

NORTHEAST BEXAR COUNTY DEMOCRATS
BY-LAWS

Article I - Name and Purpose

The Northeast Bexar County Democrats (NEBCD) is a political club that (1) promotes the activities and issues of the Democratic Party, (2) educates and informs members about political issues and candidates, and (3) monitors and affects governmental bodies at all levels, with emphasis on Northeast Bexar County. Northeast Bexar County is defined as the area from IH-10 at the eastern county line west to IH-410; northwest on IH-410 to IH-35; west on IH-35 then west to IH-10 and north on IH-10 to the county line; easterly and then southerly on the county line to finish at IH-10 on the east.

Article II - Membership

Membership is open to those who wish to support the purposes of the NEBCD. The fiscal year of the NEBCD is May 1-April 30. Dues will be set at the Annual Membership Meeting in February. New members will have voting privileges 28 days after they have paid dues. Membership dues currently in force will be listed in the Standing Rules as adopted.

Article III - Officers

Officers of the organization shall consist of (1) Chair, (2) Vice-Chair, (3) Secretary, and (4) Treasurer.

Chair: Coordinates and presides over all meetings and represents the organization at other functions. Appoints committees and sits as an ex-officio member of all committees, with the exception of the Nominating Committee. Co-signer on bank accounts.

Vice-Chair: Assists Chair with above duties and coordinates and presides at meetings in the absence of the Chair. Serves as a standing member of the membership committee. Co-signer on bank accounts.

Secretary: Keeps record of general membership meetings and minutes of Executive Board meetings. Responsible for notifying members of meetings and serves as a standing member of the communications committee.

Treasurer: Receives and deposits all monies due NEBCD and properly keeps records of all financial transactions. Presents financial reports to the Executive Board and general membership as required. Co-signer on bank accounts. Maintains master copy of the membership list.

Article IV - Election and Dismissal of Officers and At-Large Executive Board Members.

Officers shall be elected at the February Annual Membership Meeting by majority of the membership in attendance. The Chair and Secretary will be elected on odd-numbered years; the Vice-Chair and Treasurer will be elected on even-numbered years.

Officer and at-large Executive Board member vacancies shall be filled by a majority vote of members attending the meeting following notification of vacancy.

Grounds for dismissal of an officer or at-large Executive Board member are as follows:

- (1) Failure to attend four consecutive general meetings or three consecutive Executive Board meetings without a valid reason;

- (2) Openly supporting a Republican or other non-Democratic Party candidate in any position in a contested race against a Democrat;
- (3) Failure to pay membership dues;
- (4) Other, as circumstances dictate, with three-fourths vote of Executive Board members and three-fourths majority of meeting attendees after proper discussion of issues/circumstances. Person being considered for dismissal will be allowed to make a presentation on his/her behalf.

Dismissal for #1, #2, and #3 will be accomplished by three-fourths vote of meeting attendees.

Article V- Executive Board

An Executive Board shall consist of the four officers above, chairs of the standing committees, two at-large members and the immediate past Chair. One at-large member will be elected on odd-numbered years; the other at-large member will be elected on even-numbered years. The chair will appoint a parliamentarian who will be a non-voting member of the Executive Board and will serve at the pleasure of the Chair. Grounds for dismissal of Executive Board members are the same as for officers.

The Executive Board will have authority to act on behalf of the membership at large and will have administrative authority over the organization's activities. The Executive Board will report activities and decisions to the membership.

Executive Board meetings will be held monthly before membership meetings, and as deemed necessary by the chair or the Executive Board.

Article VI- Meetings

The Annual Membership Meeting will be held in February of each year, specific date and time to be announced by the Chair. All persons on the membership rolls will be notified of this meeting. A nominating committee will present nominations for election of officers and at-large Board members. Nominations from the floor are always in order.

Regular membership meetings will be held monthly, specific date and time to be determined by the Executive Board or set by majority resolution.

Special meetings can be called by the Chair or a majority of the Executive Board and with proper notification of all members at a time and place determined by the person calling the meeting. Proper notification shall consist of notice by mail, postmarked 4 days in advance.

Nine members shall constitute a quorum at membership meetings. All meetings will be conducted in accordance with the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

Article VII - Committees

Standing committees are:

- Campaign and Candidate Recruitment Committee
- Communications Committee
- Governmental Action and Monitoring Committee
- Membership Committee
- Event and Fund Raising Committee
- Precinct Organization Committee

Chairs of standing committees shall be elected by majority vote of the members in attendance at the annual February meeting, for terms that shall run until the next annual meeting. In the event a vacancy occurs by resignation or otherwise, the vacancy shall be filled by majority vote of the members in attendance at the second regular NEBCD meeting after the Chair learns of the vacancy. In the interim an acting chair shall be chosen by majority vote of the members of the affected standing committee. There shall be no limit on re-elections of committee chairs. The initial elections of standing committee chairs shall take place at the next regular NEBCD meeting after the annual meeting at which this section is adopted through Bylaws amendment.

Members of standing committees, other than committee chairs, shall be appointed by, and may be removed by, the NEBCD Chair with majority consent of the Executive Board.

Other ad hoc committees, as deemed necessary, and their chairs can be created by the Chair in consultation with the Executive Board.

One-third of the whole committee shall constitute a quorum.

Article VIII - Amendments

Amendments to the By-Laws can be proposed by any member. Amendment proposals must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board, published and distributed to the general membership at least 15 days before the Annual General Membership meeting where proposal will be considered. Amendment proposals shall be ratified by two-thirds of members in attendance.

Article IX - Endorsements

The NEBCD reserves the right to endorse any candidate(s) or position whether in a partisan or non-partisan election. Endorsement consideration must be published ten days before endorsement is presented to the membership. Endorsement will be reserved for those candidates who embody the principles of the Democratic Party and who best exemplify these qualities. There are two levels of endorsement within our policy:

- A. The first level of endorsement will be endorsement of one or more candidates as "a true Democrat who reflects Democratic principles." This endorsement may be made by a majority vote of the members present. Referendum positions will not be endorsed in this manner.

- B. The second and highest level of endorsement will be endorsement of one candidate as "the best candidate for the office, to the exclusion of all other candidates, and a true Democrat who reflects Democratic principles." This endorsement can be made only by a two-thirds majority of the members present. When applied to a referendum proposition, it will be an endorsement "of the position as in the best interest of the citizens in the belief of the Northeast Boxer County Democrats."
- C. When applied to a referendum or a non-partisan election, it will be an endorsement of the positions in the best interest of Democratic citizens.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED this 5th day of February, 2005.

Jan L. Strawn
Chair

ATTEST:

Richard F. Barker
Secretary



NORTHEAST BEXAR COUNTY DEMOCRATS

STANDING RULES

1. Membership dues are \$20.00 per year to be paid upon joining and thereafter no later than the anniversary of the month in which initially paid.

2. Political Contributions and PACs

Whereas Texas and Federal laws have different and changing requirements for organizations that collect and dispense funds for political purposes and *whereas* the Texas Ethics Commission defines Northeast Bexar County Democrats (NEBCD) itself as a "Political Committee",

Therefore the NEBCD Executive Board will govern these operations as follows:

2.1. The Executive Board may operate one or more political action committees (PACs) as may be required to conform to law.

2.2. The Executive Board will control and direct the Treasurer in the making of political contributions, whether to candidates or to organizations. Funds will be disbursed only in support of projects approved by the membership of NEBCD and candidates endorsed by NEBCD. The Executive Board will make specific expenditures in accord with the general direction contained in these approvals.

2.3. The Treasurer of NEBCD will report raising and disbursement of funds as required by law. The Executive Board exercises oversight of these actions.

2.4. Fund raising, contributions by NEBCD or its PACs, and expenditures for campaign purposes will be reported to the NEBCD members at every meeting.

APPROVED and ACCEPTED this 1st day of February 2014.

Robert W. Miller

Chair

ATTEST:

Jacqueline Christenson

Secretary