

THE BY-LAWS OF THE DEMOCRATIC WARD 8 COMMITTEE, NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS



April 15, 1997

ARTICLE I - Name and Office

The Committee shall be known as "Democratic Ward 8 Committee of Newton", the office for which shall be located at the resident address of the chairperson. Wherever the word "Committee" is used in these By-laws, it shall mean the Democratic Ward 8 Committee of Newton.

ARTICLE II - Purposes

The purpose of the Committee shall be to promote the objectives and interest of the Democratic Party on a national, state, city ward and precinct level; to maintain and encourage interest, registration, and activity in the Democratic Party; to assist and support Democratic nominees in their campaigns for public office; to expand its membership; to formulate and carry through activities to maintain the interest and cooperation of its membership; to elect delegates to the State Democratic Convention; to increase knowledge of governmental structure and operations; to enhance communication between government officials and the citizenry; and, in this connection, to do all things necessary or desirable to effectuate these purposes.

ARTICLE III - Policies

A. The policies of the Committee shall be in harmony with the policies of the Democratic City Committee of Newton, the State Democratic Committee, and the National Democratic Committee.

B. No candidate shall be endorsed by the Committee until after the primary election, except that any candidate duly endorsed by the Democratic State Convention may be endorsed by a two-thirds vote of this Committee provided that the Executive Board of this Committee forward notice of the proposed endorsement in writing to all of the members of this Committee at least seven days before the date of a meeting called by the Chairperson of this Committee.

C. No member or officer of this Committee shall use or authorize the use of the name of this Committee

in connection with any interest or in furtherance of campaigns of non-Democratic candidates or of Democratic candidates in primaries, except for candidates endorsed by the Committee under Article III B, above.

D. This Committee may cooperate with other organizations and agencies and in the furtherance of the purposes stated in Article II.

E. The Chairperson, with the approval of the Executive Board, may request the resignation of any Committee member who endorses in writing any non-Democratic candidate in a partisan election.

F. This Committee shall not endorse candidates for office in non-partisan elections.

ARTICLE IV - Officers

The officers of this Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, said officers to be elected at the organizational meeting following their election to the Committee, and they shall hold office for a term of two (2) years. In presidential years the organizational meeting shall be held as prescribed by statute. In non-presidential even-numbered years, the organizational meeting shall be held between March 1 and May 15.

In the event that a vacancy should occur in any office through death, written resignation, or a change in residence a special election to fill this vacancy shall be held at the next regular meeting. This special election shall be announced in writing at least fifteen (15) days before the meeting.

A. Chairperson - The Chairperson shall be the presiding officer, and he/she shall organize, plan and be responsible for the carrying out of all activities of this Committee.

B. Vice-Chairperson - The Vice-Chairperson shall act in absence or incapacity of the Chairperson and shall advise and assist the Chairperson.

C. Secretary - The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings, maintain Committee records, including a current roster of membership, and shall perform such duties as assigned by the Chairperson, and otherwise perform the usual duties of a secretary.

D. Treasurer - The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds of this Committee and shall receive and deposit and disburse such funds in a bank in the City of Newton in the name of this Committee. The Treasurer shall sign checks in the name of this Committee, and shall pay the bills of this Committee, provided that expenditures exceeding \$50.00 shall not be made without the proper authorization of the Executive Board and the approval of the Chairperson. The Treasurer shall prepare and file such reports as are required by law and shall maintain a current record of funds received and disbursed. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Finance Committee. In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairperson shall be empowered to carry on the duties of the Treasurer.

ARTICLE V - Delegates

The election of delegates to the State Convention shall take place prior to the State Convention. Announcement of the election shall be given in the notice of the meeting, no less than fourteen (14) days before the meeting.

ARTICLE VI - Standing Committees

The following may be Standing Committees. When established, they shall be appointed by the Chairperson, as follows:

1. Registration Committee
2. Ward and Precinct Organization
3. Program Committee
4. Publicity Committee
5. Finance Committee
6. By-Laws Committee

The Chairperson shall also appoint either precinct captains or co-captains within Ward 8. The Chairperson may from time to time appoint other such Committees as he/she deems necessary and desirable.

ARTICLE VII - Executive Board

The Executive Board of this Committee shall consist of the officers of this Committee and the captains and/or co-captains of each precinct of Ward 8. In addition to the powers granted herein to the Executive Board, the Executive Board shall act as an advisory committee to the Chairperson.

ARTICLE VIII - Vacancies

If any member shall change his/her residence from Newton Ward 8 he/she shall cease to be a member at the end of the calendar year during which his/her residence is changed.

Vacancies created by the change of residence, resignation, or death of a member of this Committee shall be filled by this Committee at any meeting. Resignations of an officer or member of this Committee shall be in writing and addressed to the Chairperson or Secretary. If, at any time, a vacancy shall occur, the Committee may fill this vacancy by a special election. Prior to such election, notice must be sent to the entire membership at least seven (7) days before the day of the election of such a new Committee member. Any Committee member of the Democratic Ward 8 Committee may nominate anyone to fill such vacancy by submitting the name of such nominee to the Chairperson or Secretary at least fourteen (14) days before the day of the election, except that priority shall be given to those who have been serving as Associate members of the Committee. Notification of the existing vacancy shall be made in writing to the Committee members at least twenty-one (21) days before the day of the election.

ARTICLE IX - Meetings

This Committee shall hold a minimum of three (3) meetings during calendar year. Meetings shall be called by the Chairperson, or by written petition of seven (7) members of this Committee, such written petitions to be delivered to the Chairperson, with a copy to the Secretary, not later than fifteen (15) days preceding the date of such meeting. The Chairperson or Secretary shall notify the membership in writing of the time, place, and purpose of all meetings, at least seven (7) days before the proposed meeting date. If neither the Secretary nor the Chairperson appear at the meeting, the membership may select a presiding officer. Meetings shall be governed by "Robert's Rules of Order".

ARTICLE X - Quorum

A quorum shall consist of nine (9) members of the Committee present who are entitled to vote.

ARTICLE XI - Voting

Unless otherwise provided, a majority of the members present and entitled to vote shall carry a motion.

ARTICLE XII - Amendments

These by-laws may be amended at any meeting of the Committee by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those attending and entitled to vote, providing there is a quorum and provided that the proposed amendment or amendments are transmitted in writing to each member at least seven days before the mandate of the meeting.

ARTICLE XIII - Nomination for Election of Committee Members

A. A public announcement inviting all Party members to an open meeting for the purpose of selecting a ward committee slate;

B. The selection of members based on a majority vote of those attending the meeting, with each nominee presenting to the group his qualifications;

C. An attempt should be made to provide:

1. equal representation for all precincts within the ward;
2. equal representation of men and women;
3. representation of all age groups, particularly those under 25 and over 65 years of age;
4. and representation of all groups within the precinct.

ARTICLE XIV - Associate Membership

This Committee may from time to time invite Democrats to become Associate members of the Democratic Ward 8 Committee of Newton. This Committee may limit the number of Associate members from time to time. The Associate members may be invited by the Committee to attend and participate at all meetings and affairs of the Democratic Ward 8 Committee of Newton. However, Associate members shall not have any vote on any matters at said Committee meetings. An Associate member is elected as such by a majority vote of the members of this Committee entitled to vote at a quorum. A majority vote may drop an Associate member from the roles in the same manner as said Associate member is elected, provided that notification in writing has been made to the entire membership of said intention.



to the Home Page for the Democratic Ward 8 Committee, Newton, Massachusetts