



Rules of the

Democratic

Party of

Arkansas

As adopted on Saturday, July 29, 2023

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1 PREAMBLE

2

3 The Democratic Party of Arkansas holds to these principles:

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

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

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

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

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

22

23 ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

24

25 Section 1.01. Democratic Party Open to All.

26

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

30

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

36

37 (c) The time and place for all meetings of the Democratic Party shall be publicized fully
38 and in such a matter as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings
39 shall be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate
40 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.

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.

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.

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.

28 ARTICLE II - COUNTY COMMITTEES

29

30 Section 2.01. General Provisions.

31

32 (a) Name & Affiliation. County Committees are affiliates of the Democratic Party of
33 Arkansas and shall be called the “Democratic Party of [Name of County] County.”
34 To use the name of the Democratic Party in the State of Arkansas and solicit funds
35 in the name of the Democratic Party, a County Committee must be certified by the
36 Democratic Party of Arkansas as outlined in this Article.

37

38 (b) Purpose. County Committee responsibilities include actively recruiting qualified
39 Democratic candidates, supporting Democrats running for office, promoting the
40 Democratic Party in the county, establishing voter protection plans in the county,
41 maintaining sufficient funds to conduct party activities, and getting Democrats out
42 to vote.

1 (c) Bylaws. County Committees may adopt bylaws as deemed necessary for their
2 effective functioning and which are not in conflict with these Rules. County
3 Committee bylaws must include a provision that County Committee officers must
4 avoid public expressions of support, including campaign contributions, for
5 candidates opposing Democratic nominees.
6

7 (d) Finances. All County Committees shall register with the Secretary of State, file
8 quarterly reports with the Secretary of State, annually renew their registration with
9 the Secretary of State, and follow all state laws and rules for county political party
10 committees.

11 Section 2.02. Membership.

12 (a) Requirements. Each County Committee shall have at least twenty (20) members.
13 There shall be no limit to the number of County Committee members. No tests for
14 membership nor membership fees may be required by a County Committee.
15

16 (b) Eligibility. The County Committee shall be composed of members registered to
17 vote in the county who file to join the County Committee during the party filing
18 period established by state law. The County Committee shall also extend
19 membership to any eligible county resident at least fourteen years of age seeking
20 membership at any time outside the filing period.
21

22 (c) Term. County Committee members shall take office at the commencement of the
23 biennial County Convention and serve until the next biennial County Convention is
24 convened. Aside from votes taken at the County Convention, County Committee
25 bylaws may establish a probationary period of not more than thirty (30) days before
26 new members are eligible to participate in votes taken by the County Committee.
27

28 (d) Attendance. A County Committee member who misses three (3) or more
29 consecutive County Committee meetings shall be required upon notice to show
30 good cause or may be dismissed from the County Committee by its vote.
31

32 Section 2.03. Officers.

33
34 (a) Defined. County Committees shall elect a Chair, a Vice Chair who shall not
35 identify as the same gender as the Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. County
36 election commissioner elections shall take place following the election of the other
37 County Committee officers. No office shall be combined or held by more than one
38 person at a time. Other officers may be elected or appointed as provided in the
39 County Committee's bylaws.
40

- 1 (b) Election. County Committees shall convene in January following a General
2 Election for the purpose of electing officers. Upon their election, County
3 Committee officers shall follow state party policies on ethics and finance training.
4
- 5 (c) Terms. County Committee officers shall be elected to serve for two (2) years or
6 until their successors are elected. Their term of office shall begin at the close of the
7 meeting at which they are elected. Vacancies in office may be filled at any regular
8 or special meeting of the County Committee.
9
- 10 (d) Notification. County Chairs shall notify the State Chair in writing within ten (10)
11 days of their election. Within ten (10) days of the date of the election of an Election
12 Commissioner, the Chair or the Secretary of the County Committee shall notify the
13 county clerk in writing the names and addresses of those selected to serve on the
14 county board of election commissioners in accordance with state law.
15

16 Section 2.04. Meetings.
17

- 18 (a) Requirements. County Committees shall meet at least four (4) times in odd-
19 numbered years and at least six (6) times in even-numbered years. County
20 Committees shall record the minutes of each meeting, which the County Review
21 Committee may inspect upon request.
22
- 23 (b) Notice. The County Committee shall meet at the call of the Chair at such time and
24 place as is designated in the call. The Secretary shall distribute written notice of
25 meetings to each member of the County Committee at least five (5) days prior to
26 the meeting, provided that in case of an emergency, the County Committee may be
27 convened on two (2) days' notice.
28
- 29 (c) Quorum. The attendance of twenty percent (20%) of County Committee members
30 constitutes a quorum.
31
- 32 (d) Proxies. Proxy voting may be permitted at meetings of the County Committee only
33 as provided in the County Committee's bylaws. If proxy voting is allowed:
34 (1) no member shall vote the proxy of more than one other member;
35 (2) proxies shall be granted only when dated, signed, and filed with the Secretary
36 by the commencement of a meeting;
37 (3) no proxy shall be valid for more than one meeting;
38 (4) the Secretary shall preserve proxies for at least one (1) year.
39
- 40 (e) Special Meetings. Special meetings of the County Committee may be called by the
41 Chair or upon the written request of one-fifth (1/5) of County Committee members.
42
43
44

1 Section 2.05. County Conventions.
2

- 3 (a) Purpose. Biennial County Conventions shall be held for the purpose of confirming
4 delegates to the State Convention, electing county representatives to the State
5 Committee as apportioned in Article IV, and for any other such purpose as may be
6 required by state law or party rules.
7
- 8 (b) Time & Place. Not later than thirty (30) days following the date established by state
9 law for primary runoff elections, County Committees shall hold their County
10 Convention. The Secretary shall distribute written notice to all County Committee
11 members, all Democratic candidates, and local news media at least two (2) weeks
12 prior to the County Convention.
13
- 14 (c) Delegates. The delegates to the County Convention shall be all County Committee
15 members. All members of the County Committee at the time of the County
16 Convention shall be eligible to attend the State Convention as a voting delegate.
17
- 18 (d) Organization. The County Convention shall be called to order by the Chair of the
19 County Committee. If the Chair or Vice Chair of the County Committee is not
20 present or is present and refuses to act, then any delegate to the County Convention
21 may serve as Temporary Chair.
22

23 Section 2.06 Reporting.
24

- 25 (a) Deadlines. At its first meeting following a General Election, the County Review
26 Committee shall establish and distribute to all County Committee officers the
27 quarterly deadlines for submitting reports for the biennium.
28
- 29 (b) Quarterly Reports. Within fifteen (15) days of the end of each calendar quarter or
30 on another date established by the County Review Committee, County Committees
31 shall file a quarterly report with the County Review Committee, including the
32 following information:
33 (1) Membership. A complete roster containing the full name, voting address,
34 mailing address, email address, and phone number of each County Committee
35 member.
36 (2) Finances. A copy of the county political party committee quarterly reporting
37 form as submitted to the Secretary of State.
38 (3) Meetings. The dates of each County Committee meeting held since the filing of
39 the previous report.
40
- 41 (c) Annual Reports. Within ten (10) days of their first meeting in each calendar year,
42 and not later than February 15, County Committees shall file an annual report with
43 the County Review Committee, including the following information:

- 1 (1) Officers. The title, date of election, full name, voting address, mailing address,
2 email address, and phone number of each County Committee officer and State
3 Committee member.
- 4 (2) Bylaws. An up-to-date copy of the County Committee’s bylaws or, if a County
5 Committee has not adopted bylaws, a statement to that effect.
- 6 (3) Elected Officials. The position, full name, voting address, mailing address,
7 email address, and phone number of each Democratic elected official in the
8 county.
- 9 (4) Registration. A copy of a county political party committee registration form
10 which has been properly filed with the Secretary of State;
11
- 12 (d) Other Reports. The County Review Committee may require additional reports or
13 information to be submitted with quarterly reports, including but not limited to:
- 14 (1) Candidate filing report. Within seven (7) days of the end of the party filing
15 period established by state law, County Committees shall file a report including
16 their established filing fees and the full name, voting address, mailing address,
17 email address, and phone number of each candidate who has filed as a
18 Democrat.
- 19 (2) Convention certification. Within seven (7) days of the County Convention, the
20 Chair and Secretary of the County Convention shall certify the names of the
21 county’s State Committee representatives and State Convention delegates.
22

23 Section 2.07 County Review Committee.
24

- 25 (a) Review. The County Review Committee is responsible for ensuring compliance
26 with the reporting process, developing required reporting forms, and facilitating the
27 training of County Committee officers about the certification process. Upon
28 reviewing reports, the County Review Committee shall categorize County
29 Committees as follows:
- 30 (1) Compliant: the County Committee has submitted all reports and complies with
31 the requirements of these Rules, state law, and the County Review Committee.
- 32 (2) Conditionally Compliant: the County Committee has minor deficiencies but
33 complies generally with the substance of these Rules, state law, and the County
34 Review Committee’s requirements and has agreed to a plan to reach full
35 compliance.
- 36 (3) Non-compliant: the County Committee is deficient in some material respect and
37 therefore does not meet the requirements of these Rules, state law, or the
38 County Review Committee. The State Committee representatives from a non-
39 compliant County Committee may be suspended and access to Party services
40 may be restricted. Upon notification by certified mail, a non-compliant County
41 Committee shall have thirty (30) days to schedule a consultation with the
42 County Review Committee to identify the actions necessary to maintain their
43 certification.
44

- 1 (b) Certification. Certified County Committees maintain their certification by
2 submitting the regular reports outlined in this Article. In a county where no County
3 Committee is certified, a new certification may be issued by the County Review
4 Committee upon the submission of:
- 5 (1) A complete roster containing the full name, voting address, mailing address,
6 email address, and phone number of twenty (20) County Committee members;
 - 7 (2) The title, date of election, full name, voting address, mailing address, email
8 address, and phone number of each County Committee officer and State
9 Committee representative;
 - 10 (3) An up-to-date copy of the County Committee's bylaws or, if the County
11 Committee has not adopted bylaws, a statement to that effect;
 - 12 (4) A copy of a county political party committee registration form which has been
13 properly filed with the Secretary of State; and
 - 14 (5) Minutes from an organizing meeting of the County Committee proving the
15 proper election of officers and State Committee members and the adoption of
16 bylaws, if relevant.
- 17
- 18 (c) Decertification. The County Review Committee may recommend to the Executive
19 Committee that a non-compliant County Committee which fails to schedule a
20 consultation or achieve meaningful progress toward compliance be decertified. The
21 Executive Committee, after verifying the County Review Committee's
22 recommendation, may vote to decertify the County Committee. Upon
23 decertification, the officers of the Democratic Party of Arkansas shall:
- 24 (1) Notify County Committee officers of decertification and their removal from
25 their positions by certified mail;
 - 26 (2) Freeze or transfer to the Democratic Party of Arkansas all assets of the County
27 Committee, including accounts, funds, records, and property;
 - 28 (3) Dissolve the County Committee; and
 - 29 (4) Appoint an Interim Chair to reconstitute and certify a new County Committee.
- 30

31 Section 2.08. Grievances.
32

- 33 (a) Jurisdiction. County Committees shall have original jurisdiction of contests or protests
34 involving actions of respective county committees.
35
- 36 (b) Complaint. Notice of a contest, protest, appeal or grievance shall be in writing and shall
37 be served by mail, proof of mailing supplied by the U.S. Postal Service shall be deemed as
38 date of service, or hand delivered to the Chair of the County Committee within ten (10)
39 days of the act or omission complained of by the aggrieved person(s). The day on which
40 the act or omission occurred shall be counted as the first day in determining the ten (10)
41 day period. Failure to provide timely notice may be grounds for dismissal of the grievance.
42 However, a grievance, otherwise timely made to the State Committee may not be
43 dismissed as untimely if the State Committee or Chair refers the grievance to a County
44 Committee because jurisdiction lies there. The notice shall clearly set forth the facts giving

1 rise to the grievance and shall describe the relief sought. The Chair may require the
2 aggrieved person(s) to elaborate and/or clarify in writing any point raised in the notice.
3

4 (c) Hearing. The County Chair shall give notice to all committee members and the
5 aggrieved party of a hearing that shall be held as soon as reasonable but no more than
6 twenty-one (21) days from the date the County Chair received the notice of the grievance,
7 unless otherwise agreed by the aggrieved party and the County Chair. The County
8 Committee shall, by majority vote of those present and voting, adopt such rules of
9 procedure which are consistent with these Rules and as are necessary to assist in the
10 orderly conduct of the hearing.
11

12 (d) Judgement. The County Committee, after learning the evidence and affording all
13 parties a full opportunity to be heard, shall deliberate and render judgment in the matter by
14 a majority vote of those present and voting. At the request of the party to the proceeding,
15 the Secretary of the County Committee shall provide a letter certifying the action of the
16 committee. Nothing in this section limits a party's right to file a new grievance under the
17 provisions of Article IV.

18 ARTICLE III – STATE CONVENTION 19

20 Section 3.01. Time and Meeting of State Convention. 21

22 A State Convention shall be held within a reasonable time after the general primary, i.e.
23 runoff, election, but in no event later than forty-five (45) days prior to the general election,
24 at a time and place to be fixed by the State Committee. The State Convention shall be
25 composed of the delegates chosen by the various county conventions, as herein provided in
26 Article II.
27

28 Section 3.02. State Convention Arrangements Committee. 29

30 (a) A standing State Convention Arrangements Committee, comprised of nine (9) persons
31 appointed by the Chair of the State Committee, shall plan the convention.
32

33 (b) The temporary officers of the convention shall be chosen by the Arrangements
34 Committee at a meeting to be held at least ten days prior to the State Convention. The
35 Arrangements Committee also shall establish the order of Business of the Convention.
36

37 (c) No later than three months before the Convention, the Arrangements Committee shall
38 appoint from the members of county committees the Credentials, the Convention Rules,
39 and the Platform and Resolutions Committees, consisting of at least nine (9) members
40 each, one of whom shall be Chair thereof.
41

42 1) The committee of Credentials shall prepare a list of delegates entitled to participate in
43 the preliminary organization of the State Convention, according to the certificates from the

1 several County Conventions forwarded to the Secretary of the Party. The Credentials
2 Committee shall not include in its list of prepared delegates any delegate who was not
3 properly chosen.

4
5 2) The committee on Convention Rules shall recommend permanent rules governing the
6 Convention and recommend revisions in the Rules of the Party.

7
8 3) The committee on Platform and Resolutions shall write and recommend to the
9 convention a Party platform for the November General Election. The draft platform shall
10 be made available in electronic or written form no later than 30 days before the state
11 convention.

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

20 Section 3.03. State Convention Officers.

21
22 On the date and at the hour fixed, the convention shall be called to order by the Chair of
23 the State Committee, who shall announce the temporary officers of the convention,
24 including Chair, Secretary, parliamentarian, and such other officers as shall have been
25 designated.

27 Section 3.04. State Convention Duties.

28
29 The duties of the State Convention shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

30
31 The delegates shall convene at the State Convention for the purpose of receiving,
32 canvassing, and declaring the election results for United States, State and District offices
33 and shall declare as the nominees those candidates who were unopposed or who received
34 the majority of votes for each respective office, fill any vacancy in nomination as
35 authorized by law and shall furnish to each successful nominee a certificate of nomination.

36
37 Section 3.05. Quadrennial Delegates.

38
39 The selection of delegates and alternate delegates shall be in conformity with the delegate
40 selection plan, as approved by the Democratic National Committee, or its designee, and as
41 adopted by the State Committee.

1 Section 3.06. Selection of Presidential Electors.

2

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

11 Section 3.07. State Convention Records.

12

13 The Secretary of the State Convention, upon completing the minutes of the convention,
14 shall immediately turn over to the State Committee the minutes and all other records of the
15 convention.

17 ARTICLE IV - STATE COMMITTEE

18

19 Section 4.01. Purpose.

20

21 At such meetings, the carrying out of all duties of The State Committee shall carry out all
22 duties required by state law, Democratic National Committee rules, and these rules shall
23 occur. The State Committee may also hear reports from the Executive Committee,
24 standing and special committees, and auxiliaries of the State Party. The State Committee
25 shall also take additional any action on Democratic Party of Arkansas policies not
26 proscribed by statute or these rules. Finally, such State Committee meetings shall
27 regularly be used as an opportunity for the training of the state's party leaders to become
28 more effective in carrying out the work of the party.

29

30 Section 4.02. Membership.

31

32 The State Committee shall be composed of:

33

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

43

1 For each county, the number of votes for the Democratic candidate in the last two
2 gubernatorial elections shall be totaled. That number of votes will be divided by the total
3 statewide Democratic gubernatorial vote in the two elections, multiplied by 50 (fifty), and
4 then rounded to the nearest whole number (a fractional part of 0.5 or higher shall be
5 rounded up, anything less than 0.5 shall be rounded down). This whole number is the
6 number of extra representatives each county shall be apportioned, beyond the two
7 members automatically apportioned to each county. There shall be gender balance for
8 every two additional members apportioned to a county.
9 Reapportionment will occur every four years, following a gubernatorial general election.
10 That most recent electoral data will be factored in to the formula and utilized for the next
11 election of State Committee members, set to occur in the next even-numbered year.
12

13 (b) Auxiliary Organizations. Auxiliary Organizations. Once an auxiliary successfully
14 completes the chartering process, the organization is awarded four (4) State Committee
15 members: the Chair/President, the First Vice Chair/First Vice President and two at-large
16 members, gender balanced when appropriate or possible. No more than two of the four
17 auxiliary representatives may come from the same county. The Chair/President and First
18 Vice Chair/First Vice President's length of terms on the State Committee lasts as long as
19 their tenure as the leaders in said auxiliary. At-large members must be elected at least
20 every two years. If the organization's charter is revoked, its representatives are removed
21 from the State Committee.
22

23 (c) Chair's Appointees. The Chair of the State Committee may appoint ten (10)
24 individuals to the State Committee for the purposes of ensuring gender balance and further
25 enhancing diversity on the State Committee. In addition, the Chair of the State Committee
26 may appoint four (4) individuals under the age of 23 to the State Committee for the
27 purpose of ensuring youth representation. Terms will run concurrent with the DPA State
28 Committee terms – two (2) years. Appointees may be reappointed when their term is over.
29 If the Chair resigns or when the State Committee elects a new Chair, all previous
30 appointees by the outgoing Chair are removed from the State Committee.
31

32 (d) Officers. Current officers of the party, as defined in Section 7.01, who are not
33 otherwise members of the State Committee.
34

35 (e) State Elected Officials. All current Democratic legislators, statewide elected officials,
36 and members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives will automatically be
37 members of the State Committee and be entitled to full privileges of committee
38 membership if they are present at committee meetings. No proxies will be accepted from
39 such members of the State Committee.
40

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

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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.

Section 4.05. State Committee Meetings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1
2 (g) Attendance. A State Committee member elected pursuant to section 4.02(a) who misses
3 three (3) or more meetings of either the State Committee or their County Committee shall
4 be required upon notice to show good cause therefore or may be dismissed from the
5 Committee by its vote. A State Committee member elected or appointed pursuant to
6 sections 4.02(b) or (c) above who misses three (3) or more meetings shall be required upon
7 notice to show good cause therefore or may be dismissed from the Committee by its vote.

9 Section 4.06. State Headquarters
10

11 To facilitate the work of the Democratic Organizations and so that Democratic records
12 may be preserved for future reference, the State Committee shall maintain a Democratic
13 State Office with such personnel as the Committee shall, from time to time, deem
14 necessary. The office personnel shall perform such duties as shall be assigned by the State
15 Committee or by the officers thereof. The compensation of personnel shall be prescribed
16 by the Chairman and State Officers with the advice and consent of the Executive
17 Committee.

19 Section 4.07. Notice of Grievances.
20

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

37 Section 4.08. Procedure.
38

39 Unless the State Chair determines that the State Committee does not have jurisdiction, the
40 Chief of the State Committee shall give notice to all Executive Committee members, the
41 aggrieved party and the chief officer of the body against/from which the grievance has
42 been taken of a hearing that shall be held as expeditiously as reasonable but no more than
43 twenty-one (21) days from the date the State Chair received the notice of the grievance,
44 unless otherwise agreed by the aggrieved party and the State Chair. Hearings on grievances

1 concerning elections and election procedures or related matters should be expedited. In the
2 event that the State Chair has determined that the State Committee does not have
3 jurisdiction over a grievance, the State Chair shall refer the grievance to the appropriate
4 County Committee for its consideration, if jurisdiction lies with a County Committee. The
5 State Executive Committee shall, by majority vote of those present and voting, adopt such
6 rules of procedure which are consistent with these Rules and as are necessary to assist in
7 the orderly conduct of the hearing. Any such adopted rules shall be provided to parties
8 involved in the grievance. Thirty percent (30%) of the members of the Executive
9 Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking action on such grievance.
10 The State Executive Committee, after hearing the evidence and affording all parties a full
11 opportunity to be heard, shall deliberate and render judgment in the matter by a majority
12 vote of those present and voting. Voting will be by hand. However at the request of a
13 single member, it shall be by secret ballot. At the request of a party to the proceeding, the
14 Secretary of the State Committee shall provide a letter certifying the action of the
15 Committee.

16
17 Section 4.09. Decision.

18
19 The Executive Committee shall, after hearing all evidence and affording all parties a full
20 opportunity to be heard, deliberate and render judgment in the matter by a majority vote.
21 At the request of a party to the proceeding, the Committee shall issue a written decision. A
22 copy of the Committee's decision shall be furnished to the parties to the proceeding.

24 ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

25
26 Section 5.01. Purpose.

27
28 The Executive Committee shall have all the authority and powers of the State Committee
29 between meetings of the State Committee, except as to amendments to these Rules. In
30 addition, the Executive Committee shall be tasked with all aspects of strategic planning for
31 carrying out the successful work of the party including candidate recruitment strategies,
32 fundraising strategies, and strategies related to organizational structure. It shall report on
33 its work to the State Committee at each State Committee meeting.

34
35 Section 5.02. Membership.

36
37 The officers of the Democratic Party of Arkansas, the party leaders in both the State House
38 and State Senate, all members of the Democratic National Committee who reside in
39 Arkansas, up to four individuals appointed by the Chair because of their special talents or
40 the diversity they bring to the body, along with two women and two men per congressional
41 district shall serve as the Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of Arkansas.
42

1 Section 5.03. Elections.

2

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

11

12 Section 5.04. Vacancies.

13

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

20

21 Section 5.05. Meetings.

22

23 The Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly, in person or electronically, upon
24 the call of the Chair. While meetings shall be open to State Committee members, the
25 Executive Committee may go into executive session upon proper motion for purposes of
26 discussing personnel issues and other sensitive matters.

27

28 Section 5.06. Notice.

29

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

35

36 Section 5.07. Quorum.

37

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

40

41 Section 5.08. No Proxies.

42

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

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Section 5.09. Attendance.

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

Section 5.10. Conflicts of Interest.

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

Section 5.11. Jurisdiction.

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

ARTICLE VI – OTHER COMMITTEES

Section 6.01. Standing Committees.

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

Section 6.02. Budget and Audit Committee.

The Budget and Audit Committee shall be responsible for preparing a budget for the operations of Party affairs to be approved by the State Committee; activating an audit for the two-year period ending immediately before the State Convention; and submitting an annual statement of operations to the State Committee. The audit shall be filed with and

1 become a part of the permanent confidential records of the State Committee. The Budget
2 and Audit Committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer.

3

4 Section 6.03. Rules Committee.

5

6 The Rules Committee shall consider suggested changes in these Rules and make
7 recommendations thereupon to the State Committee; if requested by the Chair, shall issue
8 advisory opinions on interpretations of any disputes arising out of these Rules, and perform
9 such other duties as may be assigned to it.

10

11 Section 6.04. Affirmative Action Committee.

12

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

17

18 Section 6.05. County Committee Review Committee.

19

20 A County Review Committee of at least five (5) members with at least one member from
21 each region shall be chaired by the Vice-Chair for County Committees. The County
22 Review Committee shall meet at least quarterly to review the reports of County
23 Committees, perform the duties outlined in Article II, and establish regional organizations
24 outlined in Article IV.

25

26 Section 6.06. Committee on Auxiliary Organizations.

27

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

30

31 Section 6.07. Personnel Committee.

32

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

35

36 Section 6.08. State Convention Arrangements Committee.

37

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

39

40 Section 6.09. Special Committees.

41

42 The Chair, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall have the authority from
43 time to time to name special committees as needed. These committees shall exist only for

1 the limited period of time that their purpose requires. The chair or his/her designee shall be
2 a non-voting ex officio member of all such committees.

3 ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS
4

5 Section 7.01. List of Officers.
6

7 The following individuals shall be officers of the Democratic Party of Arkansas: Chair, a
8 First Vice-Chair (who shall not identify as the same sex as the chair), a Vice-Chair for
9 County Committees, a Vice-Chair for Auxiliaries, a Treasurer, a Secretary, the National
10 Committeeman, and the National Committeewoman. The Chair shall serve as chief
11 spokesperson for the Democratic Party, though s/he may designate others to speak on
12 behalf of the Party. The Chair and First Vice-Chair shall coordinate in the candidate
13 recruitment and fundraising work of the Democratic Party. All other officers should carry
14 out their duties outlined elsewhere in these Rules.
15

16 Section 7.02. Term.
17

18 All officers shall serve four year terms.
19

20 Section 7.03. Elections.
21

22 The positions of National Committeeman and National Committeewoman shall be elected
23 at the first State Committee meeting following a presidential election. All other officers
24 shall be elected at the first State Committee meeting following a gubernatorial election. If
25 either the Chair and/or the Secretary has opposition in his or her election, a Temporary
26 Chair and/or Temporary Secretary shall be elected at the beginning of the election process
27 to carry out duties related to those offices during the election process. Voting shall take
28 place through secret ballot either through paper ballot or electronic device.
29

30 Section 7.04. Duties.
31

32 Other than the election of officers, the following procedures shall be followed:
33

34 (a) The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the State Committee and the Executive
35 Committee and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the State Committee are carried
36 into effect.

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

39 (c) The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds and securities of the DPA. The
40 Treasurer is responsible for overseeing the management and reporting of the Democratic
41 Party of Arkansas' finances and other assets. The Treasurer shall ensure that effective
42 financial procedures are in place that follow generally accepted accounting procedures.
43 These procedures shall include generally accepted checks and balances for control and

1 oversight of the DPA's funds and other assets. The Treasurer shall have a thorough
2 knowledge and understanding of financial accounting procedures and policies of the DPA's
3 State and Federal financial reporting requirements and ensure their timely filing. The
4 Treasurer shall ensure the preparation of a detailed quarterly financial report. This report
5 shall include a balance sheet and income and expenses statement. Ten (10) calendar days
6 after the end of each quarter the Treasurer shall submit the quarterly financial reports to the
7 State Committee.

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

10
11 Section 7.05. Vacancies

12
13 (a) After notice to the officeholder, a vacancy may be declared by the Chair (or Vice
14 Chair if the vacancy is in the office of the Chair) whenever an officer is unable to perform
15 the assigned duties because of death, resignation, mental or physical incapacity, conviction
16 of a felony, removal from office, or nonresidency status.

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

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

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

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

31 Section 7.06. National Committee Members.

32
33 The Arkansas members of the Democratic National Committee shall be elected in the year
34 following each presidential year by the State Committee. The persons so elected shall
35 qualify by filing with the Secretary of the State Committee within ten (10) days after
36 election a Candidate Eligibility Application, in form hereafter prescribed, and having so
37 qualified shall assume office immediately following the Democratic National Convention,
38 to serve until the adjournment of the Democratic National Convention following the next
39 presidential election or as provided by the Rules of the Democratic National Committee.
40 The members so selected shall be from different Congressional Districts.

41
42 Section 7.07. Removal from Office.

1 A party officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of all State Committee
2 members in attendance at a properly called regular or special meeting of the State
3 Committee.
4

5 Section 7.08. Officer Loyalty.
6

7 Public expressions of support, including campaign contributions, for any Republican
8 candidate in Arkansas or any other state or for any candidate opposing a nominee of the
9 Democratic Party of Arkansas shall be the basis for removal from office of any officer.
10

11 Section 7.09. Legal Counsel.
12

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

15 ARTICLE VIII – AUXILIARIES
16

17 Section 8.01. Purpose.
18

19 Auxiliary organizations of the DPA are hereby established and recognized to promote the
20 Party’s principles, platforms, and nominees and to increase representation, participation,
21 and leadership development among historically underrepresented communities within the
22 Party.
23

24 Section 8.02. Use of Party Name.
25

26 Outside of the Democratic Party of Arkansas, Democratic candidates, legislative caucuses,
27 affiliated campaign committees, or duly certified county committees, no person, group of
28 persons, committee, or organization may use the words “Democrat,” “Democrats,” or
29 “Democratic” in their name, or purport to represent the Democratic Party of Arkansas in
30 any capacity, unless they have been duly chartered by the procedures established in this
31 article.
32

33 Section 8.03. Charter Issuance.
34

35 (a) A group wishing to establish an auxiliary shall submit a Statement of Intent to the
36 Committee on Auxiliary Organizations and shall have six months to complete the
37 application process in collaboration with the Vice Chair for Auxiliaries (the Vice Chair
38 shall have the power to extend the deadline for 90 days if progress is being made towards a
39 complete application). Charters shall be issued by vote of the Executive Committee upon
40 recommendation from the Committee on Auxiliary Organizations once the criteria
41 established below have been met.
42

1 (b) Charter applications shall require information pertaining to the official name of the
2 auxiliary, contact information for auxiliary officers, a full and current membership roster, a
3 full and complete copy of the auxiliary's governing documents, and the minutes of the
4 auxiliary's organizing meeting (or most recent convention).
5

6 (c) In order to be eligible for a charter, auxiliary organizations shall:
7

- 8 (1) represent a discrete community of interest within the Party that is not
9 geographically defined;
- 10 (2) have at least twenty-five (25) members, including at least five (5) from each
11 congressional district;
- 12 (3) have held an organizing meeting at which officers were selected;
- 13 (4) adopt draft governing documents (including a mission statement and bylaws)
14 which do not conflict with these rules, describing auxiliary membership eligibility and
15 (if appropriate) chapter chartering procedure, as well as the date, place, and procedure of
16 the auxiliary Convention.
17

18 (d) Auxiliary bylaws must bar officers of the auxiliary from public support, including
19 campaign contributions, for candidates opposing Democratic Party nominees on the
20 Arkansas state ballot.
21

22 (e) Adopt a mission for the charter as well as a strategic plan for promoting the electoral
23 goals of the Democratic Party of Arkansas.
24

25 Section 8.04. Annual Reporting. 26

27 (a) On an annual basis, each chartered auxiliary shall provide the following to the
28 Committee on Auxiliary Organizations:

- 29 (1) The governing documents for the auxiliary;
- 30 (2) The minutes of the most recent Convention of the auxiliary;
- 31 (3) The list of officers of the auxiliary;
- 32 (4) A strategic plan for the coming year that includes the auxiliary's distinctive
33 strategy of active support for Democrats candidates running for office and
34 community outreach to promote the Democratic Party of Arkansas.
35

36 (b) On a quarterly basis, each chartered auxiliary shall provide the following to the
37 Committee on Auxiliary Organizations:

- 38 (1) A roster of members of the auxiliary, numbering at least 20 and with
39 membership from each of the state's congressional districts;
- 40 (2) A financial report presenting the deposits and expenditures on behalf of the
41 auxiliary in the previous year.

42 Section 8.05. Local Chapters. 43

1 Auxiliary organizations shall be composed of their duly chartered chapters, the members
2 thereof, and at-large members if provided for in their governing documents.
3

4 Section 8.06. Charter Revocation.
5

- 6 (a) Auxiliary organization charters may be revoked for inactivity or non-compliance
7 with these rules.
- 8 (b) Revocation of a charter may proceed through the following process:
9 1. After efforts to work with the auxiliary by the Second Vice-Chair for Auxiliary
10 Organizations, a revocation of an auxiliary organization charter may be
11 considered at a meeting of the Committee on Auxiliary Organizations.
12 2. All elected officers of an auxiliary organization whose charter is to be
13 considered for revocation shall be notified not fewer than 15 (15) days prior to
14 the relevant meeting.
15 3. Said notice shall include the cause for revocation, and the date, time, and
16 location of the meeting.
- 17 (c) Final revocation of an auxiliary charter may only occur through an action of the
18 Executive Committee at a regular or special meeting. All elected officers of an
19 auxiliary organization whose charter is to be considered for revocation shall be
20 notified not fewer than fifteen (15) days prior to the relevant meeting. Said notice
21 shall include the cause for revocation, and the date, time, and location of the
22 meeting.

23 ARTICLE IX – SELECTION OF PARTY NOMINEES
24

25 Section 9.01. Notice of Primary Election.
26

27 On or before ninety (90) days prior to the first biennial primary election, either the State
28 Committee or the Executive Committee shall meet for the purpose of calling such elections
29 and establishing filing fees in accordance with state law and Democratic National
30 Committee rules.
31

32 Section 9.02. Certification of Nominees.
33

34 In accordance with deadlines found in state law, following the general primary election,
35 either the State Committee or the Executive Committee shall meet for the purpose of
36 declaring as nominees of the Democratic Party of Arkansas those candidates for the
37 Democratic nomination for United States Senator, Congressman and State and District
38 Offices who were unopposed in the primaries and those who have received a majority of
39 the votes in the primary elections as shown by the report of the State Committee from the
40 returns sent by the various County Committees. The Chairman and Secretary of the State
41 Party shall certify such nominations and the Secretary of the State Party shall be charged
42 with the responsibility of filing the certificates of nomination of all nominees so declared
43 and certified, with the Secretary of State, within the time required by law.

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Section 9.03. Announcement of Ballot Access Requirements.

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

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, 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

1 follows:
2

3 As a candidate in the Democratic Primary Elections to be held on _____ day of
4 _____, 20____, I agree to abide by the results of said Primary Elections and support the
5 Principles of the Democratic Party. I am eligible and legally qualified to file for this office
6 under Arkansas law. This _____ day of _____, 20____.
7

8 Signature _____

9 (b) Each County, State and National Committee member and each Party official shall file a
10 Candidate of Eligibility Application with the appropriate Party committee. The application
11 shall read as follows:
12

13 As a member/officer in the _____ Democratic Committee, I agree to
14 abide by the results of all Democratic Primary Elections and to support the principles of
15 the Democratic Party. I am eligible and legally qualified to file for this office under
16 Arkansas law and Party rules. This _____ day of _____, 20____.
17

18 Signature _____

20 (c) No Person having resigned from public office as a provision to a plea agreement to
21 avoid felony prosecution shall be certified by the Democratic Party of Arkansas to be a
22 candidate and/or its nominee.
23

24 Section 9.07. Time for Filing Candidate Eligibility Application.
25

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

33 Section 9.08. Filing as a Candidate in Primary of Another Party Prohibited.
34

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

41 Section 9.09. Resignation of Candidacy.
42

43 A candidate who wishes to resign his candidacy shall, prior to the certification of the ballot
44 for the preferential primary or subsequent to the preferential primary but prior to the

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

9 Section 9.10. Vacancies in Candidacies.
10

11 (a) When any unopposed candidate for any office in a Democratic primary election shall,
12 after the time for filing has expired, die or resign his candidacy, the State Committee, if the
13 office be that of United States Senator, Congressman, or a State District office or the
14 County Committee, if the office be a county, township, or municipal office, may, upon
15 ascertaining such vacancy, and provided same does not occur later than thirty (30) days
16 prior to the preferential primary election, permit other candidates to qualify, at such time
17 and in such manner as the appropriate committee may determine and upon such notice as
18 such committee may determine and upon such notice as such be deemed to have regularly
19 qualified as a candidate thereof.
20

21 (b) A vacancy in nomination shall occur if nomination to an office is to be determined by a
22 general primary (runoff) election and there is a tie vote between candidates receiving the
23 second highest number of votes in the preferential primary election. Such a vacancy in
24 candidacy for the Runoff Primary shall be filled by a convention of delegates to be
25 convened as soon as reasonably possible by the temporary chair designated by the State
26 Chair. In the case of a United States Senator or a State Office, the State Committee shall
27 select the runner-up candidate for the Runoff Primary. In the case of a Congressional or
28 district office, the members of the State Committee from that district shall select the
29 runner-up candidate for the Run-off Primary. In the case of a county, township or
30 municipal office, the county committee shall select the runner-up candidate for the Runoff
31 Primary.

33 Section 9.11. Committee and Officer Endorsement Prohibited.
34

35 The State Committee, its Auxiliaries or any County Committee and its Auxiliaries shall not
36 endorse the candidacy of any person seeking the nomination of the Party in a race where
37 more than one candidate has announced in a primary election. As an individual, State,
38 Auxiliary or County officers may support the candidacy of a person seeking the
39 nomination of the Party in a primary election; however, a State or County officer shall not
40 use his or her office to support the candidacy of any person seeking the nomination of the
41 Party in a primary election. Any contributor lists compiled by the Party shall be for Party
42 use only and shall not be released to any candidate for use during the Primaries.
43

1 Section 9.12. Prohibition of Party Staff Working on Behalf of Candidates for Public
2 Office.

3
4 It is essential that all Arkansas Democrats have faith in the loyalty and integrity of their
5 paid staff. Accordingly, the staff of the Democratic Party of Arkansas is expressly
6 prohibited from working on behalf of any candidate seeking election for a party office or
7 for public office in a Democratic Party primary in Arkansas. This prohibition extends to
8 both working and non-working hours. However, staff may provide trainings to candidates
9 on an equal basis during a contested primary.

10 Further, all candidates for election for public office in a Democratic Party primary in
11 Arkansas are expressly prohibited from using the Party Headquarters and/or equipment to
12 benefit his or her campaign. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, postage
13 machines, telephones, folding machines, copiers, facsimile machines, and electronic
14 equipment.

15 ARTICLE X – VACANCIES

16
17 Section 10.01. Vacancy in Office.

18
19 In the event of a vacancy in office, and if a special general election shall have been called,
20 or the Governor shall have indicated that one will be called to fill such vacancy, the State
21 Committee, if the special general election is to elect a Congressman, or a state or district
22 official, shall call a special primary election to nominate a candidate, unless it finds that the
23 holding of a special primary election is impractical by reasons of limitations of time,
24 expense, or any other cause, in which event the State Committee shall call a convention to
25 select the Party’s nominee, subject to the laws of the State of Arkansas. If the nominee is to
26 be chosen by convention, a state convention shall be called to select a nominee for a state
27 office; a congressional district convention shall be called to select a nominee for Members
28 of Congress; and a district convention shall be called to select a nominee for a district
29 office.

31 Section 10.02. Vacancy in Nomination.

32
33 (a) If a vacancy occurs in a nomination because of death, resignation, tie vote,
34 disqualification, or for any other cause, a nominee to fill such vacancy in nomination shall
35 be selected by a convention of delegates. In the case of United State Senator or a state
36 office, the State Committee shall call a state convention to select the nominee, unless the
37 vacancy occurs prior to the adjournment of the biennial State Convention, in which event
38 the biennial State Convention shall select the nominee. In the case of a congressman, the
39 State Committee shall call a congressional convention, unless the vacancy occurs prior to
40 adjournment of the biennial State Convention, in which event the delegates to said
41 convention from the appropriate Congressional District shall caucus as a congressional
42 convention at the close of said convention to select said nominee. In the case of a district
43 office, the State Committee shall call a district convention. In the case of a county office,

1 the County Committee shall convene as a County Convention to select the nominee. In the
2 case of township or municipal office, the County Committee shall convene as a County
3 Convention to select the nominee.

4
5 (b) If, within fifteen (15) days of the occurrence of the vacancy in nomination for a district,
6 county, township, or municipal office, all County Committee(s) affected have approved the
7 holding of a special primary and certified that approval to the Secretary of the State
8 Committee, no convention shall be held to fill the vacancy. Such special primary shall be
9 called, if for a district office, by the State Committee, otherwise by the County Committee,
10 and shall be held in accordance with the call for the special primary, if said election would
11 be held at least sixty (60) days prior to the general election.

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

14
15 Conventions to select nominees for vacancies in office or for vacancies in nomination shall
16 be held at the time and place stated in the call, of which notice, reasonable under the
17 circumstances, shall have been given.

19 Section 10.04. Delegates to Convention to Select Nominees.

20
21 (a) The delegates to a State Convention to select the nominee to fill a vacancy in the
22 nomination for or in the office of United States Senator or any state office shall be the
23 delegates to the most recent State Convention, and the officers who served at such
24 convention shall be the officers of the called convention.

25
26 (b) The delegates to a congressional district convention to select the nominee in a special
27 election to fill a vacancy in the office of Representative in the Congress of the United
28 States, shall be the delegates to the most recent State Convention from the county or
29 counties comprising the congressional district. The State Chair shall call Congressional
30 Conventions and appoint a temporary chair thereof.

31
32 (c) The delegates to a district convention s hall be selected at a special meeting of the
33 County Committee in the counties contained within the district, each committee to select
34 one (1) delegate for each 400 votes or major fraction thereof, cast within the portion of the
35 county contained within the district for Democratic nominee for Governor in the last
36 preceding General Election, provided, each delegate shall be a resident of the district. The
37 State Chair shall call district conventions and appoint a Temporary Chair thereof.

38
39 (d) Vacancies in the delegation of a county selected for attendance at the most recent State
40 Convention shall be filled by the County Committee, and the names of those persons
41 selected to fill such vacancies in the delegation shall be certified to the Secretary of the
42 State Committee by the Secretary of the County Committee immediately.

43
44 (e) The Chair and Secretary of the convention shall immediately certify the nomination

1 made by the convention, and the Secretary of the Committee calling such convention shall
2 file the certificate of nominations with the proper officials.

4 Section 10.05. Special Primary Election Rules.
5

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

10 Section 10.06. Cancellation of Special Primary Election.
11

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

19 ARTICLE XI – PROCEDURE AND AMENDMENT
20

21 Section 11.01. Parliamentary Procedure.
22

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

27 Section 11.02. Penalty for Violation of Rules by Committees.
28

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

37 Section 11.03. Amendment of These Rules.
38

39 (a) These Rules constitute the official Rules of the Democratic Party of Arkansas. These
40 Rules may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of State Committee members present and
41 voting, provided that the Secretary of the State Committee shall include a summary of any
42 proposed amendment in the notice of the meeting at which it is to be voted on, and no

1 amendment shall be voted on without such notice. Any proposed revisions to the Rules
2 shall be presented to the Rules Committee for its consideration.
3
4 (b) Rules governing selection of delegates to Democratic National Convention may be
5 enacted by a majority vote the membership of the State Committee.