

STANDARD BYLAWS OF THE

DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF BONTIA SPRINGS + SOUTH LEE COUNTY

ARTICLE 1 --NAME

The name of this organization shall be

THE DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF BONTIA SPRINGS + SOUTH LEE COUNTY

ARTICLE II- OBJECT AND PURPOSE

The object of this organization shall be to stimulate active interest in political and governmental affairs; to strengthen and to further the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party; to provide reasonable and ongoing financial support to the county Democratic Executive Committee; to promote participation among Democrats; to support and elect the duly selected nominees of the Democratic Party in national, state, and local campaigns; and to foster good fellowship among Democrats. In all Primary elections, no candidate will be endorsed or supported individually by this club/caucus. At no time will a candidate from another Party be supported by members of this organization.

ARTICLE III -- MEMBERSHIP

Democrats registered to vote in LEE County interested in the objectives of this club/caucus shall be eligible for membership. No other residency restriction may be placed upon membership or the privileges of membership in this club/caucus. In accordance with Article VI of the Florida Democratic Party Bylaws, with the exception of the organizational meeting of this club/caucus, those members permitted to vote in any club election for officers or board members must have been a member of the club/caucus at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date of such election. Officers and directors shall be required to execute the Loyalty Oath in the form included in the Bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party.

ARTICLE IV -- DUES

Annual dues shall be \$ ^{\$20 FOR 1 PERSON} _{\$30 FOR 2 PEOPLE} per capita, payable to the Treasurer by JAN. 1 for the ensuing club/caucus year or at the time of becoming a member, paid again on normal annual due dates.

Annual Party Contribution: **(Note: applies only to chartered Democratic Clubs)**. In January of each year, each Democratic club chartered under the rules of the Florida Democratic Party shall pay an annual contribution based on members as of December 31 of the preceding year to the Democratic Executive Committee in the county of chartered club based on the following:

Clubs with 0-50 members:	\$ 25.00
Clubs with 50-100 members:	50.00
Clubs with 101-300 members:	75.00
Clubs with 301-500 members;	100.00
Clubs with 501-750 members:	150.00
Clubs with 751-1000 members:	250.00

Any clubs chartered after January 1, 1985, will pay a contribution based on the number of members at the time of chartering which is consistent with the annual Party contribution fee schedule.

Eighty percent (80%) of the contribution shall remain with the county Democratic Executive Committee and twenty percent (20%) shall be remitted to the Florida Democratic Party no later than April 1 of that year.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this club/caucus shall be a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as deemed necessary by the membership. Officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws.

Section 2. All terms of office shall be for 4 year(s). Officers shall be eligible for no more than _____ (or unlimited) terms in the same office.

ARTICLE VI- DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The president shall preside at all meetings of the club/caucus and board of directors, of which the president is automatically chairman; shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee; shall appoint all the Standing and Special Committees and their chairmen; shall represent the club/caucus at county, district and state functions; shall give guidance to the committee chairman in their work and shall perform all duties pertaining to the office of the president.

Section 2. The vice president shall render all possible assistance to the president in matters pertaining to the club/caucus, and shall assume the office in the absence of, or inability of, the president to serve.

Section 3. The secretary shall keep an accurate record of all meetings of the club/caucus and board of directors; shall maintain a current list of members with addresses, phone numbers and precinct numbers; shall have a copy of the club/caucus bylaws with any amendments properly recorded.

Section 4. The treasurer shall receive all monies of the club/caucus; shall keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures; shall present a statement of all income and all expenditures at each meeting occurring since the previous meeting of the club/caucus, and at other times when requested by the board of directors; and shall pay out funds only as authorized by (Board, Committee, etc.) Books of the treasurer shall be audited by the Finance Committee at each stated meeting; checks shall be signed jointly by the treasurer and the president.

Section 5. The Parliamentarian shall, upon request, read from Robert's Rules of Order book.

Section 6. The creation of additional officers shall be undertaken in the bylaws at the time when they are adopted or amended.

(Additional sections would be added for each additional officer).

ARTICLE VII- MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of the club/caucus shall be held monthly, on the 2ND WEDNESDAY of the month unless otherwise ordered by the club/caucus or by the board of directors.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the president or a majority of the board of directors, with one week's notice to the members. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call.

Section 3. Twenty percent (20%) of the total membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business at any regular or special meeting. A majority vote is necessary to carry motions.

Section 4. All meetings shall be in a facility accessible to the physically handicapped.

ARTICLE VIII-BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The board of directors shall consist of the elected officers and (at least four) elected directors.

Section 2. The election of directors shall be held annually at the February meeting.

Section 3. The duties of the board of directors shall be to plan each month's meeting so as to be organized, to transact business of the club/caucus in regular or special sessions, and to make recommendations to the club/caucus. No act of the board shall conflict with action taken by the club/caucus.

Section 4. Meetings of the board of directors shall be one week prior to the regular meeting of the club/caucus, or at the request of the president, or at the request of three members of the board of directors.

Section 5. Five (or more) members of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IX – ELECTIONS

Section 1. Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting held February of each year with the exception of the charter year.

Section 2. The president, as chairman, shall appoint a Nominating Committee at the regular meeting December. This committee shall be composed of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the president. This committee shall present a candidate for each elective office at the annual meeting in January. Additional nominations from the floor shall be in order at that time.

Section 3. With the exception of the organizational meeting, there shall be a forty-five (45) day membership requirement prior to a member being permitted to vote or participate in any club/caucus election of officers or board members.

Section 4. If a vacancy occurs in the office of president, the vice president shall become president. Other vacancies occurring shall be filled by the club/caucus at a regular meeting.

Section 5. Voting for officers and directors must be by secret ballot. Proxies and absentee voting are prohibited.

Section 6. Any member may be removed from office upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire membership of the club/caucus at any regular or special meeting after ten (10) days notice to the membership that a motion for the purpose of removal of said member will be considered at the regular or special meeting. The removal may be for causes including, but not limited to, the following: malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, and conviction of a felony involving moral turpitude.

ARTICLE X- STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Standing Committees shall be Budget, Bylaws, Campaign, Finance, Membership, Publicity, and Ways and Means, and shall be appointed by the president promptly after each annual meeting.

Section 2. The Budget Committee shall prepare a budget for the fiscal year and submit it to the club/caucus for adoption at the MARCH meeting. The Bylaws Committee shall recommend such changes in the Bylaws as appear necessary and feasible from time to time. The Campaign Committee shall work toward the election of all Democratic candidate nominees for the area covered by this club/caucus, including county, state, and national candidates. The Finance Committee shall act as auditors of the treasury and maintain accurate audit records of the books. The Membership Committee shall see that all persons wishing members are, in fact, registered Democrats, and also organize and assist on membership campaigns. The Publicity Committee shall see that all activities, including meetings, are advertised through the media. The Ways and Means Committee shall find manners of fundraising, and shall coordinate all fundraising activities.

ARTICLE XI – ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PROVISION

The club/caucus hereby adopts and shall enforce the following anti-discrimination provisions:

1. No Democratic Loyalty Oath should be used which has the effect of requiring members of the Democratic Party to condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race, color, ~~creed~~, sex, age, religion economic status, ethnic identity, national origin, physical disability, sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.
2. The time and place for all public meetings of Democratic Party clubs/caucuses should be publicized fully in such a manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons, and should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, religion, economic status, ethnic identity, national origin, physical disability, or sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.
3. In order to fully and adequately inform prospective and current members of a full description of the legal, practical and pertinent procedures for selection of all Democratic club/caucus representatives and officers, the club/caucus should publicize fully, and in such a manner, as to assure notice to all interested Democrats in time to have adequate opportunity to participate.

ARTICLE XII- AMENDMENTS

The bylaws may be amended by a majority vote at a regular meeting pursuant to notification in writing one week prior to the meeting. Bylaws and any changes or amendments are subject to approval by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Certification Committee (DEC chairman, state committeeman and state committeewoman) and the Florida Democratic Party Committee on Clubs, Organizations, and Caucuses together with copies of the minutes of the meeting at which these amendments were adopted.

ARTICLE XIII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the club/caucuses in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and the rules of the county Democratic Executive Committee, Florida Democratic Party and National Democratic Party.

ARTICLE XIV – ACCOUNTABILITY

Section 1. Charter Recertification: In July of each odd numbered year the club shall apply to the Certification Committee of the county Democratic Executive Committee for a Certificate of Compliance. State Caucuses should apply to the State Party for a Certificate of Compliance. Failure to do so shall result in the forfeiture of all rights and privileges of the use of the word Democrat, Democratic, or derivative thereof.

Section 2. Dissolution: In the event this club/caucus wishes to dissolve, a resolution stating the date of dissolution and the reasons for same shall be adopted by a majority vote of the club/caucus after being submitted in writing at the previous meeting. When the club/caucus disbands for any reason, the club's/caucus' assets and funds, after all debts are satisfied, shall become the property of the county Democratic Executive Committee.

Section 3. Grievances: Clubs disputes and grievances may be resolved with the county chairman, state committeeman and state committeewoman of the county Democratic Executive Committee in the county of charter. Should one (1) person hold two (2) of these offices, the vice chairman of the county Democratic Executive Committee shall also be involved in said resolution. Such resolution may be appealed to the county Democratic Committee whose decision shall be final unless appealed to the Judicial Council not later than forty-five (45) days from the date of said decision. State Caucuses' disputes and grievances should be submitted to the State Party for resolution.