

1 **10th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION BY-**
2 **LAWS**

3 Revised 11/15/08
4
5
6

7 **ARTICLE I – NAME**

8 The name of this organization shall be the “Tenth Legislative District Democratic Organization”,
9 herein after referred to as the 10th LD.
10

11 **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**
12

13 Section 1: It shall be the objective of this organization to actively support the election of
14 democratic candidates at all levels and to encourage growth and influence of leaders, involve the
15 membership and maintain harmony in the party.

16 Section 2: It shall be the policy of this organization to comply with and operate within
17 Washington State Law.

18 Section 3: The 10th Legislative District Democratic organization is a sub-set of the State
19 Democratic Party and conforms to their requirements in order to operate under their non-profit
20 status.
21

22 **ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**
23

24 Section 1: Active membership in the 10th Legislative District Organization shall consist
25 of all persons who are registered voters residing within the 10th Legislative District Organization
26 and who publicly indentify as Democrats.

27 Section 2: Precinct Committee Officers (PCO’s) who were elected or appointed shall
28 have the right to vote on all issues in the general membership meetings except that only elected
29 PCO’s may vote on reorganization.

30 Section 3: Associate membership (voice but no vote, nor office) is open to all registered
31 voters outside the 10th Legislative District who publicly indentify as Democrats..
32

33 **ARTICLE IV – DUES**
34

35 Section 1: Upon payment of dues, any registered 10th District voter professing
36 Democratic status, becomes an active member in good standing.

37 Section 2: Each active member in good standing may vote on all matters at regular
38 meetings except that only elected PCO’s may vote on reorganization.

39 Section 3: Active and associate dues shall be \$10.00 per year or \$15.00 per family due
40 and payable in January of each year.

41 Section 4: The amount of annual dues shall be established and may be changed by a
42 majority vote of the Executive Board in December of each year based upon the advice of the
43 Finance committee.

44 Section 5: No individual who suffers economic hardship shall be denied membership or
45 voting privilege.
46

47 **ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT**

48
49 Section 1: The 10th LD shall be presided over by its Chair and governed by its Board
50 between quarterly meetings at which members shall have voice vote as set forth above on the
51 business of the organization.

52 Section 2: It will be reorganized every two (02) years. At that reorganization meeting, at
53 which all members in good standing participate and vote on resolutions, policy changes and
54 other business matter brought before that meeting. Their decisions shall guide the Executive
55 Board in the conduct of the affairs of the district.

56 Section 3: Reorganization meetings, at the general membership meeting in December or
57 January, following the PCO’s election, the leadership of the 10th LD shall be reorganized.

58 **ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS**

59
60
61 Section 1: General meetings of the 10th LD shall be held quarterly, the first within 45
62 days of the re-organization meeting. Additional meetings may be called at the direction of the
63 Chair or 10 members in good standing by written or electronic mail petition.

64 Section 2: Notice of re-organization meetings shall be made by mail or email to all
65 members in good standing at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting with date, time and
66 location.

67 Section 3: In January, the dates for quarterly meetings and locations will be set for each
68 regular meeting of each year as set by the Executive Board.

69 Section 4: Special meetings will be publicized by telephone and/or email at least five
70 (05) days prior to the meeting.

71 Section 5: General meetings shall be held in Island, Skagit and Snohomish Counties on a
72 rotational basis.

73 Section 6: A quorum, at a general meeting, shall consist of 10% of the members in good
74 standing. No business shall be conducted in the absence of a quorum.

75 Section 7: All questions of procedure shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

76
77 **ARTICLE VII – EXECUTIVE BOARD**

78
79 Section 1: The Executive Board shall consist of District Chair, First and Second Vice-
80 chairs (elected from different counties), Secretary, Treasurer, State Committeeman, State
81 Committeewoman and the County Democratic Central Committee Chairs of Island, Skagit and
82 Snohomish counties or their designates who are Democratic members at large, who are
83 registered voters.

84 Section 2: Each member of the Executive Board shall hold office for two (02) years, or if
85 appointed, until the next re-organization meeting.

86 Section 3: The duties of the Executive Board include adopting a budget for each year,
87 formulating policies for the 10th Legislative District, developing strategies for the District, and
88 voting on any expenditure proposed beyond approved budgets.

89 Section 4: The Executive Board shall meet monthly, or at the call of a majority of the
90 Board.

91 Section 5: Five (05) of the elected members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

92 Section 6: Officers of the 10th LD, who fail to attend three (03) unexcused meetings in a
93 year shall be considered to have resigned their office and will be replaced.

94 SECTION 7: In the event of a vacancy of the Executive Board, due to a resignation or
95 inability to serve, such vacancy shall be filled by the Legislative District Chair with the approval
96 of the majority of the Executive Board of Officers. Vacancies among County Democratic
97 Central Committee Chairs shall be filled by their respective organizations.

98 Section 8: No member may use his/her title of office or identify himself/herself as
99 representing the 10th LD or any of the subordinate bodies unless authorized by the Executive
100 Board or the membership.

101 **ARTICLE VIII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

102
103 Each officer shall keep records and pertinent correspondence received and sent. They shall
104 surrender all records to their successor when they leave their elected position.

105 **LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT CHAIR**

106 Section 1: The Chair of the 10th Legislative District is the Chair of the Executive Board,
107 is ex-officio a member of all committees.

108 Section 2: Meetings of the 10th Legislative District shall be presided over by the District
109 Chair, or in the absence, 1st Vice Chair, or 2nd Vice Chair, or Secretary, if others are absent.

110 Section 3: Standing Committees – As soon as possible after the re-organization meeting,
111 the Board shall appoint Committee Chairs for the standing committees of Finance, Campaigns,
112 Publicity and Education. Committee Chairs so appointed shall serve until the next re-
113 organization meeting. The Standing Committee Chairs shall recruit members of their committee
114 from Island, Skagit and Snohomish counties. Committee Chairs serve at the pleasure of the
115 Executive Board. Other necessary committees may be appointed as the Executive Board
116 decides. Board members may serve as ex-officio members of all committees.

117 Section 4: The 10th Legislative District Chair shall preside over the re-organization
118 meeting, the election of the new officers and a smooth transition for the District to new
119 leadership.

120 121 **VICE CHAIRS**

122 1: The Vice-Chair shall aid the Chair and shall, in the absence of the Chair, preside over the
123 meeting, as stated above.

124 2: The First Vice-Chair shall be of a opposite gender from the Chair.

125 3: Both Vice-chairs shall be of opposite gender and represent different counties than the 10th
126 Legislative District Chair.

127 128 **SECRETARY**

129 The Secretary shall record and retain permanent minutes of all Executive Board meetings,
130 general meetings and re-organization meetings of the 10th Legislative District. Copies of these
131 minutes will be transmitted within ten (10) days to the Board members and PCO's. Hard copies
132 of all minutes shall be maintained in a 10th LD binder and made available at every meeting. Any
133 members, upon request, may also receive a copy of the minutes. Electronic transmission is
134 sufficient to accomplish these tasks.

135 136 **TREASURER**

137 It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect and disburse all funds of the organization. The
138 Treasurer shall submit, in writing, a report monthly of all financial activities to date. The
139 Treasurer shall prepare and file all reports as mandated. Expenditures exceeding \$200.00 will
140 require prior Board approval. Disbursement shall be by check, signed by the Treasurer or the
141 District Chair.

142

143 **STATE COMMITTEEMAN & STATE COMMITTEEWOMAN**

144 The State Committeepersons shall represent the 10th Legislative District at all Washington State
145 Democratic Central Committee meetings and will report to the membership at regular meetings.
146 They will receive direction from the Board and represent the concerns of the 10th Legislative
147 District when dealing with issues brought before the State Central Committee.

148

149

150 **ARTICLE IX – STANDING COMMITTEES**

151

152 Committee Chairs shall be non-voting members of the Executive Committee.

153

154 **FINANCE** - The Finance Committee, through its Chair, shall develop and propose to the
155 Board, a revenue and expense budget for the 10th Legislative District. This committee shall
156 organize and administer fundraising events for the 10th Legislative District. It shall recommend
157 to the Board, for approval, the distribution of campaign funds. The Finance Committee will
158 secure an outside consult to perform an annual audit of the books. A written report from the
159 consultant will be provided to the members of the Executive Board. A copy of the Board
160 approved monthly Treasurer’s report will be provided to the Finance Committee for
161 accountability and budget use.

162

163 **PUBLICITY** – Under the direction of the Board, this committee shall send press releases
164 to the media concerning campaigns, meetings, issues, etc. It is also responsible for composing
165 and distributing 10th Legislative District Democratic newsletter in which these issues are set
166 forth. Its goal will be to enhance the positive image and influence of the Democratic Party.
167 Electronic transmission to and from the 3 constituent counties is part of this communication.

168

169 **CAMPAIGN** – This committee will adopt written guidelines for endorsement of
170 candidates and issues. It will conduct candidate development workshops in cooperation with the
171 State Democratic Party. It shall adopt and publish a code of fair campaign practices for all
172 candidates campaigning as Democrats in the 10th LD and will assure that candidates are in
173 receipt of the Democratic Party Platform. It will recommend funding for candidates to the
174 Finance Committee and the Executive Board.

175

176 **EDUCATION** - This committee will set up a speaker’s bureau to aid in the 10th LD
177 educating the party and community organizations regarding issues, objectives and principles of
178 the Democratic Party in Washington State. The committee may review and comment on
179 campaign literature and make appropriate recommendations to the Executive Board.

180

181

182 **MEMBERSHIP** - It shall be the duty of the Membership officer to maintain an accurate
183 and current list of active members and PCO's in good standing which shall be available to all
184 Executive Board officers and committee members. This list is proprietary and shall not be
185 distributed to outside parties. The Membership Chair shall introduce new members at the next
186 meeting
187

188
189 **ARTICLE X – NOMINATION AND ELECTION**
190

191 Section 1: Nominations shall be made by a nominating committee appointed by the
192 Chair at a general meeting prior to the re-organization meeting. At the re-organization meeting,
193 nominations from the floor may be made by 10th Legislative District resident members in good
194 standing.

195 Section 2: Voting shall be by ballot. The District Chair shall appoint a nominating
196 committee representative of all three (03) counties for the purpose of producing a slate of
197 candidates for the reorganization meeting. The tally shall become part of the permanent record.
198 Unopposed candidates may be elected by acclamation.

199 Section 3: Nomination and election for each office shall be held one at a time.

200 Section 4: Each nomination may take up to 5 minutes to be divided among nomination,
201 seconding and candidate speeches.

202 Section 5: A quorum shall consist of 10% of the duly elected 10th LD PCO's. Elections
203 shall be decided by a majority of those present who are in good standing and who actually vote.
204 If no candidate has a majority on the first ballot, the candidate with the least votes shall be
205 dropped from the contender's list and successively until a majority candidate is selected.

206 Section 6: Neither proxies, nor absentee ballots are permitted at the re-organization
207 meeting.
208

209 **ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS**
210

211 Section 1: These Bylaws shall be reviewed at least every two (02) years by a special
212 committee; but may be amended at any general meeting of the 10th LD provided that the
213 amendment has been read at a prior regular meeting. Changes shall be emailed to all PCO's and
214 members within ten (10) days of the reading at prior Executive Board meeting. Voting on
215 changes require a 2/3 majority of PCO's present.
216
217
218
219
220