

Proposed ADP Bylaws Revision: ADP Caucuses and ADP Councils

To be considered September 21, 2019

Rationale and Purpose: This revision (two new Articles) replaces current Article VII of the ADP Bylaws. This revision creates opportunities for constituency and advocacy groups of State Committee Members to operate completely within the Arizona Democratic Party Committee as ADP Caucuses or ADP Councils. As such, these groups are within a party committee and are distinct from political action committees. Provisions are made to integrate the activities of ADP Caucuses and Councils with those of the ADP, and to facilitate the establishment and maintenance of the groups. This revision was, in part, compelled by new statutes that clearly define party committees and distinguish them from all other political committees. It was informed by the DNC's structure and governing documents, as well as those of other states. We also considered the results from a survey of current statewide caucuses.

Proposed revisions:

Strike the entire current Article VII. Statewide Caucuses and replace with the following two articles:

ARTICLE VII. ADP CAUCUSES

These rules regarding ADP Caucuses shall be fully in effect at the Biennial Organization meeting following adoption. Policies and procedures for Caucuses will define accommodations for the interim period, as may be appropriate.

Section 1. DEFINITIONS AND STRUCTURE.

A. *Purpose.* The ADP seeks to build a membership that is representative of its statewide constituency. Therefore, provision is made for the formation and operation of ADP Caucuses.

B. *Definition.* A Party caucus is a statewide organization. Accordingly, an ADP Caucus is a subgroup of the State Committee membership that represents, acts on behalf of, or advocates for a specific constituency group. ADP Caucuses have a stated mission, activities, goals and purposes consonant with the overall activities, goals and purposes of the ADP and the DNC.

C. *Eligibility.* The Executive Board shall be the final arbiter regarding eligibility to organize any Caucus. ADP Caucuses shall:

- a. Represent a constituency (identity group) that shares inherent and/or immutable traits which define the Caucus.
- b. Represent a constituency that comprises a minimum two percent (2%) of the State Committee membership, and at least one (1) State Committee Member in at least four (4) different counties.
- c. Represent a significant constituency of the ADP that is currently, or has been historically, underrepresented.

D. *Caucus Membership.* The Members of each ADP Caucus shall be State Committee Members. Each Caucus shall maintain a membership of at least twenty-five (25) State Committee Members, including persons from at least four (4) different counties. Groups may choose to include "associates" who are not considered Members; they shall be PCs or other Democrats who are not State Committee members. Associates may attend meetings and participate in Caucus activities. Associates shall not have voting rights.

E. *Establishing and Maintaining a Caucus.* A potential or existing ADP Caucus shall follow all ADP policies and procedures for the establishment, renewal, and dissolution of a Caucus.

F. *Geographic Scope.* All Democratic Party caucuses shall be statewide. Regional activities are encouraged; however, party committee connections shall be limited to the ADP.

G. *Implied Association.* Only ADP Caucuses shall be defined as such. Other groups identifying as caucuses shall not include the term Democratic Party in their name.

Section 2. OPERATIONS.

A. *Governance and Oversight.* As the governing body of the ADP, the State Committee shall govern ADP Caucuses. The ADP Executive Board shall adopt and execute policies and procedures for Caucuses. Additionally, the Executive Board shall seek to facilitate the successful establishment and operation of Caucuses.

B. *Leadership.* Each ADP Caucus shall select a Leader and a Co-Leader who are State Committee Members residing in different counties. Leadership terms shall be two (2) years and will commence with the Biennial Organization Meeting. The Leader and Co-Leader shall not be officers of the ADP, nor shall they be officers of any political action committee.

C. *Meetings.* Each Caucus shall meet in the context of each State Committee Meeting. The Caucus will hold additional meetings, including remotely, as appropriate to pursue its mission and implement its goals.

D. *Activities.* The Caucus shall follow all policies and procedures for Caucus activities. Finances such as fundraising and nominal expenditures shall be managed within the ADP.

E. *Reports* Within two (2) weeks of each State Committee Meeting, the Caucus shall submit a progress report to the ADP Secretary. Additionally, the Caucus shall submit a Biennial Report to the ADP Secretary within two (2) weeks of each ADP Biennial Organizational Meeting. Reports shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the policies and procedures for ADP Caucuses. Reports shall be reviewed and assessed by the Executive Board or its designee.

F. *State Executive Committee Membership.* When an ADP Caucus is approved for renewal and its Biennial Report is found to demonstrate substantive contributions to the goals and purposes of the ADP (as determined by the Executive Board or its designee), the Caucus shall be entitled to select one of its members to serve on the Executive Committee of the ADP.

G. *Revocation Events.* The Executive Board has the final authority regarding dissolution of a Caucus. Any of the following events may result in the dissolution of an ADP Caucus:

- a. The Caucus fails to remain in compliance with eligibility or membership requirements.
- b. The Caucus fails to comply with current policies and procedures for ADP Caucuses.
- c. The Caucus fails to follow the bylaws of the ADP.
- d. The Caucus makes a public statement that conflicts with a position, rule, or procedure of the ADP.
- e. The Caucus endorses any candidate for public office during the pre-primary or primary period.
- f. The Caucus endorses or devotes effort on behalf of candidates other than Democratic candidates.

ARTICLE VIII. ADP COUNCILS

These rules regarding ADP Councils shall be fully in effect at the Biennial Organization meeting following adoption. Policies and procedures for Councils will define accommodations for the interim period, as may be appropriate.

Section 1. DEFINITIONS AND STRUCTURE.

A. *Purpose.* The ADP seeks to build a membership that is committed to the Party's principles and platform. Therefore, provision is made for the formation and operation of ADP Councils.

B. *Definition.* A Council is a statewide organization. Accordingly, an ADP Council is a subgroup of the State Committee membership that represents, acts on behalf of, or advocates for a specific issue or cause. ADP Councils have a stated mission, activities, goals and purposes consonant with the overall activities, goals and purposes of the ADP and the DNC.

C. *Eligibility.* The Executive Board shall be the final arbiter regarding eligibility to organize any Council. ADP Councils shall:

- a. Represent and advocate for an issue or cause that is of importance to the Democratic Party.
- b. Demonstrate support from at least 15% of the State Committee membership, with representation from at least four (4) counties.

D. *Council Membership.* The Members of each ADP Council shall be State Committee Members. Each Council shall maintain a membership of at least twenty-five (25) State Committee Members, including persons from at least four (4) different counties. Groups may choose to include "associates" who are not considered Members; they shall be PCs or other Democrats who are not State Committee members. Associates may attend meetings and participate in Council activities. Associates shall not have voting rights.

E. *Establishing and Maintaining a Council.* A potential or existing ADP Council shall follow all ADP policies and procedures for the establishment, renewal, and dissolution of a Council.

F. *Geographic Scope.* All Democratic Party Councils shall be statewide. Regional activities are encouraged; however, party committee connections shall be limited to the ADP.

G. *Implied Association.* Only ADP Councils shall be defined as such. Other councils shall not include the term Democratic Party in their name.

Section 2. OPERATIONS.

A. *Governance and Oversight.* As the governing body of the ADP, the State Committee shall govern ADP Councils. The ADP Executive Board shall adopt and execute policies and procedures for Councils. Additionally, the Executive Board shall seek to facilitate the successful establishment and operation of Councils.

B. *Leadership.* Each ADP Council shall select a Leader and a Co-Leader who are State Committee Members residing in different counties. Leadership terms shall be two (2) years and will commence with the Biennial Organization Meeting. The Leader and Co-Leader shall not be officers of the ADP, nor shall they be officers of any political action committee.

C. *Meetings.* Each Council shall meet in the context of each State Committee Meeting. The Council will hold additional meetings, including remotely, as appropriate to pursue its mission and implement its goals.

D. *Activities.* The Council shall follow all policies and procedures for Council activities. Finances such as fundraising and nominal expenditures shall be managed within the ADP.

E. *Reports.* Within two (2) weeks of each State Committee Meeting, the Council shall submit a progress report to the ADP Secretary. Additionally, the Council shall submit a Biennial Report to the ADP Secretary within two (2) weeks of each ADP Biennial Organizational Meeting. Reports shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the policies and procedures for ADP Councils. Reports shall be reviewed and assessed by the Executive Board or its designee.

F. *Revocation Events.* The Executive Board has the final authority regarding dissolution of a Council. Any of the following events may result in the dissolution of an ADP Council:

- a. The Council fails to remain in compliance with eligibility or membership requirements.
- b. The Council fails to comply with current policies and procedures for ADP Councils.
- c. The Council fails to follow the bylaws of the ADP.
- d. The Council makes a public statement that conflicts with a position, rule, or procedure of the ADP.
- e. The Council endorses any candidate for public office during the pre-primary or primary period.
- f. The Council endorses or devotes effort on behalf of candidates other than Democratic candidates.

NOTE: Subsequent articles of the bylaws will be renumbered accordingly.