

(2/20/96, amended 9/1/98, 4/11/02, 5/11/04, 1/5/06)

BYLAWS

NELSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF VIRGINIA

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1.01. Name. The name of this organization shall be the Nelson County Democratic Committee (hereinafter called "the County Committee" or "the Committee") of the Democratic Party of Virginia (herein called "the Party").

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES

Section 2.01. Statement of Purposes. The County Committee is a non-profit association organized to have full charge of the affairs and promote the interests of the Party in Nelson County, Virginia (herein called "the County") in accordance with the Virginia Democratic Party Plans as amended from time to time. These include but are not limited to:

- (a) supporting the nominee of the party in all national, state, and local elections;
- (b) educating the public on the ideals of the Party and the qualifications of its nominees for office including, if appropriate, taking stands on issues of public importance;
- (c) encouraging interested individuals to join the Party and support its nominees for office;
- (d) encouraging all Democrats to register and vote for the Party's nominees in all elections;
- (e) establishing and implementing procedures for the Party nomination of candidates for elective or appointive offices.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 3.01. Composition. The County Committee shall be composed of 50 District Members plus ex-officio members as described below.

Section 3.02. District Members. District Members shall be elected by caucus within each Election District (herein called "Districts") at the Biennial Mass Meeting of the Party to be held according to the requirements of the Democratic Party of Virginia at such time and place as may be determined by the Chair of the County Committee, for the purpose of electing members of the County Committee.. There shall be no more than 10 elected members from each District (Central, East, West, North, South). Ex officio members shall serve in the District where they reside.

Section 3.03. Qualifications of District Members. Any person who (a) is a qualified voter of the County, registered to vote in the District from which he or she is nominated; (b) believes in the principles of the Party; and (c) does not intend to support the campaign of any candidate opposing any nominees of the Party in ensuing elections may be elected a District Member of the County Committee.

Section 3.04. Voting in District Caucuses. Any member of the Party who is a qualified voter and registered to vote in the district in which he or she resides shall be entitled to vote for members of the County Committee and any other business before the caucus. Each person is entitled to one vote. No proxies are allowed.

Section 3.05. Ex-officio Members. Every member of the Party residing in the County who holds a local, state or national ELECTIVE office or an office in the state or national Democratic Party organization (including membership on the State Central Committee) or who has served within the past six years as Chair of the County Committee shall be ex-officio a member of the County Committee unless he or she does not wish to serve. Ex-officio members shall not be counted against any District's allocation of members thereon. An official who was elected to the office as an Independent must wait at least six months after taking office before applying in writing to the Rules Committee for entitlement to ex-officio status.

Section 3.06. Removal. Any member of the County Committee who is no longer qualified under 3.03 or who is guilty of misconduct or willful neglect of any County Committee responsibility may be removed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the County Committee members present at a meeting where there is a quorum. Prior to the meeting written notice of the proposed actions shall be given to the offending member, so as to afford an opportunity to appear and defend against the charges.

Section 3.07. Attendance. Any absence by a member of the County Committee for three consecutive regular County Committee meetings, without good cause shown to the Committee Chair or Secretary before any scheduled meeting, shall constitute resignation from the Committee and the vacancy shall be filled as specified in 3.08. These Bylaws shall constitute notice for all Committee members to attend properly called meetings. This provision does not become operative when three regular Committee meetings are called in less than two months.

Section 3.08. Vacancies. Any vacancy in the County Committee due to death, resignation, removal, disqualification or any other cause shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by election at a mass meeting of the District held within three months of the occurrence of the vacancy. The election shall be by majority vote. Resignations, other than those referred to in 3.06 or 3.07, must be in writing.

Section 3.09. Exception. The requirements of Section 3.08 may be waived by a unanimous vote of Committee members at a properly called Committee meeting for which notice of the waiver vote has been given. If waived, the Committee member of the district in which the vacancy exists shall fill the vacancy by majority vote. (Section 3.09 adopted Sept. 1, 1998.)

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

Section 4.01. Time and Place of Meetings. The time and place of all public or mass meetings of the Nelson County Democratic Party (Election District or County) shall be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. All meetings shall be held at the place designated in the notice for such meetings.

Section 4.02. Biennial Mass Meeting. A biennial mass meeting of the Democratic voters of the County shall be held according to the requirements of the Democratic Party of Virginia, at such time and place as may be determined by the Chair of the County Committee, for the purpose of electing members of the County Committee.

Section 4.03. Other Mass Meetings. In addition to the Biennial Mass Meeting, other mass meetings of Democratic voters of the County may be called from time to time by one-tenth of the members of the County Committee, the Chair of the County Committee, a District Chair, or three members of the District Committee at such time and place as set forth in the notice thereof.

Section 4.04. Notice of Mass Meetings. Notice of all mass meetings shall be published as mandated by the Democratic Party of Virginia in a County general circulation newspaper. The notice shall state the place, date, time and general purpose of the meeting.

Section 4.05. Biennial Organization Meeting. As soon as practicable after the Biennial Mass Meeting and within the time limits established by the Democratic Party of Virginia the outgoing Chair of the County Committee shall call a meeting of the outgoing officers and all incoming members of the County Committee, at time and place to be determined by him or her, for the purposes of electing new officers and turning over records, funds, and other property of the County Committee. In the event the outgoing Chair fails to call such meeting as required by the Democratic Party of Virginia, one-tenth of the incoming members of the County Committee may call it.

Section 4.06. Other County Committee Meetings. Meetings of the County Committee may be called from time to time by the Chair of the County Committee, or by one-tenth of the members of that Committee. There shall be at least three meetings annually. Meetings of a District Committee may be called from time to time by the Chair of the district Committee, or by three members of the Committee. All meetings are open to people who are not members of the Committee.

Section 4.07. Notice of County and District Committee Meetings. Written notice of any meeting of the County Committee or a District Committee shall be mailed or e-mailed to each member of that Committee not less than ten days before such meeting. Notices shall state the place, date, time and general purpose of the meeting. No votes on major decisions, nominations, or endorsements may be taken at a meeting unless announced in the notice of the meeting or unless mandated by the State Democratic Party by law, or admitted to the floor by a two-thirds vote of those present.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 5.01. Committee Officers. The officers of the County Committee shall be a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, as well as the Chairs of each Standing Committee and District Committee.

Section 5.02. Election, Term of Office, and Qualifications. The officers of the County Committee, except the District Chairs, shall be elected by the members of the County Committee as a whole at a meeting called for that purpose as soon as practicable after the Biennial Mass Meeting and within the time limits established by the Democratic Party of Virginia. District Chairs shall be elected by the Committee members from each District in District Caucuses at the same meeting. Each officer shall hold office until his or her successor shall have been duly chosen and shall qualify or until his or her resignation or removal from office. No person shall serve in more than one office. All officers must be members of the Committee. The following officers shall serve for no more than four consecutive terms in any one office: Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and District Chairs. At the start of the term-limitation process, the limits shall apply to the following officers elected in 1992: Chair, Secretary, District Chairs, East and West, and to the following officers elected in 1994: Vice-chair, Treasurer, District Chairs, North and South.

Section 5.03. Removal. Any officer of the County Committee who is no longer qualified for committee membership under 3.03 or 3.07 automatically forfeits the office. Any officer who is guilty of misconduct or of willful neglect of any assigned duty may be removed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the

members of the County Committee present at a meeting at which a quorum is present, provided, however, that such action shall not be taken without ten days prior written notice of the proposed action having been sent to the offending officer at the last known address. The offending party shall be afforded an opportunity to appear at the meeting called for that purpose and refute the charges made.

Section 5.04. Vacancies. A vacancy in the office of Chair shall be filled by the Vice Chair. A vacancy in any other office, except District Chair, because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or any other cause shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in accordance with the provisions of Section 5.02. A District Chair vacancy shall be filled at a properly called meeting of the district Committee.

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

Section 6.01. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Any of these officers may request that this Committee meet.

Section 6.02. Standing Committees. The following Standing Committees shall be established, with responsibility for the activities indicated by their titles and such specific duties as may be prescribed by the full Committee:

Rules Finance (including Treasurer)
Registration Publicity
Polling Places Social Functions
Campaign

The Chairs of the various Standing Committees, except for the Rules Committee, shall be responsible for selecting and organizing their committees and carrying forward an adopted program of work. Appointees to these committees need not be members of the County Committee but should be members of the Party.

Section 6.03. Rules Committee. The Rules Committee shall be composed of the Rules Chair and one County Committee member from each District, elected by members of each District Committee.

Section 6.04. Additional Committees. The County Committee may from time to time create such other standing or special committees as it may deem appropriate.

ARTICLE VII. QUORUM, VOTING AND PERMISSION FOR NOMINATION

Section 7.01. Quorum. Forty percent of the members of the County Committee, and a majority of the number of members of any other committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at committee meetings. Except as otherwise provided, the act of a majority of those present at any meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the body provided that proper notice has been given.

Section 7.02. Voting. At any meeting of the County Committee or any other committee, each member of such body shall be entitled to one vote. No proxies shall be allowed. Secret ballots shall be used in contested elections, nominations for public office, and at any other time requested.

Section 7.03. Permission for Nomination. Permission must be received from each potential nominee for County Committee membership or any office before the name is placed in nomination. If the individual is not present to give such permission, written permission from the nominee must be brought to the meeting at which the nomination is to be made.

ARTICLE VIII. NOMINATIONS FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

Section 8.01. Committee Responsibility. The County Committee may prescribe the method to be used within the county and its magisterial districts for the nomination of candidates for county and other local offices in accordance with State law and State Party policies. Such nominations may be made by primary election, mass meeting, or under the circumstances specified in Section 8.04, by action of the County Committee. Incumbents may choose the method of nomination.

Section 8.02. Nominations by Primary Election. Whenever the County Committee determines that such nominations shall be by a primary election, that election shall be held in conformity with the Primary Plan of the Democratic Party and the applicable election laws of Virginia.

Section 8.03. Nominations by Mass Meeting. Whenever the Committee determines that such nominations shall be by any method other than a primary election, notice to the public of the time, place and method of nomination to be used shall be given in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at least ten days prior to the proposed meeting or convention, provided that, whenever a declaration of candidacy shall be required by committee action or by public law, the notice specified above shall be given at least ten days prior to the last day on which such declaration may be filed and shall include information needed by a candidate in order to meet these requirements. Elections at the Mass Meeting shall be by written ballot. Ballots shall include names of properly prefiled candidates and, if there is an open seat, shall include "no endorsement" as a choice.

Section 8.04. Nominations by Committee. When time does not permit nomination for elective office by primary or mass meeting and it therefore becomes necessary for the County Committee to make a nomination for such office, it shall proceed in the following manner:

- (a) the names of all qualified persons whose names may be presented by any member of the Committee shall be before the Committee for consideration;
- (b) voting shall be by written ballot with each member of the Committee being entitled to one vote for each nomination to be made and, if there is an open seat, the ballot shall include "no endorsement" as a choice;
- (c) no voting by proxy shall be allowed;
- (d) the person who receives a majority of the votes cast for a given office shall be the nominee of the Party.

ARTICLE IX-AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Section 9.01- Method of Amendment. The bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the Committee members present at any properly called meeting, provided that proposed changes were mailed or emailed to each Committee member at least ten days prior to the meeting at which the changes will be acted on. Proposed bylaws changes may be presented by the Rules Chair or any two Committee Members. (Article IX adopted Sept. 1, 1998.)