respect and therefore does not meet the requirements of these Rules, state law, or the County Review Committee. The State Committee representatives from a non-compliant County Committee may be suspended and access to Party services may be restricted. Upon notification by certified mail, a non-compliant County Committee shall have thirty (30) days to schedule a consultation with the County Review Committee to identify the actions necessary to maintain their certification.

Section 7.02. Certification. Certified County Committees maintain their certification by submitting the regular reports outlined in this Article. In a county where no County Committee is certified, a new certification may be issued by the DPA County Review Committee upon the submission of:

- (a) A complete roster containing the full name, voting address, mailing address, email address, and phone number of twenty (20) County Committee members;
- (b) The title, date of election, full name, voting address, mailing address, email address, and phone number of each County Committee officer and State Committee representative;
- (c) An up-to-date copy of the County Committee's bylaws or, if the County Committee has not adopted bylaws, a statement to that effect;
- (d) A copy of a county political party committee registration form which has been properly filed with the Secretary of State; and
- (e) Minutes from an organizing meeting of the County Committee proving the proper election of officers and State Committee members and the adoption of bylaws, if relevant.

Section 7.03. Decertification. The DPA County Review Committee may recommend to the DPA Executive Committee that a non-compliant County Committee which fails to schedule a consultation or achieve meaningful progress toward compliance be decertified. The DPA Executive Committee, after verifying the DPA County Review Committee's recommendation, may vote to decertify the County Committee. Upon decertification, the officers of the Democratic Party of Arkansas shall:

- (a) Notify County Committee officers of decertification and their removal from their positions by certified mail;
- (b) Freeze or transfer to the Democratic Party of Arkansas all assets of the County Committee, including accounts, funds, records, and property;
- (c) Dissolve the County Committee; and
- (d) Appoint an Interim Chair to reconstitute and certify a new County Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. GRIEVANCES AS OUTLINED BY DPA

Section 8.01. Jurisdiction. DPSC shall have original jurisdiction of contests or protests involving actions of DPSC.

Section 8.02. Complaint. Notice of a contest, protest, appeal or grievance shall be in writing and shall be served by mail, proof of mailing supplied by the U.S. Postal Service shall be deemed as date of service, or hand delivered to the Chair of the DPSC within ten (10) days of the act or omission complained of by the aggrieved person(s). The day on which the act or omission occurred shall be counted as the first day in determining the ten (10) day period. Failure to provide timely notice may be grounds for dismissal of the grievance. However, a grievance, otherwise timely made to the State Committee may not be dismissed as untimely if the State Committee or Chair refers the grievance to a DPSC because jurisdiction lies there. The notice shall clearly set forth the facts giving rise to the grievance and shall describe the relief sought. The Chair may require the aggrieved person(s) to elaborate and/or clarify in writing any point raised in the notice.

Section 8.03. Hearing. The DPSC Chair shall give notice to all DPSC members and the aggrieved party of a hearing that shall be held as soon as reasonable but no more than twenty-one (21) days from the date the County Chair received the notice of the grievance, unless otherwise agreed by the aggrieved party and the County Chair. The DPSC shall, by majority vote of those present and voting, adopt such rules of procedure which are consistent with the DPA Rules and as are necessary to assist in the orderly conduct of the hearing.

Section 8.04. Judgement. The DPSC, after learning the evidence and affording all parties a full opportunity to be heard, shall deliberate and render judgment in the matter by a majority vote of those present and voting. At the request of the party to the proceeding, the Secretary of the DPSC shall provide a letter certifying the action of the committee. Nothing in this section limits a party's right to file a new grievance under the provisions of DPA Article IV.