

Democratic Party of Vilas County
Constitution – Amended October 9th, 2021

Article I — Name

The name of this organization shall be the Democratic Party of Vilas County, hereinafter referred to as the “DPVC”, AKA “Vilas Dems”; and the Democratic Party of Wisconsin shall be hereinafter referred to as the “DPW”.

Article II — Purpose

It shall be the primary responsibility of the DPVC to develop the fullest possible party membership in the county, to hold regularly scheduled meetings, to recruit and encourage Democratic candidates for county and legislative offices, to form and maintain an effective campaign organization, to make recommendations for a party platform, and generally, to promote the interests of the Democratic Party in the county.

Article III — Membership

Section 1. Any resident of Vilas County or adjacent county, at least 14 years of age, who subscribes to the progressive principles of the Democratic Party is eligible for voting membership and shall become a member upon payment of dues and receipt of such dues by the DPVC Membership Chair or the DPW. Such a person is automatically a member of the DPW.

Section 2. The membership list is the property of the DPW. It cannot be published, sold or used in any way other than prescribed by them.

Article IV — Organization

Section 1. The elected officers of the DPVC shall include a Chair (or Co-Chairs), a First Vice-Chair, a Second Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Such officers shall be elected for a term of two years.

Section 2. Nomination of a candidate for DPVC office may be made by a nominating committee (appointed by the Chair (or Co-Chairs) or from the floor by a member. A nomination must have prior consent of the nominee. Failure to obtain such prior consent shall invalidate the election of a person so nominated.

Section 3. Election of a DPVC officer shall require a majority of those members present and voting. If two or more candidates are nominated for an office, election shall be by secret ballot. To be eligible to vote, a person must meet the membership criteria set forth in Article III. Election for DPVC officers may be held no earlier than November 1 nor later than December 31 in the even years, beginning in 2022.

Section 4. The County Chair (or Co-Chairs) shall be the Chief Executive Officer(s) of the organization, a member of the County Chairs Association and an ex-officio member(s) of all committees. The County Chair (or Co-Chairs) shall, subject to the consent of the executive committee, have general supervision, direction and control of the business and officers of the DPVC, and serve as the spokesperson of the DPVC. If there are Co-Chairs, they will report the division of their duties to the Executive Committee. The County Chair (or Co-Chairs) shall preside at all membership meetings of the DPVC and at meetings of the Executive Committee, or such person designated by the Chair (or Co-Chairs) to do so. They shall have the power to appoint special project chairpersons with the consent of the Executive Committee. Such special project chairpersons shall serve until the project is completed or the County Chair’s (or Co-Chairs’) term of office expires. Said special project chairpersons shall not have a vote on the Executive Committee or be construed as an officer, nor extended the privileges of an officer.

Section 5. The First Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the County Chair (or Co-Chairs) in the County Chair’s (or Co-Chairs’) absence or inability to discharge the duties of office. The First Vice Chair, by virtue of the position, is also a member of the County Chairs Association. In addition the First Vice Chair shall perform such other duties as may be required by the Chair (or Co-Chairs), the Executive Committee, and the by-laws.

Section 6. The Second Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the County Chair (or Co-Chairs) in the County Chair's (or Co-Chairs') and First Vice Chair's absence or inability to discharge the duties of office. The Second Vice Chair may be a member of the County Chairs Association, in place of the First Vice-Chair and shall perform such other duties as may be required by the Chair (or Co-Chairs), the Executive Committee, and the by-laws.

Section 7. The Secretary shall record minutes of all General Membership meetings and of all Executive Committee meetings. Said minutes shall be distributed to the members via e-mail or USPS mail. The Secretary shall send out meeting notices with an agenda at least ten days prior to the meeting. The Secretary shall keep a book of minutes of all meetings and Executive Committee meetings, a book of resolutions and Robert's Rules of Order. The Secretary shall have the above records and books available for reference at all meetings. Said records and books shall be passed along to the next Secretary. In addition to the above, the Secretary shall carry on correspondence and perform such other duties as may be required by the Executive Committee, County Chair (or Co-Chairs) and the by-laws.

Section 8. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the DPVC. The Treasurer shall receive all funds of the DPVC and keep a proper record thereof, shall deposit all funds in a convenient, responsible bank with a duly appointed co-signatory, and shall disburse funds only in accordance with the directives of either the Chair (or Co-Chairs), Executive Committee or the majority vote of the members. The Treasurer shall preserve in the files documentation for all funds received including amount, date received and from whom received. Likewise documentation shall be on file for all disbursements including amount, date, and person requesting disbursement. The Treasurer shall prepare a written "Treasurer's Report" prior to each regular scheduled meeting of the DPVC. Copies of said report shall be provided to the Secretary for inclusion in the minutes, as well as to all members of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer also shall prepare such financial statements as are required by law and forward them to the proper county and/or state officials. The Treasurer's books shall be submitted annually to an auditor or to an auditing committee appointed by the County Chair (or Co-Chairs). The Treasurer, in consultation with the Executive Committee, may name an Adjunct Treasurer to aid the Treasurer, in the event that the Treasurer is unable to fulfill the duties of the Treasurer. The Adjunct Treasurer will not be an officer of the DPVC.

Article V — Executive Committee

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers, the immediate past chair, the chair of standing committees and up to two members at large appointed by the County Chair (or Co-Chairs). All of the above shall have a voice and vote at Executive Committee meetings.

Section 2. The Chair (or Co-Chairs) of the DPVC shall serve as Chair (or Co-Chairs) of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall have the power and duty to conduct and direct all the business affairs of the DPVC.

Section 4. The Executive Committee may meet regularly between DPVC meetings or in the event of a decision to be rendered prior to the regular DPVC meeting, the Chair (or Co-Chair) shall call, as soon as possible, a meeting of the Executive Committee. Decisions made by a majority vote of the Executive Committee shall be final.

Article VI — Standing Committees

Section 1. The DPVC shall have certain standing committees as provided in this article. Unless specifically provided otherwise herein, the committee chairs shall be appointed by the County Chair (or Co-Chairs). They shall be appointed from active members of the DPVC to serve at the pleasure of the County Chair (or Co-Chairs). Each committee is encouraged to have two or three members selected by the committee chair.

Section 2. The IT Committee shall maintain the DPVC website and Social Media Platforms; and be responsible for the notification of upcoming events via Social Media Platforms and Electronic Notifications.

Section 3. The Publicity Committee shall submit press releases to the local media outlets regarding meetings and events, including those of candidates.

Section 4. The Program Committee shall be responsible for providing relevant educational programs outside of the membership meetings, or as an adjunct to the membership meetings. Programming may include speakers, films, debates, panels, or forums on local, state and national issues.

Section 5. The Membership Committee shall maintain an updated membership list with contact emails, USPS addresses and phone numbers; bring the list to all meetings; update the information in the DPVC email accounts or submit a list of changes and additions to the IT Chair; submit a monthly report of changes to the County Chair (or Co-Chairs); promote membership at meetings and events; and develop membership drives.

Section 6. The Fundraising Committee shall solicit funds for the DPVC, in sync with the DPVC Treasurer, and shall maintain a list of donor contacts.

Section 7. The Hospitality Committee shall handle the affairs of the DPVC headquarters and events.

Article VII — Dues and Finance

Section 1. Membership dues and the scheduling of their collection shall be determined by the DPW.

Section 2. Dues shall be submitted to the DPW, which will in turn reimburse the DPVC with a specified copay.

Section 3. Funds for the DPVC treasury may be solicited from sources other than membership dues.

Section 4. The Executive Committee, with approval of the membership, may authorize party expenditures for normal operating expenses including such things as rent on a temporary office, program expenses, campaign expenses, annual picnic, county fair, parades etc. The Treasurer may indicate other expenses not under the purview of the membership.

Section 5. The Treasurer, with approval of the Executive Committee, shall be empowered to invest such excess DPVC funds as deemed advisable in securities insured by a recognized governmental agency.

Section 6. All DPVC donations to specific political candidates and political organizations shall have the approval of the general membership within the guidelines as provided through state statutes.

Article VIII — Meetings

Section 1. Unless otherwise ordered by the DPVC or its Executive Committee, regular membership meetings shall be held a minimum of six times per year on a day and location agreed upon by the members. Members shall receive notice of meetings at least ten (10) days before each meeting. Said notice shall be sent via email to all members except for members specifically requesting a US mail notice. A set day of the month for an entire calendar year will not require monthly notices of meetings except where election of officers is conducted.

Section 2. When three months have elapsed without a meeting of the DPVC, any 5 members may petition the Chairperson of the County Chairs Association, or the DPW Chairperson who shall call a meeting of the DPVC giving a ten (10) day written notice for the purpose of reorganization.

Section 3. The Annual Meeting, held for the purpose of electing officers and other business, shall be held not earlier than November 1 nor later than December 31. The Secretary of the DPVC must give ten (10) days

written or email notification of such election to each member entitled to vote and to the appropriate DPW officer. At any such election meeting, only members whose dues are paid for the year in which the election is held shall be eligible to vote. In the event the Chair (or Co-Chairs) or Executive Committee shall fail to call such an election meeting within the period specified herein, provisions of Article VIII, Section 2 apply.

Section 4. Special Meetings may be called by the Chair (or Co-Chairs) or by the Executive Committee or upon the written request of any ten (10) members. Written notice of a special meeting shall be sent at least ten (10) days before such meeting and shall contain a notice of the purpose of the meeting.

Section 5. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief shall be used unless other rules have been adopted by a majority vote. Questions shall be decided by voice vote, show of hands, or secret ballot. Anyone of these may be demanded by a member. New business shall be in order at every business meeting.

Section 6. Six (6) members shall constitute a **quorum** to conduct business.

Article IX — Endorsement

The DPVC shall not endorse or support any candidate for any elective office in any contested primary election, unless the DPW Administrative Committee approves said recommendation due to unusual circumstances.

Article X — Amendments

This Constitution shall be amended only after presentation at two consecutive regularly called meetings, and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all paid members present provided there is a quorum and a ten (10) day notice has been sent by either email or regular mail to all members paid in full.

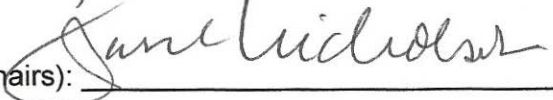
Article XI — Constitutional Precedence

Section 1. This Constitution shall supersede any previous motions or rules to the contrary made by the DPVC.


Section 2. If and when it shall appear that this Constitution is in conflict with the Constitution of the DPW, the latter shall prevail.

Adopted and amended at a regular meeting of the DPVC on:

Date: 10/09/2021

Chair (or Co-Chairs): 

Date: 10/31/2021

Secretary: 

Date: 10/31/2021