

Proposed Constitutional Changes

2018 Democratic Party of Wisconsin State Convention

Please find the following changes to be submitted to the membership at the June 1-2, 2018 DPW State Convention in Oshkosh.

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DPW Constitution, Article VI-County Organization

The Constitution & Bylaws committee recommends inserting the highlighted language and removing the struck through language as shown below:

*Section3-The officers of each county shall include a chairperson **or co-chairs as defined by county governing documents**, vice-chairperson, secretary and treasurer. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person. Counties may provide for additional officers. Officers of a county shall be elected for a term of one year, except that the constitution of a county may provide for two-year terms. The election shall be held no earlier than November 1 nor later than the following December 31 at a county meeting called for that purpose or at a meeting of delegates when the method of election of county officers by delegates has been approved by the administrative committee. Reasonable written notice of at least ten days of such election meeting must be given by the secretary of each county to the state headquarters and to all ~~paid~~ members of record of the notice date. At each county election only members ~~whose dues are paid for the year in which the election is held~~ **who meet the requirements defined by the county or are approved members a minimum of 5 days prior to the election** shall be eligible to vote. In the event that the chairperson of the county shall fail to call such an election meeting within the period specified herein, the state chairperson shall be authorized to call such an election meeting as soon as practicable provided always that the provisions of this section with respect to notice shall be observed.*

The revised section will read:

Section3-The officers of each county shall include a chairperson or co-chairs as defined by county governing documents, vice-chairperson, secretary and treasurer. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person. Counties may provide for additional officers. Officers of a county shall be elected for a term of one year, except that the constitution of a county may provide for two-year terms. The election shall be held no earlier than November 1 nor later than the following December 31 at a county meeting called for that purpose or at a meeting of delegates when the method of election of county officers by delegates has been approved by the administrative committee. Reasonable written notice of at least ten days of such election meeting must be given by the secretary of each county to the state headquarters and to all paid members of record of the notice date. At each county election only members who meet the requirements defined by the county or are approved members a minimum of 5 days prior to the election shall be eligible to vote. In the event that the chairperson of the county shall fail to call such an election meeting within the period specified herein, the state chairperson shall be authorized to call such an election meeting as soon as practicable provided always that the provisions of this section with respect to notice shall be observed.

Rationale:

The language no longer prohibits co-chairs and standardizes county election voting eligibility requirements if the county has not done so in their bylaws.

DPW Constitution, Article VI-County Organization

The Constitution & Bylaws committee recommends striking the following line in the section:

Section 6-The County Chairs Association is hereby recognized as the official organization representing the interests of the county units and subunits before the administrative committee. The chairperson and 1st vice-chair of each county unit or authorized subunit shall become a member of the County Chairs Association by virtue of their election and remain so during their tenure in office. The County Chairs Association shall adopt a constitution, subject to and consistent with the State Constitution ~~and approval of the administrative committee~~. Any changes in the County Chairs Association constitution shall become effective only after approval by the standing constitution committee. The administrative committee may in its discretion take such action it deems appropriate to assure the County Chairs Association and its officers are functioning in a manner consistent with the County Chairs Association constitution and the policies of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

The revised section reads as follows:

Section 6 - The County Chairs Association is hereby recognized as the official organization representing the interests of the county units and subunits before the administrative committee. The chairperson and 1st vice-chair of each county unit or authorized subunit shall become a member of the County Chairs Association by virtue of their election and remain so during their tenure in office. The County Chairs Association shall adopt a constitution, subject to and consistent with the State Constitution. Any changes in the County Chairs Association constitution shall become effective only after approval by the standing constitution committee. The administrative committee may in its discretion take such action it deems appropriate to assure the County Chairs Association and its officers are functioning in a manner consistent with the County Chairs Association constitution and the policies of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

Rationale:

This revision standardizes the role of the state party constitution committee to review and accept amendments to existing constitutions submitted by the county party and removes the administrative committee's responsibility to approve amendments. The administrative committee is still charged with approving new constitutions.