



Rules of the
**Democratic Party
of Arkansas**

As adopted on Saturday, December 2, 2022

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1 PREAMBLE

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The Democratic Party of Arkansas holds to these principles:

That the Democratic Party with its great diversity of members, its flexibility of organization, its historic adaptability to fruitful change, and its instinctive responsiveness to human needs and aspirations, can thus provide the leadership which we must have in these challenging times. We must join together with a renewed faith in our country, our state, and our Party to provide our people with responsive and responsible government.

That government functions best when it is closest to the people.

That government is of laws and not of persons. We condemn any resolution of conflicts save through legal processes. The Democratic Party of Arkansas stands for law and order with justice.

That every individual, no matter what religion or race, or how humble or exalted one’s origin, owes the duty to participate fully at every level of government and is entitled to an equal voice and equal treatment at its hands; that all Democrats are bound to defend, protect and honor our nation, our state and our Party; that when they are right, it is our privilege to sustain them; that when they err, it is our duty to correct them.

That as Democrats, we are proud and upright Americans; that we are determined not only to serve the United States but also to stand shoulder to shoulder with those of our sister states in giving meaningful, responsible and constructive leadership such as benefits a great nation.

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.01. Democratic Party Open to All.

(a) All meetings of the Democratic Party are open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic status.

(b) No test for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Democratic Party will be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic status.

(c) The time and place for all meetings of the Democratic Party shall be publicized fully and in such a matter as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings shall be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.

1 (d) The Democratic Party shall support the broadest possible registration and voter
2 participation without discrimination on grounds of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex,
3 national origin, age, disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or
4 economic status.

5
6 (e) The Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to
7 all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of
8 Democratic Party officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of these procedures
9 should be done in such a fashion that all prospective and current members of the
10 Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time
11 to participate in each selection procedure at all levels of the Democratic Party organization.
12

13 Section 1.02. Party Membership.

14
15 The Democratic Party of Arkansas shall consist of those who have openly declared their
16 allegiance to, and are in good faith and sympathy with the fundamental principles,
17 purposes, objectives, platforms and practices of the Party.
18

19 Section 1.03. Party Organization.

20
21 (a) The organization of the Democratic Party of Arkansas shall be divided into state,
22 regional, and county organizations. The state and counties shall be represented by a
23 committee elected according to these rules.
24

25 (b) The Democratic Party of Arkansas recognizes chartered auxiliary organizations which
26 shall be entitled to representation as provided by these Rules.
27

28 ARTICLE II - COUNTY COMMITTEES

29
30 Section 2.01. General Provisions.

31
32 (a) State County committees are affiliates of the Democratic Party of Arkansas.
33 County committees shall be called the "Democratic Party of [Name of County]
34 County."

35
36 (b) Upon election each county officer shall follow state party policies on ethics training
37 and finance training.
38

39 (c) Quorum. The minimum quorum for a County Committee shall be twenty percent
40 (20%) unless membership in County Committee is 100 or more in which case ten
41 percent (10%) will constitute a quorum.
42

1 (d) Proxy voting shall be permitted at meetings of the county committee only by a vote
2 of the county committee to allow proxy voting. If proxy voting is allowed the
3 following rules shall apply : (1) no member shall vote the proxy of more than one
4 other member; (2) proxies shall be granted only when printed, dated, signed and
5 filed with the Secretary by the commencement of a meeting; (3) no proxy shall be
6 valid for more than one meeting; (4) the Secretary shall preserve said proxies for no
7 less than one year past the term of the Committee, at the Democratic Party
8 headquarters as part of the records of the State Committee.
9

10 (e) County committees may develop their own bylaws. Bylaws developed by a county
11 committee shall not be in conflict with the bylaws of the Democratic Party of
12 Arkansas.

13 Section 2.02. Composition of a County Committee.

14 (a) The County Committee shall be composed of members registered to vote in the county
15 in which they reside and who file to join the committee during the primary election filing
16 deadline.
17

18 (b) The County Committee shall extend membership to county residents aged 14 or above
19 seeking membership outside the filing period. Aside from votes taken at the County
20 Convention, in order to vote one must be a member 30 days prior to any votes taken by the
21 county committee.
22

23 (c) Each Committee shall have at least twenty (20) members.
24

25 (d) There shall be no limit to the number of county committee members.
26

27 (e) County Committee members shall take office at the commencement of the biennial
28 County Convention and serve until the convening of the next biennial Convention.
29

30 Section 2.03. The County Convention.
31

32 (a) Biennial County Conventions shall be held for the purpose of confirming delegates to
33 the State Convention and electing county representatives to the State Committee, and for
34 any other such purpose as may be required by state law or party rules.
35

36 (b) No later than 30 days following the general primary election, i.e. the primary runoff
37 election, County Committees will hold their County Convention. The County Convention
38 may take place at either a regular meeting of the County Committee or a specially called
39 meeting. Adequate notice shall be given by the Secretary of County Committee notifying
40 County Convention delegates and candidates in writing (mail, email, or text message) no
41 later than one week in advance of said County Convention and by news release in the local
42 news media of each county no later than one week in advance of said County Convention.
43

- 1 (c) The delegates of the County Convention shall be all county committee members.
2
- 3 (d) The County Convention shall be called to order by the Chair of the County Committee.
4 If the Chair or Vice Chair of the County Committee is not present, or is present and refuses
5 to act, then any delegate to the County Convention may serve as Temporary Chair.
6
- 7 (e) The County Convention delegates shall elect the county's representatives to the State
8 Committee. Article IV presents the process through which the number of representatives
9 from a given county is identified.
10
- 11 (f) The County Convention shall also identify the county's delegates to the State
12 Convention. All members of the county committee at the time of the County Convention
13 shall be eligible to attend the State Convention as a voting delegate.
14
- 15 (g) The Chair and Secretary of the County Convention shall certify the names of the
16 county's State Committee representatives and State Convention delegates to the Secretary
17 of the State Committee within seven (7) days of the election.
18

19 Section 2.04. Organization of a County Committee.
20

- 21 (a) Certification. In order for a County Committee to use the name Democratic Party in
22 the State of Arkansas and solicit funds in the name of the Democratic Party, each County
23 Committee shall be certified by the Democratic Party of Arkansas.
24
- 25 (b) Biennial requirements for certification are:
26
- 27 1. Election of Officers. County Committees shall convene in January, immediately after
28 the General Election for the purpose of electing a Chair, Vice Chair, who shall not identify
29 as the same sex as the Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Each office shall not be
30 combined or held by more than one person at a time. Other officer positions may be
31 created by majority vote of those present and voting. Officers and members serve for two
32 (2) year terms until the convening of the next officer election in January after the next
33 general election. Vacancies in office may be filled at any regular or special meeting of the
34 County Committee.
35
 - 36 2. Election of Election Commissioner. A county election commissioner(s) shall be elected
37 in January after the General Election following the election of County Officers. The office
38 of Election Commissioner shall not be combined with any other offices. A vacancy in the
39 office of Election Commissioner may be filled at any regular or special meeting of the
40 County Committee.
41
 - 42 3. Meet a minimum of quarterly (4) times during the course of a non-election years and no
43 less than six (6) times during the course of an election year.
44

- 1 4. County Committees shall record the minutes of each meeting. Within ten (10) days
2 after the minutes are approved, copies of the minutes shall be sent to the Democratic Party
3 of Arkansas headquarters. Minutes shall include, at a minimum, those present, the agenda
4 covered, and actions taken by the County Committee. The minutes may be sent in any
5 form to the DPA, including electronically, by fax, or mail.
6
- 7 5. Within ten (10) days after organization of the new County Committee in January
8 following the general election, the Secretary of the County Committee shall forward a form
9 provided by the Democratic Party of Arkansas with the county committee list to the
10 Secretary of the Democratic Party of Arkansas showing the names and mailing addresses,
11 email address, landline and cell telephone numbers of its officers and members. Updates
12 to the membership and officers list shall be made quarterly to the Secretary of the
13 Democratic Party of Arkansas.
14
- 15 6. Within ten (10) days of the date of electing the Election Commissioner, the Chair or the
16 Secretary of each county committee shall notify the county clerk in writing the names and
17 addresses of those selected to serve on the county board of election commissioners in
18 accordance with state law.
19
- 20 7. Submission of required financial information to the Democratic Party of Arkansas.
21 a. County Committees required to file financial information to the Arkansas
22 Secretary of State shall also send a copy of the filing to the DPA by the filing deadline.
23 b. County Committees that are not required to file financial information with the
24 Arkansas Secretary of State shall file financial information of the type and at intervals
25 required by the County Committee Review Committee.
26
- 27 8. Submit a copy of the County Committee bylaws to the Democratic Party of Arkansas.
28 If a county committee chooses to use the State Party bylaws as their governing document a
29 statement to that effect shall be sent to the Democratic Party of Arkansas. Such bylaws
30 must include a provision that officers of the county committee must avoid public
31 expressions of support, including campaign contributions, for candidates opposing
32 Democratic nominees.
33
- 34 9. Each County Committee shall submit a plan for actively supporting candidates running
35 for office.
36
- 37 10. Each County Committee shall submit a plan for community outreach to promote the
38 Democratic Party in the county which may include the recognition of chapters of the
39 county committee or partnering with affiliated groups.
- 40 (c) Review by Committee.
41 A five (5) member review committee with at least one member from each Congressional
42 District shall be appointed by the Chair of the Democratic Party of Arkansas in January
43 following a general election. The County Committee Review Committee, chaired by the
44 Vice-Chair for County Committees, shall review County Committee information submitted

1 to the Democratic Party of Arkansas by June 30 each year. The Committee is also
2 responsible for development of all pertinent forms required of County Committees along
3 with facilitating training of County Committee officers about the certification process.
4 County Committees not in compliance with certification requirements will be considered
5 in default of their certification.

6 The Review Committee shall meet with each noncompliant County Committee for a
7 consultation to identify actions necessary to continue their County Certification. A County
8 Committee in default shall have 30 days after consultation to bring their County into
9 compliance.

10
11 (d). Decertification. A County Committee in noncompliance with Certification
12 Requirements (b) above and fails to be certified after consultation (c) above shall be
13 recommended by the County Committee Review Committee for decertification. The
14 Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of Arkansas after verifying the County
15 Committee Review Committee recommendation shall declare the county decertified and
16 notify the County of decertification by registered mail. The elected officers of the
17 Democratic Party of Arkansas have the power to:

- 18 1. Remove current officers from their positions.
- 19 2. Dissolve the County Committee.
- 20 3. Reconstitute the County Committee by appointing an interim chair.
- 21 4. Property. Property includes but shall not be limited to bank accounts, cash, checks,
22 receipts and accounting documents, governing documents , membership lists, volunteer
23 lists, donor lists, meeting minutes, graphic and logo files, communications, party
24 paraphernalia, rental, lease and storage details, keys, security codes, and political signs.
25 All property including monetary funds remaining in the possession of a decertified county
26 committee shall be frozen on the date of decertification. The elected officers of the
27 Democratic Party of Arkansas shall determine if the funds and property are to remain with
28 the County Committee until the county reconstitutes itself or be diverted to the Arkansas
29 Democratic Party. If all funds and property are to be turned over to the interim Chair or
30 the Chair of the Democratic Party of Arkansas, then the transfer shall occur within ten (10)
31 days of notice of decertification but shall revert to the county upon reconstitution.

32
33 Section 2.05. Meetings of the County Committee.

34
35 (a) Statutory Meetings. The County Committee shall meet as required by state law for the
36 purpose of conducting primary elections and shall comply with statutory requirements and
37 these Rules regarding notice of such meetings. Ten (10) days written notice of such
38 meetings shall be given by the Secretary to the Committee members. The news media
39 within the County shall also be informed thereof at the time of the calling of such meeting.

40
41 (b) Notice. The County Committee shall meet at the call of the Chair at such time and
42 place as is designated in the call. Notice of calls for meetings of the County Committee
43 shall be mailed or emailed by the Secretary to each member of the Committee at least five
44 (5) days before the dates of the meetings, provided that in case of an emergency, the

1 Committee may be convened on two (2) days' notice. The news media within the County
2 shall be informed thereof at the time of the calling of such a meeting. Following such
3 notice, a county committee meeting may be canceled at the last minute by the officers
4 solely due to unforeseen circumstances.

5
6 (c) Special Meetings. Special meetings of the County Committee shall be called by the
7 Chair upon request of one-fifth (1/5) of the membership of the full Committee. Upon
8 failure or refusal of the Chair to call a requested meeting, the call may be issued by those
9 members requesting the same. Notice of calls of special meetings shall be mailed by the
10 Secretary to each member of the Committee at least five (5) days before the date of the
11 meeting, provided that in case of an emergency, the Committee may be convened on two
12 (2) days' notice. In the event the Secretary shall fail or refuse to act, those making the call
13 may give such notice.

14
15 (d) Attendance. A County Committee member who misses three (3) or more consecutive
16 county committee meetings shall be required upon notice to show good cause or may be
17 dismissed from the Committee by its vote.

18
19 Section 2.06. Jurisdiction for Grievances.

20
21 County Committees shall have original jurisdiction of contests or protests involving
22 actions of respective county committees.

23
24 Section 2.07. Grievance Procedure.

25
26 (a) Notice of a contest, protest, appeal or grievance shall be in writing and shall be served
27 by mail, proof of mailing supplied by the U.S. Postal Service shall be deemed as date of
28 service, or hand delivered to the Chair of the County Committee within ten (10) days of the
29 act or omission complained of by the aggrieved person(s). The day on which the act or
30 omission occurred shall be counted as the first day in determining the ten (10) day period.
31 Failure to provide timely notice may be grounds for dismissal of the grievance. However, a
32 grievance, otherwise timely made to the State Committee may not be dismissed as
33 untimely if the State Committee or Chair refers the grievance to a County Committee
34 because jurisdiction lies there. The notice shall clearly set forth the facts giving rise to the
35 grievance and shall describe the relief sought. The Chair may require the aggrieved
36 person(s) to elaborate and/or clarify in writing any point raised in the notice.

37
38 (b) The County Chair shall give notice to all committee members and the aggrieved party
39 of a hearing that shall be held as soon as reasonable but no more than twenty-one (21) days
40 from the date the County Chair received the notice of the grievance, unless otherwise
41 agreed by the aggrieved party and the County Chair. The County Committee shall, by
42 majority vote of those present and voting, adopt such rules of procedure which are
43 consistent with these Rules and as are necessary to assist in the orderly conduct of the
44 hearing.

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(c) The County Committee, after learning the evidence and affording all parties a full opportunity to be heard, shall deliberate and render judgment in the matter by a majority vote of those present and voting. At the request of the party to the proceeding, the Secretary of the County Committee shall provide a letter certifying the action of the committee.

(d) Nothing in this section limits a party’s right to file a new grievance under the provisions of Article IV.

ARTICLE III – STATE CONVENTION

Section 3.01. Time and Meeting of State Convention.

A State Convention shall be held within a reasonable time after the general primary, i.e. runoff, election, but in no event later than forty-five (45) days prior to the general election, at a time and place to be fixed by the State Committee. The State Convention shall be composed of the delegates chosen by the various county conventions, as herein provided in Article II.

Section 3.02. State Convention Arrangements Committee.

(a) A standing State Convention Arrangements Committee, comprised of nine (9) persons appointed by the Chair of the State Committee, shall plan the convention.

(b) The temporary officers of the convention shall be chosen by the Arrangements Committee at a meeting to be held at least ten days prior to the State Convention. The Arrangements Committee also shall establish the order of Business of the Convention.

(c) No later than three months before the Convention, the Arrangements Committee shall appoint from the members of county committees the Credentials, the Convention Rules, and the Platform and Resolutions Committees, consisting of at least nine (9) members each, one of whom shall be Chair thereof.

1) The committee of Credentials shall prepare a list of delegates entitled to participate in the preliminary organization of the State Convention, according to the certificates from the several County Conventions forwarded to the Secretary of the Party. The Credentials Committee shall not include in its list of prepared delegates any delegate who was not properly chosen.

2) The committee on Convention Rules shall recommend permanent rules governing the Convention and recommend revisions in the Rules of the Party.

3) The committee on Platform and Resolutions shall write and recommend to the

1 convention a Party platform for the November General Election. The draft platform shall
2 be made available in electronic or written form no later than 30 days before the state
3 convention.
4

5 (d) Such committees shall meet in advance of the convention at a time and place
6 designated by the Chair of the State Committee, to consider all matters properly coming
7 before such committees, and each after holding such public hearings, shall make a report in
8 writing to the convention. The Chair of the State Committee shall give such publicity of
9 the times and places of the committee meetings as shall be necessary to advise the public
10 and press.
11

12 Section 3.03. State Convention Officers.
13

14 On the date and at the hour fixed, the convention shall be called to order by the Chair of
15 the State Committee, who shall announce the temporary officers of the convention,
16 including Chair, Secretary, parliamentarian, and such other officers as shall have been
17 designated.
18

19 Section 3.04. State Convention Duties.
20

21 The duties of the State Convention shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
22

23 The delegates shall convene at the State Convention for the purpose of receiving,
24 canvassing, and declaring the election results for United States, State and District offices
25 and shall declare as the nominees those candidates who were unopposed or who received
26 the majority of votes for each respective office, fill any vacancy in nomination as
27 authorized by law and shall furnish to each successful nominee a certificate of nomination.
28

29 Section 3.05. Quadrennial Delegates.
30

31 The selection of delegates and alternate delegates shall be in conformity with the delegate
32 selection plan, as approved by the Democratic National Committee, or its designee, and as
33 adopted by the State Committee.
34

35 Section 3.06. Selection of Presidential Electors.
36

37 The nominees for Presidential Electors shall be selected in presidential election years as
38 required by law and the rules of the Democratic National Committee. One elector shall be
39 selected from each Congressional District and two electors shall be selected at-large. The
40 Chair and Secretary shall certify the list of each elector chosen to the Secretary of State.
41 Such certification of electors of President and Vice President shall be made to the
42 Secretary of State within two (2) days after such State Convention. Should a vacancy occur
43 in the choice of an elector, the vacancy may be filled by the State Executive Committee.
44

1 Section 3.07. State Convention Records.

2

3 The Secretary of the State Convention, upon completing the minutes of the convention,
4 shall immediately turn over to the State Committee the minutes and all other records of the
5 convention.

6

7 ARTICLE IV - STATE COMMITTEE

8

9 Section 4.01. Purpose.

10

11 The State Committee shall carry out all duties required by state law, Democratic National
12 Committee rules, and these rules. The State Committee may also hear reports from the
13 Executive Committee, standing and special committees, and auxiliaries of the State Party.
14 The State Committee shall also take additional any action on Democratic Party of
15 Arkansas policies not proscribed by statute or these rules. Finally, State Committee
16 meetings shall regularly be used as an opportunity for the training of the state's party
17 leaders to become more effective in carrying out the work of the party.

18

19 Section 4.02. Membership.

20

21 The State Committee shall be composed of:

22

23 (a) County Representatives. County Committee representation on the State Committee
24 will consist of two hundred (200) members. Each County Committee will automatically
25 receive two representatives who shall not identify as the same sex who may or may not be
26 the Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the County Committee. Any other County Committee
27 members are permitted to attend and speak in State Committee meetings as emphasized in
28 Section 1.01 of these rules. The remaining fifty (50) positions will be apportioned to
29 County Committees based on their county's contribution to the statewide performance of
30 the Democratic nominee for Governor in the preceding two (2) gubernatorial general
31 elections. The method for apportionment is as follows:

32

33 For each county, the number of votes for the Democratic candidate in the last two
34 gubernatorial elections shall be totaled. That number of votes will be divided by the total
35 statewide Democratic gubernatorial vote in the two elections, multiplied by 50 (fifty), and
36 then rounded to the nearest whole number (a fractional part of 0.5 or higher shall be
37 rounded up, anything less than 0.5 shall be rounded down). This whole number is the
38 number of extra representatives each county shall be apportioned, beyond the two
39 members automatically apportioned to each county. There shall be gender balance for
40 every two additional members apportioned to a county.

41 Reapportionment will occur every four years, following a gubernatorial general election.

42 That most recent electoral data will be factored in to the formula and utilized for the next
43 election of State Committee members, set to occur in the next even-numbered year.

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(b) Auxiliary Organizations. Auxiliary Organizations. Once an auxiliary successfully completes the chartering process, the organization is awarded four (4) State Committee members: the Chair/President, the First Vice Chair/First Vice President and two at-large members, gender balanced when appropriate or possible. No more than two of the four auxiliary representatives may come from the same county. The Chair/President and First Vice Chair/First Vice President’s length of terms on the State Committee lasts as long as their tenure as the leaders in said auxiliary. At-large members must be elected at least every two years. If the organization’s charter is revoked, its representatives are removed from the State Committee.

(c) Chair’s Appointees. The Chair of the State Committee may appoint ten (10) individuals to the State Committee for the purposes of ensuring gender balance and further enhancing diversity on the State Committee. Terms will run concurrent with the DPA State Committee terms – two (2) years. Appointees may be reappointed when their term is over. If the Chair resigns or when the State Committee elects a new Chair, all previous appointees by the outgoing Chair are removed from the State Committee.

(d) Officers. Current officers of the party, as defined in Section 7.01, who are not otherwise members of the State Committee.

(e) State Elected Officials. All current Democratic legislators, statewide elected officials, and members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives will automatically be members of the State Committee and be entitled to full privileges of committee membership if they are present at committee meetings. No proxies will be accepted from such members of the State Committee.

(f) Former Chairs. All former chairs of the State Committee shall automatically be recommended as members of the State Committee entitled to full privileges of committee membership if they are present at committee meetings. No proxies will be accepted from former Chairs.

Section 4.03. Terms of State Committee Members.

Terms of office for members of the State Committee shall commence at the conclusion of the regular State Convention and run two years until the beginning of the next regular State Convention

Section 4.04. Vacancies in State Committee Membership.

All vacancies arising in the membership of the State Committee shall be filled in regular or special meetings by the county committee or auxiliary in which the vacancy occurs.

1 Section 4.05. State Committee Meetings.

2

3 (a) Regular Meetings. The full State Committee shall convene no less than three times per
4 year with meetings held across the state to the greatest degree possible.

5

6 (b) Regional Meetings. Additional meeting(s) of the State Committee may take the form
7 of regional meetings. The initial regions shall be established by the County Committee
8 Review Committee with future districts established following each reapportionment. Such
9 meetings shall be chaired by a party officer or another state committee member from the
10 region named by the Chair. The purpose of such meetings will be to focus on the
11 distinctive issues facing the Democratic Party of Arkansas in the region, to carry out
12 additional training of party leaders, and to provide opportunities for elected officials and
13 party leaders from the region to network.

14

15 (c) Special Meetings. Special meetings of the State Committee shall be called by the Chair
16 at his or her discretion or upon the request of ten percent (10%) of the members.

17

18 (d) Notice. Notice of calls for meetings of the State Committee shall be sent via mail or
19 electronically by the Secretary to each member of the State Committee at least ten (10)
20 days before the dates of the meetings provided that in case of emergency, the Committee
21 may be convened on three (3) days' notice. The news media shall be informed thereof at
22 the time of the calling of each meeting.

23

24 (e) Quorum. A quorum shall be thirty percent (30%) of the existing membership of the
25 State Committee.

26

27 (f) Proxies. Proxy votes shall be permitted at meetings of the State Committee only as
28 follows: (1) no member shall vote the proxy of more than one other member; (2) proxies
29 shall be granted only when printed, dated, signed and filed with the Secretary by the
30 commencement of a meeting; (3) no proxy shall be valid for more than one meeting; (4)
31 the Secretary shall preserve said proxies for no less than one year past the term of the
32 Committee, as part of the records of the State Committee.

33

34 (g) Attendance. A State Committee member elected pursuant to section 4.02(a) who misses
35 three (3) or more meetings of either the State Committee or their County Committee shall
36 be required upon notice to show good cause therefore or may be dismissed from the
37 Committee by its vote. A State Committee member elected or appointed pursuant to
38 sections 4.02(b) or (c) above who misses three (3) or more meetings shall be required upon
39 notice to show good cause therefore or may be dismissed from the Committee by its vote.

40

41 Section 4.06. State Headquarters

42

43 To facilitate the work of the Democratic Organizations and so that Democratic records
44 may be preserved for future reference, the State Committee shall maintain a Democratic

1 State Office with such personnel as the Committee shall, from time to time, deem
2 necessary. The office personnel shall perform such duties as shall be assigned by the State
3 Committee or by the officers thereof. The compensation of personnel shall be prescribed
4 by the Chairman and State Officers with the advice and consent of the Executive
5 Committee.

6
7 Section 4.07. Notice of Grievances.

8
9 Notice of a contest, protest, appeal or grievance to the State Committee shall be in writing
10 and shall be served by mail, proof of mailing supplied by the U.S. Postal Service shall be
11 deemed as date of service or hand delivery to the Chair of the State Committee at the office
12 of the Democratic Party of Arkansas within ten (10) days of the act or omission
13 complained of by the aggrieved person(s). The State Chair shall send a copy of the notice
14 of grievance to the chief officer of the body against/from which the grievance has been
15 taken and to the members of the Executive Committee. Said chief officer may respond in
16 writing to the notice of grievance. The day on which the act or omission occurred shall be
17 counted as the first day in determining the ten (10) day period. Failure to provide timely
18 notice may be grounds for dismissal of the grievance. However, a grievance, otherwise
19 timely made to a County Committee, may not be dismissed as untimely if the County
20 Committee refers the grievance to the State Committee because jurisdiction lies there. The
21 notice shall clearly set forth the facts giving rise to the grievance and shall describe the
22 relief sought. The Chair may require the aggrieved person(s) to elaborate and/or clarify in
23 writing any point raised in the notice.

24
25 Section 4.08. Procedure.

26
27 Unless the State Chair determines that the State Committee does not have jurisdiction, the
28 Chief of the State Committee shall give notice to all Executive Committee members, the
29 aggrieved party and the chief officer of the body against/from which the grievance has
30 been taken of a hearing that shall be held as expeditiously as reasonable but no more than
31 twenty-one (21) days from the date the State Chair received the notice of the grievance,
32 unless otherwise agreed by the aggrieved party and the State Chair. Hearings on grievances
33 concerning elections and election procedures or related matters should be expedited. In the
34 event that the State Chair has determined that the State Committee does not have
35 jurisdiction over a grievance, the State Chair shall refer the grievance to the appropriate
36 County Committee for its consideration, if jurisdiction lies with a County Committee. The
37 State Executive Committee shall, by majority vote of those present and voting, adopt such
38 rules of procedure which are consistent with these Rules and as are necessary to assist in
39 the orderly conduct of the hearing. Any such adopted rules shall be provided to parties
40 involved in the grievance. Thirty percent (30%) of the members of the Executive
41 Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking action on such grievance.
42 The State Executive Committee, after hearing the evidence and affording all parties a full
43 opportunity to be heard, shall deliberate and render judgment in the matter by a majority
44 vote of those present and voting. Voting will be by hand. However at the request of a

1 single member, it shall be by secret ballot. At the request of a party to the proceeding, the
2 Secretary of the State Committee shall provide a letter certifying the action of the
3 Committee.

4

5 Section 4.09. Decision.

6

7 The Executive Committee shall, after hearing all evidence and affording all parties a full
8 opportunity to be heard, deliberate and render judgment in the matter by a majority vote.
9 At the request of a party to the proceeding, the Committee shall issue a written decision. A
10 copy of the Committee's decision shall be furnished to the parties to the proceeding.

11

12 ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

13

14 Section 5.01. Purpose.

15

16 The Executive Committee shall have all the authority and powers of the State Committee
17 between meetings of the State Committee, except as to amendments to these Rules. In
18 addition, the Executive Committee shall be tasked with all aspects of strategic planning for
19 carrying out the successful work of the party including candidate recruitment strategies,
20 fundraising strategies, and strategies related to organizational structure. It shall report on
21 its work to the State Committee at each State Committee meeting.

22

23 Section 5.02. Membership.

24

25 The officers of the Democratic Party of Arkansas, the party leaders in both the State House
26 and State Senate, up to four individuals appointed by the Chair because of their special
27 talents or the diversity they bring to the body, along with two women and two men per
28 congressional district shall serve as the Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of
29 Arkansas.

30

31 Section 5.03. Elections.

32

33 Congressional district representatives on the Executive Committee shall be elected to two-
34 year terms at the first State Committee meeting following a general election. From a slate
35 of candidates established in advance of the meeting, voting for these Executive Committee
36 members shall take place through secret ballot either through paper ballot or electronic
37 device. Each representative to the Executive Committee shall be elected sequentially by
38 plurality vote. More than one county must be represented among the representatives for a
39 given congressional district. No current Democratic Party of Arkansas staff member may
40 be elected as a member of the Executive Committee.

41

42

43

1 Section 5.04. Vacancies.

2

3 After notice to the office holder, a vacancy in the Executive Committee may be declared
4 by the Chair (or Vice Chair if the vacancy is in the office of the Chair) whenever an
5 Executive Committee member is unable to perform his or her duties because of death,
6 resignation, mental or physical incapacity, conviction of a felony, or nonresidency. In the
7 event of a vacancy in a congressional district representative position, the position shall be
8 filled at the next regular or special State Committee meeting.

9

10 Section 5.05. Meetings.

11

12 The Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly upon the call of the Chair. Meetings
13 shall take place in person although telephonic or virtual meetings may take place in
14 emergency situations. While meetings shall be open to State Committee members, the
15 Executive Committee may go into executive session upon proper motion for purposes of
16 discussing personnel issues and other sensitive matters. Although participation in in-person
17 meetings by members via telephone or similar device may occur, those members may
18 neither vote nor participate in executive sessions.

19

20 Section 5.06. Notice.

21

22 Notice of calls for all meetings of the Executive Committee shall be sent via mail or
23 electronically by the Secretary to each member of the State Committee at least ten (10)
24 days before the dates of the meetings provided that in case of emergency, the Committee
25 may be convened on three (3) days notice. The news media shall be informed thereof at
26 the time of the calling of each meeting.

27

28 Section 5.07. Quorum.

29

30 A quorum shall be thirty percent (30%) of the existing membership of the Executive
31 Committee.

32

33 Section 5.08. No Proxies.

34

35 Proxy votes shall not be permitted at meetings of the Executive Committee.

36

37 Section 5.09. Attendance.

38

39 An Executive Committee member who misses three (3) consecutive meetings shall be
40 dismissed from the Committee.

41

42 Section 5.10. Conflicts of Interest.

43

1 A member of the Executive Committee with a financial conflict of interest on a matter
2 before the body shall recuse from any discussions or votes on that matter.

3

4 Section 5.11. Jurisdiction.

5

6 The State Executive Committee shall have original jurisdiction of all contests or protests
7 involving the election and qualifications of members of the Democratic State Committee.
8 The State Executive Committee shall hear and determine appeals of any aggrieved person
9 or persons arising from appeals from a County Committee or arising from other acts or
10 omissions of the Democratic Party or any of its subsidiary bodies, resulting from the
11 application or enforcement of the Rules. When the Democratic Party is not in Convention,
12 the State Executive Committee shall adjudicate disputes arising out of the interpretation or
13 application of the Rules or policies of the Democratic Party of Arkansas. Contests of
14 elections and qualifications shall be determined by Arkansas Code Annotated 7-5-801 et.
15 sec.

16

17 ARTICLE VI – OTHER COMMITTEES

18

19 Section 6.01. Standing Committees.

20

21 The State Committee shall provide for division of its work to be carried on by the
22 following standing committees: the Budget and Audit Committee, the Rules Committee,
23 the Affirmative Action Committee, the County Committee Review Committee, the
24 Committee on Auxiliary Organizations, the Committee on State Convention
25 Arrangements, and the Personnel Committee. Unless otherwise noted, the chairs and
26 membership of the committees shall be appointed by the Chair with approval of the
27 Executive Committee. The chair or his/her designee shall be a non-voting ex officio
28 member of all such committees.

29

30 Section 6.02. Budget and Audit Committee.

31

32 The Budget and Audit Committee shall be responsible for preparing a budget for the
33 operations of Party affairs to be approved by the State Committee; activating an audit for
34 the two-year period ending immediately before the State Convention; and submitting an
35 annual statement of operations to the State Committee. The audit shall be filed with and
36 become a part of the permanent confidential records of the State Committee. The Budget
37 and Audit Committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer.

38

39 Section 6.03. Rules Committee.

40

41 The Rules Committee shall consider suggested changes in these Rules and make
42 recommendations thereupon to the State Committee; if requested by the Chair, shall issue
43 advisory opinions on interpretations of any disputes arising out of these Rules, and perform

1 such other duties as may be assigned to it.

2

3 Section 6.04. Affirmative Action Committee.

4

5 The Affirmative Action Committee shall be responsible for the preparation and
6 implementation of an affirmative action plan in accordance with the Rules of the
7 Democratic National Committee as required to insure that all segments of society are
8 allowed to fully participate in the affairs of the Democratic Party of Arkansas.

9

10 Section 6.05. County Committee Review Committee.

11

12 The Second Vice-Chair for County Committees shall chair this five-person committee. The
13 primary duties and processes of this committee are outlined in Article II. Additionally, this
14 committee also has duties related to the establishment of regional organizations outlined in
15 Article IV.

16

17 Section 6.06. Committee on Auxiliary Organizations.

18

19 This five-person committee, chaired by the Second Vice-Chair for Auxiliaries, shall carry
20 out all oversight over auxiliary organizations as laid out in Article VIII.

21

22 Section 6.07. Personnel Committee.

23

24 This committee shall be advisory to the Chair on key staff hiring decisions and shall also
25 establish and review the Democratic Party of Arkansas's personnel policies.

26

27 Section 6.08. State Convention Arrangements Committee.

28

29 This nine-member committee shall carry out the duties laid out in Article III.

30

31 Section 6.09. Special Committees.

32

33 The Chair, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall have the authority from
34 time to time to name special committees as needed. These committees shall exist only for
35 the limited period of time that their purpose requires. The chair or his/her designee shall be
36 a non-voting ex officio member of all such committees.

37 ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS

38

39 Section 7.01. List of Officers.

40

41 The following individuals shall be officers of the Democratic Party of Arkansas: Chair, a
42 First Vice-Chair (who shall not identify as the same sex as the chair), a Vice-Chair for
43 County Committees, a Vice-Chair for Auxiliaries, a Treasurer, a Secretary, the National

1 Committeeman, and the National Committeewoman. The Chair shall serve as chief
2 spokesperson for the Democratic Party, though s/he may designate others to speak on
3 behalf of the Party. The Chair and First Vice-Chair shall coordinate in the candidate
4 recruitment and fundraising work of the Democratic Party. All other officers should carry
5 out their duties outlined elsewhere in these Rules.

6
7 Section 7.02. Term.

8
9 All officers shall serve four year terms.

10
11 Section 7.03. Elections.

12
13 The positions of National Committeeman and National Committeewoman shall be elected
14 at the first State Committee meeting following a presidential election. All other officers
15 shall be elected at the first State Committee meeting following a gubernatorial election. If
16 either the Chair and/or the Secretary has opposition in his or her election, a Temporary
17 Chair and/or Temporary Secretary shall be elected at the beginning of the election process
18 to carry out duties related to those offices during the election process. Voting shall take
19 place through secret ballot either through paper ballot or electronic device.

20
21 Section 7.04. Duties.

22
23 Other than the election of officers, the following procedures shall be followed:

24
25 (a) The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the State Committee and the Executive
26 Committee and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the State Committee are carried
27 into effect.

28 (b) The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the State Committee and
29 Executive Committee and in general perform all of the duties incident to this office.

30 (c) The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds and securities of the DPA. The
31 Treasurer is responsible for overseeing the management and reporting of the Democratic
32 Party of Arkansas' finances and other assets. The Treasurer shall ensure that effective
33 financial procedures are in place that follow generally accepted accounting procedures.
34 These procedures shall include generally accepted checks and balances for control and
35 oversight of the DPA's funds and other assets. The Treasurer shall have a thorough
36 knowledge and understanding of financial accounting procedures and policies of the DPA's
37 State and Federal financial reporting requirements and ensure their timely filing. The
38 Treasurer shall ensure the preparation of a detailed quarterly financial report. This report
39 shall include a balance sheet and income and expenses statement. Ten (10) calendar days
40 after the end of each quarter the Treasurer shall submit the quarterly financial reports to the
41 State Committee.

42 (d) The Chair and Treasurer shall authorize all documents that create indebtedness for
43 the party.

44

1 Section 7.05. Vacancies

2

3 (a) After notice to the officeholder, a vacancy may be declared by the Chair (or Vice
4 Chair if the vacancy is in the office of the Chair) whenever an officer is unable to perform
5 the assigned duties because of death, resignation, mental or physical incapacity, conviction
6 of a felony, removal from office, or nonresidency status.

7 (b) After notice to the officeholder, an officer shall be suspended during the pendency
8 of a felony charge, during which time the duties of such officer shall be performed by an
9 interim officer appointed by the Executive Committee.

10 (c) In the absence or disability of the Chair, the First Vice Chair shall exercise all of
11 his or her functions. In the event neither the Chair nor the First Vice Chair can serve, the
12 Vice Chair for County Committees shall exercise the functions of the Chair.

13 (d) In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall call a
14 meeting of the State Committee within sixty (60) days after the office of Chair is vacated
15 for the purpose of electing a new Chair. A new Chair will be elected by a majority vote of
16 a quorum of the State Committee called for the purpose of such election.

17 (e) Until the next meeting of the State Committee when it will be filled by a majority
18 vote of a quorum of the State Committee, a vacancy in any other office may be filled on an
19 interim basis by the Executive Committee.

20

21 Section 7.06. National Committee Members.

22

23 The Arkansas members of the Democratic National Committee shall be elected in the year
24 following each presidential year by the State Committee. The persons so elected shall
25 qualify by filing with the Secretary of the State Committee within ten (10) days after
26 election a Candidate Eligibility Application, in form hereafter prescribed, and having so
27 qualified shall assume office immediately following the Democratic National Convention,
28 to serve until the adjournment of the Democratic National Convention following the next
29 presidential election or as provided by the Rules of the Democratic National Committee.
30 The members so selected shall be from different Congressional Districts.

31

32 Section 7.07. Removal from Office.

33

34 A party officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of all State Committee
35 members in attendance at a properly called regular or special meeting of the State
36 Committee.

37

38 Section 7.08. Officer Loyalty.

39

40 Public expressions of support, including campaign contributions, for any Republican
41 candidate in Arkansas or any other state or for any candidate opposing a nominee of the
42 Democratic Party of Arkansas shall be the basis for removal from office of any officer.

43

1 Section 7.09. Legal Counsel.

2

3 With the consent of the Executive Committee, the Chair shall retain legal counsel to advise
4 and represent the Democratic Party of Arkansas.

5

6 ARTICLE VIII – AUXILIARIES

7

8 Section 8.01. Purpose.

9

10 Auxiliary organizations of the DPA are hereby established and recognized to promote the
11 Party’s principles, platforms, and nominees and to increase representation, participation,
12 and leadership development among historically underrepresented communities within the
13 Party.

14

15 Section 8.02. Use of Party Name.

16

17 Outside of the Democratic Party of Arkansas, Democratic candidates, legislative caucuses,
18 affiliated campaign committees, or duly certified county committees, no person, group of
19 persons, committee, or organization may use the words “Democrat,” “Democrats,” or
20 “Democratic” in their name, or purport to represent the Democratic Party of Arkansas in
21 any capacity, unless they have been duly chartered by the procedures established in this
22 article.

23

24 Section 8.03. Charter Issuance.

25

26 (a) A group wishing to establish an auxiliary shall submit a Statement of Intent to the
27 Committee on Auxiliary Organizations and shall have six months to complete the
28 application process in collaboration with the Vice Chair for Auxiliaries (the Vice Chair
29 shall have the power to extend the deadline for 90 days if progress is being made towards a
30 complete application). Charters shall be issued by vote of the Executive Committee upon
31 recommendation from the Committee on Auxiliary Organizations once the criteria
32 established below have been met.

33

34 (b) Charter applications shall require information pertaining to the official name of the
35 auxiliary, contact information for auxiliary officers, a full and current membership roster, a
36 full and complete copy of the auxiliary’s governing documents, and the minutes of the
37 auxiliary’s organizing meeting (or most recent convention).

38

39 (c) In order to be eligible for a charter, auxiliary organizations shall:

40

41 (1) represent a discrete community of interest within the Party that is not
42 geographically defined;

43

44 (2) have at least twenty-five (25) members, including at least five (5) from each
congressional district;

- 1 (3) have held an organizing meeting at which officers were selected;
- 2 (4) adopt draft governing documents (including a mission statement and bylaws)
- 3 which do not conflict with these rules, describing auxiliary membership eligibility and (if
- 4 appropriate) chapter chartering procedure, as well as the date, place, and procedure of the
- 5 auxiliary Convention.

6
7 (d) Auxiliary bylaws must bar officers of the auxiliary from public support, including
8 campaign contributions, for candidates opposing Democratic Party nominees on the
9 Arkansas state ballot.

10
11 (e) Adopt a mission for the charter as well as a strategic plan for promoting the electoral
12 goals of the Democratic Party of Arkansas.

13
14 Section 8.04. Annual Reporting.

- 15
16 (a) On an annual basis, each chartered auxiliary shall provide the following to the
- 17 Committee on Auxiliary Organizations:
 - 18 (1) The governing documents for the auxiliary;
 - 19 (2) The minutes of the most recent Convention of the auxiliary;
 - 20 (3) The list of officers of the auxiliary;
 - 21 (4) A strategic plan for the coming year that includes the auxiliary’s distinctive
 - 22 strategy of active support for Democrats candidates running for office and
 - 23 community outreach to promote the Democratic Party of Arkansas.

- 24
25 (b) On a quarterly basis, each chartered auxiliary shall provide the following to the
- 26 Committee on Auxiliary Organizations:
 - 27 (1) A roster of members of the auxiliary, numbering at least 20 and with
 - 28 membership from each of the state’s congressional districts;
 - 29 (2) A financial report presenting the deposits and expenditures on behalf of the
 - 30 auxiliary in the previous year.

31 Section 8.05. Local Chapters.

32
33 Auxiliary organizations shall be composed of their duly chartered chapters, the members
34 thereof, and at-large members if provided for in their governing documents.

35
36 Section 8.06. Charter Revocation.

- 37
38 (a) Auxiliary organization charters may be revoked for inactivity or non-compliance
- 39 with these rules.
- 40 (b) Revocation of a charter may proceed through the following process:
 - 41 1. After efforts to work with the auxiliary by the Second Vice-Chair for Auxiliary
 - 42 Organizations, a revocation of an auxiliary organization charter may be
 - 43 considered at a meeting of the Committee on Auxiliary Organizations.

- 1 2. All elected officers of an auxiliary organization whose charter is to be
2 considered for revocation shall be notified not fewer than 15 (15) days prior to
3 the relevant meeting.
4 3. Said notice shall include the cause for revocation, and the date, time, and
5 location of the meeting.
6 (c) Final revocation of an auxiliary charter may only occur through an action of the
7 Executive Committee at a regular or special meeting. All elected officers of an
8 auxiliary organization whose charter is to be considered for revocation shall be
9 notified not fewer than fifteen (15) days prior to the relevant meeting. Said notice
10 shall include the cause for revocation, and the date, time, and location of the
11 meeting.

12 ARTICLE IX – SELECTION OF PARTY NOMINEES

13

14 Section 9.01. Notice of Primary Election.

15

16 On or before ninety (90) days prior to the first biennial primary election, either the State
17 Committee or the Executive Committee shall meet for the purpose of calling such elections
18 and establishing filing fees in accordance with state law and Democratic National
19 Committee rules.

20

21 Section 9.02. Certification of Nominees.

22

23 In accordance with deadlines found in state law, following the general primary election,
24 either the State Committee or the Executive Committee shall meet for the purpose of
25 declaring as nominees of the Democratic Party of Arkansas those candidates for the
26 Democratic nomination for United States Senator, Congressman and State and District
27 Offices who were unopposed in the primaries and those who have received a majority of
28 the votes in the primary elections as shown by the report of the State Committee from the
29 returns sent by the various County Committees. The Chairman and Secretary of the State
30 Party shall certify such nominations and the Secretary of the State Party shall be charged
31 with the responsibility of filing the certificates of nomination of all nominees so declared
32 and certified, with the Secretary of State, within the time required by law.

33

34 Section 9.03. Announcement of Ballot Access Requirements.

35

36 The County Committee shall convene in an open public meeting to be held no later than
37 thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the filing period to conduct the following business:
38 (1) fix and announce the ballot access requirements (fees/petitions) to be assessed against
39 the candidates in such elections, and (2) fix and announce the apportionment by township,
40 ward, precinct, district, or some other political subdivision of Committee members to
41 constitute the next County Committee. Ten (10) days written notice of the time and place
42 of such meeting shall be given each member of the committee by the Chair, Vice Chair, or
43 Secretary.

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Section 9.04. Ballot Access Fees.

During the period prescribed by law, before the preferential primary election, candidates for the following nominations shall be charged and shall pay to the Secretary of the State Committee assessments as prescribed by the State Committee:

- President of the United States
- United States Senator
- United States Representative
- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- State Treasurer
- State Auditor
- Secretary of State
- State Land Commissioner
- State Representative
- State Senator

No other assessments shall be charged such candidates for placing their names on the ballot in each county.

Section 9.05. Ballot Access Fee Alternatives.

Through policy created by the State Committee, and each County Committee must allow all candidates for any office in a Democratic Primary Election shall have access to a non-monetary method to appear on the ballot as an alternate to paying ballot access fees.

Section 9.06. Candidate Eligibility Application.

(a) Each candidate for nomination in the Democratic Primary shall file a Candidate Eligibility Application with the appropriate Party committee. The application shall read as follows:

As a candidate in the Democratic Primary Elections to be held on _____ day of _____, 20____, I agree to abide by the results of said Primary Elections and support the Principles of the Democratic Party. I am eligible and legally qualified to file for this office under Arkansas law. This _____ day of _____, 20____.

Signature _____

(b) Each County, State and National Committee member and each Party official shall file a Candidate of Eligibility Application with the appropriate Party committee. The application shall read as follows:

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5
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As a member/officer in the _____ Democratic Committee, I agree to abide by the results of all Democratic Primary Elections and to support the principles of the Democratic Party. I am eligible and legally qualified to file for this office under Arkansas law and Party rules. This _____ day of _____, 20__.

Signature _____

(c) No Person having resigned from public office as a provision to a plea agreement to avoid felony prosecution shall be certified by the Democratic Party of Arkansas to be a candidate and/or its nominee.

Section 9.07. Time for Filing Candidate Eligibility Application.

All candidates for nomination for United State Senator, Representative in Congress, and State and District office shall file the prescribed application with the Secretary of the State Committee, and all candidates for County, Township, and Municipal offices (including candidates for County Committee members) shall file the prescribed application with the Secretary of the County Committee during the period prescribed by law for qualifying as a candidate in the primary elections.

Section 9.08. Filing as a Candidate in Primary of Another Party Prohibited.

One who has filed as a candidate for nomination in the primary election of another party or has filed a notice of intent to run as an independent may not be a candidate in the Democratic primaries to be held contemporaneously therewith, and any assessment paid by any such person, regardless of whether he/she shall have filed in the Democratic primary before or after his/her filing in the primary of another party, shall be forfeited.

Section 9.09. Resignation of Candidacy.

A candidate who wishes to resign his candidacy shall, prior to the certification of the ballot for the preferential primary or subsequent to the preferential primary but prior to the certification of the ballot for the general primary election, file written legal notice thereof in the offices of the Secretary of the Party committee with which he filed his Candidate Eligibility Application. That committee shall then immediately notify the county or state Board of Election Commissioners, which ever the case may be, of the name of the person and his or her name shall not be printed on the preferential primary ballot or the general primary ballot, as the case may be. In no event shall any Party committee be required to refund a ballot access fee to a candidate who resigns.

Section 9.10. Vacancies in Candidacies.

1 (a) When any unopposed candidate for any office in a Democratic primary election shall,
2 after the time for filing has expired, die or resign his candidacy, the State Committee, if the
3 office be that of United States Senator, Congressman, or a State District office or the
4 County Committee, if the office be a county, township, or municipal office, may, upon
5 ascertaining such vacancy, and provided same does not occur later than thirty (30) days
6 prior to the preferential primary election, permit other candidates to qualify, at such time
7 and in such manner as the appropriate committee may determine and upon such notice as
8 such committee may determine and upon such notice as such be deemed to have regularly
9 qualified as a candidate thereof.

10
11 (b) A vacancy in nomination shall occur if nomination to an office is to be determined by a
12 general primary (runoff) election and there is a tie vote between candidates receiving the
13 second highest number of votes in the preferential primary election. Such a vacancy in
14 candidacy for the Runoff Primary shall be filled by a convention of delegates to be
15 convened as soon as reasonably possible by the temporary chair designated by the State
16 Chair. In the case of a United States Senator or a State Office, the State Committee shall
17 select the runner-up candidate for the Runoff Primary. In the case of a Congressional or
18 district office, the members of the State Committee from that district shall select the
19 runner-up candidate for the Run-off Primary. In the case of a county, township or
20 municipal office, the county committee shall select the runner-up candidate for the Runoff
21 Primary.

22
23 Section 9.11. Committee and Officer Endorsement Prohibited.

24
25 The State Committee, its Auxiliaries or any County Committee and its Auxiliaries shall not
26 endorse the candidacy of any person seeking the nomination of the Party in a race where
27 more than one candidate has announced in a primary election. As an individual, State,
28 Auxiliary or County officers may support the candidacy of a person seeking the
29 nomination of the Party in a primary election; however, a State or County officer shall not
30 use his or her office to support the candidacy of any person seeking the nomination of the
31 Party in a primary election. Any contributor lists compiled by the Party shall be for Party
32 use only and shall not be released to any candidate for use during the Primaries.

33
34 Section 9.12. Prohibition of Party Staff Working on Behalf of Candidates for Public
35 Office.

36
37 It is essential that all Arkansas Democrats have faith in the loyalty and integrity of their
38 paid staff. Accordingly, the staff of the Democratic Party of Arkansas is expressly
39 prohibited from working on behalf of any candidate seeking election for a party office or
40 for public office in a Democratic Party primary in Arkansas. This prohibition extends to
41 both working and non-working hours. However, staff may provide trainings to candidates
42 on an equal basis during a contested primary.

43 Further, all candidates for election for public office in a Democratic Party primary in
44 Arkansas are expressly prohibited from using the Party Headquarters and/or equipment to

1 benefit his or her campaign. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, postage
2 machines, telephones, folding machines, copiers, facsimile machines, and electronic
3 equipment.

4 ARTICLE X – VACANCIES

5

6 Section 10.01. Vacancy in Office.

7

8 In the event of a vacancy in office, and if a special general election shall have been called,
9 or the Governor shall have indicated that one will be called to fill such vacancy, the State
10 Committee, if the special general election is to elect a Congressman, or a state or district
11 official, shall call a special primary election to nominate a candidate, unless it finds that the
12 holding of a special primary election is impractical by reasons of limitations of time,
13 expense, or any other cause, in which event the State Committee shall call a convention to
14 select the Party’s nominee, subject to the laws of the State of Arkansas. If the nominee is to
15 be chosen by convention, a state convention shall be called to select a nominee for a state
16 office; a congressional district convention shall be called to select a nominee for Members
17 of Congress; and a district convention shall be called to select a nominee for a district
18 office.

19

20 Section 10.02. Vacancy in Nomination.

21

22 (a) If a vacancy occurs in a nomination because of death, resignation, tie vote,
23 disqualification, or for any other cause, a nominee to fill such vacancy in nomination shall
24 be selected by a convention of delegates. In the case of United State Senator or a state
25 office, the State Committee shall call a state convention to select the nominee, unless the
26 vacancy occurs prior to the adjournment of the biennial State Convention, in which event
27 the biennial State Convention shall select the nominee. In the case of a congressman, the
28 State Committee shall call a congressional convention, unless the vacancy occurs prior to
29 adjournment of the biennial State Convention, in which event the delegates to said
30 convention from the appropriate Congressional District shall caucus as a congressional
31 convention at the close of said convention to select said nominee. In the case of a district
32 office, the State Committee shall call a district convention. In the case of a county office,
33 the County Committee shall convene as a County Convention to select the nominee. In the
34 case of township or municipal office, the County Committee shall convene as a County
35 Convention to select the nominee.

36

37 (b) If, within fifteen (15) days of the occurrence of the vacancy in nomination for a district,
38 county, township, or municipal office, all County Committee(s) affected have approved the
39 holding of a special primary and certified that approval to the Secretary of the State
40 Committee, no convention shall be held to fill the vacancy. Such special primary shall be
41 called, if for a district office, by the State Committee, otherwise by the County Committee,
42 and shall be held in accordance with the call for the special primary, if said election would

1 be held at least sixty (60) days prior to the general election.

2

3 Section 10.03. Vacancies – Time and Place for Nominating Conventions.

4

5 Conventions to select nominees for vacancies in office or for vacancies in nomination shall
6 be held at the time and place stated in the call, of which notice, reasonable under the
7 circumstances, shall have been given.

8

9 Section 10.04. Delegates to Convention to Select Nominees.

10

11 (a) The delegates to a State Convention to select the nominee to fill a vacancy in the
12 nomination for or in the office of United States Senator or any state office shall be the
13 delegates to the most recent State Convention, and the officers who served at such
14 convention shall be the officers of the called convention.

15

16 (b) The delegates to a congressional district convention to select the nominee in a special
17 election to fill a vacancy in the office of Representative in the Congress of the United
18 States, shall be the delegates to the most recent State Convention from the county or
19 counties comprising the congressional district. The State Chair shall call Congressional
20 Conventions and appoint a temporary chair thereof.

21

22 (c) The delegates to a district convention shall be selected at a special meeting of the
23 County Committee in the counties contained within the district, each committee to select
24 one (1) delegate for each 400 votes or major fraction thereof, cast within the portion of the
25 county contained within the district for Democratic nominee for Governor in the last
26 preceding General Election, provided, each delegate shall be a resident of the district. The
27 State Chair shall call district conventions and appoint a Temporary Chair thereof.

28

29 (d) Vacancies in the delegation of a county selected for attendance at the most recent State
30 Convention shall be filled by the County Committee, and the names of those persons
31 selected to fill such vacancies in the delegation shall be certified to the Secretary of the
32 State Committee by the Secretary of the County Committee immediately.

33

34 (e) The Chair and Secretary of the convention shall immediately certify the nomination
35 made by the convention, and the Secretary of the Committee calling such convention shall
36 file the certificate of nominations with the proper officials.

37

38 Section 10.05. Special Primary Election Rules.

39

40 Whenever a special primary election shall be called, the committee calling it shall establish
41 such special rules as necessary, e.g. filing period dates, ballot access fees, primary and run-
42 off election dates, and related matters applicable to said primary election.

43

1 Section 10.06. Cancellation of Special Primary Election.

2

3 In the event special primary elections shall be called and only one candidate qualifies
4 within the time specified, the Chair and Secretary of the Committee calling such elections
5 shall, by proclamation, cancel the holding thereof, and the committees, acting as a
6 convention, shall certify as the nominee of the Party the name of the unopposed candidate.
7 The secretary of the proper committee shall be charged with the responsibility of filing the
8 certificate of nomination with the proper authority.

9

10 ARTICLE XI – PROCEDURE AND AMENDMENT

11

12 Section 11.01. Parliamentary Procedure.

13

14 These Rules shall govern the proceedings of all Democratic meetings. Where these Rules
15 do not speak or there is no provision or established custom, Robert’s Rules of Order
16 Revised shall govern.

17

18 Section 11.02. Penalty for Violation of Rules by Committees.

19

20 Should any Party organization, by order, rule, regulation, or in any other manner attempt to
21 alter or set aside the rules herein prescribed, any such action shall be null and void and
22 shall not be entitled to recognition by any Democratic voter or by the Democratic Party of
23 Arkansas. Furthermore, upon majority vote of the State Committee or its Executive
24 Committee, the State Committee voting privileges of the members of a Party organization
25 that refuses to comply with the Rules herein or the directives of the State Committee may
26 be suspended.

27

28 Section 11.03. Amendment of These Rules.

29

30 (a) These Rules constitute the official Rules of the Democratic Party of Arkansas. These
31 Rules may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of State Committee members present and
32 voting, provided that the Secretary of the State Committee shall include a summary of any
33 proposed amendment in the notice of the meeting at which it is to be voted on, and no
34 amendment shall be voted on without such notice. Any proposed revisions to the Rules
35 shall be presented to the Rules Committee for its consideration.

36

37 (b) Rules governing selection of delegates to Democratic National Convention may be
38 enacted by a majority vote the membership of the State Committee.