

Benton County Dems By-Laws

(as of May 22, 2017)¹

ARTICLE 1. Name

Sec. 1. The name of this organization shall be Benton County Dems, hereafter known in this document as the BCD.

A. Meetings will take place monthly as determined by the Board.

ARTICLE 2. Purpose

Sec. 1. The purpose of this organization shall be to promote understanding of issues of importance to Democrats, to provide fellowship among the members and to further activities that support the goals of the Democratic Party.

ARTICLE 3. Membership

Sec. 1. Any person who is a Democrat and is sympathetic with and supportive of the purpose of this organization shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Membership requires annual payment of dues.

ARTICLE 4. Dues

Sec. 1. Membership dues shall be determined by the Board annually and due in January.

Sec. 2. Dues paid on or after October 1 shall include the following-year's membership.

Sec. 3. Members requesting a hardcopy of the newsletter mailed to them may be subject to an additional fee annually as determined by the Board.

ARTICLE 5. Officers and Board of Directors

Sec. 1. The elected Officers of this organization shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Their terms shall be from January 1 through December 31.

Sec. 2. Eligibility to be an Officer requires membership of one year and attendance at a minimum of six general meetings within the previous year.

Sec. 3. Officers shall be eligible for re-election for the same office for one term.

Sec. 4. If a vacancy occurs in any office, it shall be announced via e-mail. The Board shall present a candidate at that time and if further nominations are received, those shall be publicized in the same manner. A vote of the membership shall be held at the following general meeting after possible further nominations from the floor.

Sec. 5. The Board of Directors shall be formed of the four elected Officers above, the Immediate Past President, Membership Chair, Social Media Chair, and Publicity Chair.

Sec. 6. The non-elected members of the Board shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Officers.

Sec. 7. Members of committees may attend Board meetings but will not be able to vote.

Sec. 8. Any member may request attendance at a Board meeting in order to make a presentation or to lodge a grievance.

Sec. 9. If a vacancy of any appointed Board member occurs, it shall be announced at the next general meeting and the Board shall fill the position at its following meeting.

Sec. 10. The Board shall meet monthly at a place and time to be determined by the Officers.

¹ Major revision approved February 22, 2016. Amended May 22, 2017 to change organization name from "Benton County Democrats" to "Benton County Dems".

ARTICLE 6. Committees

- Sec. 1. Committees for the BCD shall include: Membership, Reservations, Publicity, Social Media, Correspondence and Nominating.
- Sec. 2. Standing Committees shall be made up of a chair and as many additional members as the chair deems necessary.
- Sec. 3. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three non-Board members selected by the Board after nominations from the floor at the May meeting.
 - A. The Nominating Committee shall present a single slate of Officers at the last meeting prior to October and further nominations may be made from the floor at that time. Elections shall be held at the November meeting.

ARTICLE 7. Parliamentary Authority

- Sec. 1. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern meetings.
- Sec. 2. A quorum for Board meeting shall consist of five of its eight members.
- Sec. 3. A quorum for general meetings shall consist of 25% of members.

ARTICLE 8. Amendments

- Sec. 1. These bylaws may be amended or replaced at any meeting of the BCD by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present. Prior notice of any proposed changes shall be disseminated in writing, then presented at a general meeting and voted on at the following general meeting.

ARTICLE 9. Privacy and Integrity of Communications

- Sec. 1. Membership lists shall be maintained and used only for organizational purposes by Officers and Board Members.
 - A. No membership lists are to be shared without prior Board approval.
- Sec. 2. All announcements at general meetings and through other communications shall be directly related to the purpose and mission of the organization.

ARTICLE 10. Conflict of Interest

- Sec. 1. Whenever an Officer or Board Member has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before the Board, the affected person shall:
 - A. Fully disclose the nature of the interest and
 - B. Withdraw from discussion, lobbying, and voting on the matter.

ARTICLE 11. Removal of Officers

- Sec. 1. Officers and other Board members may be removed from their positions by the Board due to absence at three or more Board meetings per year without reasonable cause or for failure to fulfill their duties.

ARTICLE 12. Dissolution of the Organization

- Sec. 1. The organization may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of members present at a general meeting. Prior notice of this dissolution vote shall be disseminated in writing, then presented at a general meeting and voted on at the next general meeting.
- Sec. 2. Upon dissolution of the organization, all funds remaining in any BCD accounts shall be forwarded to the Arkansas State Democratic Party.