

Constitution and Bylaws of the Lee's Summit Democrats

I. NAME:

Lee's Summit Democrats

II. PURPOSE:

The primary purpose and objective of the Lee's Summit Democrats is to stimulate participation in Lee's Summit politics for the purpose of bringing about good, responsible government. We will strive to recruit candidates, volunteers, raise awareness, and fundraise for this objective.

III. ORGANIZATION:

Section A: Membership - Dues and Pledge

- 1) Membership is open to all Democrats interested in promoting good, responsible government. Membership shall be available without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Membership accepted upon annual payment of dues and signed pledge, subject to 30-day review.
- 2) Dues are payable January 1st with membership running from Jan 1st - Dec 31st and are assessed as follows:
 - a) Regular membership - \$25.00
 - b) Student membership - \$15.00 (With valid student ID)
- 3) Membership dues are not prorated.
- 4) Members in good standing shall be those whose dues are current. Only members in good standing shall be eligible to participate in its business meeting or to serve in any of its elective or appointive positions.
- 5) New members are required a one month waiting period, and those paying membership dues after the January meeting are required a one month waiting period, before voting rights are activated.

Section B: Membership - Denial and Revocation

- 1) Denial and Revocation Reasons

- a) Anyone who actively supports non-Democrat candidates within partisan races.
- b) Anyone who has a criminal conviction whose ongoing connection to the Lee's Summit Democrats may damage the Lee's Summit Democrats' reputation.
 Proposed change 10/10/19 meeting: Any member whose actions are judged to be prejudicial or detrimental to the club by the Executive Board may be expelled from membership by a 2/3 vote of active voting members present at the next Lee's Summit Democrats business meeting or a special meeting called by Leadership with 30 days notice.
- c) Anyone who publicly or otherwise proven degrades the Lee's Summit Democrats.

2) Denial / Revocation

- a) The applicant/member will receive a certified letter within 10 days to respond to allegations of why membership will be denied or revoked.
- b) Those wishing not to contest, or failing to respond within the 10 days will be considered in agreement with the allegations and application/membership will be denied or revoked.
- c) Those wishing to contest the allegations must respond to the allegations within the 10 days and be prepared to present justification before the Leadership Board.
- d) The Board will conduct an investigation, and if cause is warranted based on their findings, deny/revoke application/membership. The Board will present their findings to the Group in cases of revocation for a vote to be held at the following regular monthly meeting.

Section C: Officers and Duties of Officers

- 1) The officers of the Lee's Summit Democrats shall consist of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past Chair.
- 2) The Chair shall preside over all regular meetings and leadership board meetings. He/She shall have the authority to call special meetings with 48 hours notice and appoint or establish special committees as he/she sees fit. If any officer is unable to fulfill his/her duties, the Chair shall then either assume those obligations or appoint someone to accomplish those duties. The Chair shall give a complete report of this at the next Leadership Board meeting. Further action of this nature shall be ratified by a majority vote of the Leadership Board.
- 3) The Vice Chair shall preside in the absence of the Chair and act as Membership Chairman.
- 4) The Secretary shall record the events of all regular and special meetings (minutes) and notify the complete membership of all regular and special meetings. The Secretary shall provide the Chair a copy of the minutes before the meeting. He/She shall keep an up- to-date membership roster and provide any applicable information to a member when the situation calls for this action. The Secretary shall have copies of the Constitution and By- Laws available to any

member who requests a copy. All board meeting minutes shall be available to any Lee's Summit Democrats member who requests a copy.

- 5) The Treasurer shall take charge of all funds, paying check or cash (with receipt) any normal operating expenses, and any expenditure voted on by a majority of all active members in attendance at the applicable meeting. He/She shall keep an up-to-date financial record, file all financial reports as required by law, and report at each regularly scheduled meeting. The signatures of the treasurer and one other member of the leadership board shall be held on file with the financial establishment holding accounts of the Lee's Summit Democrats.

Section D: Leadership Board

- 1) The Leadership Board shall be composed of all elected officers and two members-at-large elected by the membership.
- 2) The duties of members-at-large are to represent the Lee's Summit membership at-large, participate in meetings and events.
- 3) The Leadership Board shall meet as necessary. Meetings shall be called by the Chair, or two Board members may call a meeting with 48-hour notice. Three Board members shall constitute a quorum.
- 4) Any recommendations brought to the regular meeting by the Leadership Board must be ratified by a majority of the voting active members present. This excludes nominations brought by the Screening Committee.
- 5) A member of the Leadership Board can be removed upon a 2/3 vote of the Board for habitual failure of attendance. Removal from the Board does not affect club membership.

Section E: Changes to Bylaws

- 1) This Constitution and By-Laws can be amended by notifying the membership at the meeting prior to, and at least 30 days in advance of the time when the vote is to be taken. 2/3 vote of the present voting membership is required to ratify changes.

IV. NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND TERMS OF OFFICE:

- 1) A nominating committee for prospective officers shall be appointed or elected. The Chair shall appoint one member, the Leadership Board shall elect two members, and the active members shall elect two members during even year, October regular meeting. The Nominating Committee will then present its list of officers and board nominations at the odd year January meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the odd year January meeting.
- 2) The election of officers shall take place at the odd year January regular meeting. New officers will take their respective offices beginning February 1 of the odd years.

- 3) The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by a majority of the active voting members present at the January odd year meeting. This shall be done by written ballot if nominations are received from the floor; if not, a show of hands is acceptable. Terms of office shall run for two years beginning February 1, in odd numbered years and ending January 30 of each odd numbered year thereafter.
- 4) At-large members: The Nominating Committee will present to the Chair a list of two members-at-large at the odd year meeting in January where the active membership present will vote on the election of the 2 members-at-large. This shall be done by written ballot if nominations are received from the floor; if not, a show of hands is acceptable. At-large terms will run for two years beginning February 1, in odd numbered years and ending January 30 of each odd numbered year thereafter.
- 5) If a vacancy on the leadership board occurs for any reason, then the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the active voting members present at the next Lee's Summit Democrats business meeting or a special meeting called by Leadership with 30 days notice. The newly elected board member will serve the remaining term.
- 6) Any member of the board with unpaid dues as of February 1st shall be replaced at the April meeting.
- 7) The Leadership Board members must each hold a paid membership of the Lee's Summit Democrats for six months prior to their election.

V. STANDING RULES

- 1) The Leadership Board shall serve as the Screening Committee for the candidates that the Lee's Summit Democrats will support in partisan elections and non-partisan elections.
- 2) The powers of this committee are to make nominations for endorsement. Screening Committee nominations may be overturned with 60% of the voting active membership present supporting another candidate. If this is not obtained, the Screening Committee's recommendation stands.
- 3) Any candidate has the privilege of addressing the membership either verbally or by written message. This shall be coordinated through the Leadership Board.
- 4) The group will only endorse Democratic candidates for partisan elections.
- 5) The group may endorse candidates in non-partisan elections, provided the candidate declares in writing that he/she is a Democrat.
- 6) The group may endorse or oppose ballot issues.
- 7) Candidate filing must be closed 15-days before a candidate may be considered for endorsement.

- 8) The Treasurer's records shall be audited each January, and can also be audited in the event of suspected irregularity in handling/reporting of funds. A committee of three shall be elected from the Lee's Summit Democrats to perform those duties and bring a report to the group at the next meeting.
- 9) A Sergeant at Arms shall be designated by the Chair to maintain decorum at the Lee's Summit Democrats meetings.
- 10) The intent and goal of this organization is to hold regular quarterly meetings, social, and volunteer activities to keep members informed and aware of the political climate in the Lee's Summit community.
- 11) Robert's Rules of Order is the official guideline for all meetings.

Last Updated: July 11, 2019