

LGBT CAUCUS
Nebraska Democratic Party
Draft Bylaws

ARTICLE I

Name, Mission, and Purpose

Section I. Name

The name of this caucus shall be the LGBT Caucus of the Nebraska Democratic Party; hereafter referred to as NDP, and shall be referred to hereafter in this document as the Caucus. The Caucus shall operate in conformity with the Charter and Rules governing the Nebraska Democratic Party.

Section II. Mission

The mission of this Caucus shall be to promote the involvement of LGBT in the political process and the activities of the Democratic Party at the local, state, and national level. The Caucus shall advocate for public policies which promote the needs of the LGBT community and the state at large. The Caucus recognizes the need for inclusive representation throughout the Democratic Party, and seeks to advance political participation among LGBT throughout the State. The purpose of this organization shall be to advance the highest principles of the Democratic Party, as outlined in the state platform of the NDP, to foster and maintain truly democratic procedures in the Democratic Party, to support Democratic candidates of integrity, ability, and conviction for public office and party positions, and to arouse and encourage active participation by all Democrats in the conduct of their party and their community.

Section III. Purpose

The purpose of the Caucus will seek to accomplish its mission in the following manner:

- By promoting the involvement of LGBT in the political process and the activities of the Democratic Party at the local, state and national level;
- By forming coalitions and identifying pertinent issues that are relevant for the LGBT community and the state at large.
- By supporting the inclusion of LGBT in leadership of the Democratic Party at the national, state, and local levels
- By developing a state-wide message that speaks to the needs and concerns of LGBT within the Democratic Party and the state at large.
- By holding the Democratic Party and public officials accountable to the needs of the LGBT community.

ARTICLE II

Structure, Meetings, and NDP State Convention

Section I. Structure

- a.) The Executive Committee shall serve as the governing body of the Caucus between NDP State Conventions as outlined in Article IV.
- b.) The full voting membership of the Caucus shall serve as the governing body of the Caucus at the Annual Meeting of the Caucus and at the NDP State Convention.

Section II. Meetings

- a.) The full membership of the Caucus shall meet at least once per three calendar months to be set by the Caucus Executive Committee.
- b.) An Annual Meeting of the full membership of the Caucus shall meet in odd numbered years at a date to be determined by the Caucus Executive Committee.
 - 1.) Ten percent of the total number of recognized voting members of the Caucus shall constitute quorum for the purpose of voting.
 - 2.) Non-voting Caucus members shall not count against quorum.

Section III. NDP State Convention

- a.) The full membership of the Caucus shall convene at each NDP State Convention to carry out the business of the Caucus, including the election of officers, the amending of Caucus Bylaws, the consideration of Caucus resolutions and Platform positions.
- b.) Ten percent of the total number of recognized voting members of the Caucus shall constitute quorum for the purpose of voting.
- c.) Non-voting Caucus members shall not count against quorum.

ARTICLE III. Membership

Section I. Non-Discrimination Statement

Any individual, regardless of race, creed, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, socio-economic status or national origin, or any other protected class, who professes and demonstrates allegiance to the philosophic principles and goals of the Democratic Party, and who is not registered or affiliated with any political party other than the

Democratic Party, shall be eligible to become either a voting or non-voting member of the Caucus.

Section II. Voting Membership

as directed by the LGBT caucus chair

Section III. Non-Voting Membership

Any Democrat who does not meet the criteria set forth in Section II, and who supports the Mission and Purpose of this Caucus may become a non-voting member.

ARTICLE IV

Officers and Elections

Section I. Elected Officers

The elected officers of this organization shall be:

- a.) Chair
- b.) Vice Chair
- c.) Secretary
- d.) Treasurer
- e.) 1st Congressional District Director
- f.) 2nd Congressional District Director
- g.) 3rd Congressional District Director

Section II. Congressional District Director Requirements

Any individual running for and elected to any of the three (3) Congressional District Director positions must meet one of the following criteria:

- a.) be registered to vote as a Democrat in the congressional district in which the individual will serve as Congressional District Chair;
- b.) reside within the boundaries of the congressional district in which the individual will serve as Congressional District Chair.

Section III. Officer Duties and Responsibilities

Caucus officers shall work to increase the visibility and efficacy of the Caucus within the NDP by regularly attending Caucus meetings and events and giving significant aid to Democratic campaigns and candidates. No individual may be elected to nor serve in more than one elective Caucus office concurrently. The duties, powers, and responsibilities of each office shall be as follows:

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a.) Chair

The Chair shall preside over all Caucus membership meetings and serve as the official liaison to the Nebraska Democratic Party. The Chair shall coordinate the activities of the caucus and shall have the authority to call meetings when necessary. The Chair shall have the authority to create committees and appoint members to those Committees. The Chair should have the power to appoint Caucus Committees Chairs of the Caucus and to fill vacancies when necessary.

b.) Vice Chair

The Vice Chair shall serve as Chair in the event of absence of the Chair. Should a vacancy occur in the Chair, the Vice Chair shall automatically become Chair until the next voting convention. The Vice Chair shall be responsible for all administrative committees.

c.) Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for official communication to the LGBT Caucus general membership and Executive Committee at the direction of the Chair. The Secretary shall be solely responsible for direct correspondence on behalf of the Caucus, keeper of the official Caucus membership rolls, responsibility for holding current additions of the Caucus By-Laws [with the Caucus Parliamentarian], conduct Caucus mailings, phone calls, and email communication. The Secretary shall be responsible for taking minutes at all meetings, official conference calls, and hold the official membership roll of the LGBT Caucus of the Nebraska Democratic Party.

e.) Treasurer

The Treasurer shall maintain the financial records of the Caucus. The Treasurer shall keep a written report of all receipts and disbursements and submit a detailed report to the Executive Committee and the general membership at the regular meetings of the Caucus.

Section IV. Election of Officers

a.) All officers shall be elected by simple majority vote at the Meeting of the Caucus to be held at the NDP State Convention. When a majority vote is not attained, the top two candidates for office receiving votes will move to a run-off election to immediately follow the first election.

b.) Members voting for the Congressional District Directors must reside in the Congressional District in which they are voting.

Section V. Terms of Office

The terms of office for all elected officer positions of the Caucus shall be a period to begin at the conclusion of the election of officers at the NDP State Convention and concluding at the next NDP State Convention in which officers are elected by the Caucus.

Section VI. Gender Equity

The Vice Chair shall be of the opposite gender or gender identity of the Chair.

Section VII. Vacancy of Chair

In the event that the Chair is no longer able to fulfill the duties of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair until a special election open to all members in good standing can be held as arranged by the Executive Committee. Any Chair thereby elected would take office immediately and serve the remainder of his or her predecessor's term.

Section VIII. Officer Vacancy

All open offices other than the Chair shall be filled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee from nominations made by existing voting and non-voting members of the Caucus at a regular meeting of the Caucus. New officers shall take office immediately and serve the remainder of their predecessors' term.

ARTICLE V

Executive Committee

Section I. Executive Committee voting members

The Executive Committee shall consist of the following members, each with a maximum of one vote:

- a.) Chair
- b.) Vice Chair
- c.) Secretary
- d.) Treasurer
- e.) 1st Congressional District Director
- f.) 2nd Congressional District Director
- g.) 3rd Congressional District Director

Section II. Non-voting Executive Committee members

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Non-voting members of the Executive Committee shall consist of the following:

- a.) each of the chairs of Caucus committees;
- b.) the immediate past Caucus Chair;
- c.) any other individual appointed by the Chair with the consent of the Executive Committee.

Section III. Meetings

- a.) The Executive Committee shall meet at a minimum of once (1) per three calendar months.
- b.) All meetings of the Caucus Executive Committee shall be open to the full membership of the Caucus, except when called into Executive Session by the Chair with the consent of the Executive Committee.

Section IV. Quorum

- a.) One-half (1/2) of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- b.) Non-voting members shall not count against quorum.

ARTICLE VI Caucus Committees

Section I. Standing Committees

The permanent standing committee of this Caucus shall be Finance, Communications, Platform, Campaign, and Outreach.

Section II. Chairs

Every committee will have a Chair appointed by the Caucus Chair, who, unless already on the Executive Committee, will serve as a non-voting member and will be required to file a report each regular meeting of the Executive Committee.

Section III. Committee Membership

Each committee shall consist of at least four members and no more than seven members. The Chair of each committee shall appoint the membership of their respective committees.

Section IV. Committee Descriptions

a.) Finance

The Finance Committee shall work to develop sources of revenue for the Caucus, in addition to advising the Treasurer on fiscal issues. This Committee, on a bi-annual basis, will draft a Finance Plan to be submitted to the Executive Committee.

b.) Communications

The Communications Committee shall be responsible for working to disseminate our message to the press and public. The Committee shall develop methods of publicizing the various activities of the Caucus through the use of print, electronic and other cost-effective media. The Committee will aid the Caucus in attracting press to events and activities of the Caucus and will be responsible for the Caucus listserv, website, discussion boards, newsletters, direct communication and other articles for other media throughout the state.

c.) Platform

The Platform Committee shall monitor issues of importance to the Caucus and disseminate position papers regarding said issues of particular interest to LGBT individuals throughout the Democratic Party. This Committee shall take an advocacy role in organizing and tracking legislation and news articles, and seek to create partnerships with community-based organizations that are in step with our beliefs. This Committee shall draft resolutions to be adopted by the Caucus and to be presented to the NDP State Convention regarding said issues of particular interest to people of color throughout the state. This Committee shall also decipher and address issues that effect communities of color within the NDP Platform on a bi-annual basis, and create a compiled report on positions taken by this Caucus on state, regional, and national issues.

d.) Campaign

The Campaign Committee shall focus on creating an annual base-vote operation campaign plan that targets communities of color statewide. This Committee will compile the statistical data to determine minority voter turnout in key areas across the state and watch voting trends in those communities. This Committee will also work on identifying local, statewide, Congressional and Senate minority candidates across the state and provide those folks support by way of a minority voter-base campaign invasion or allocating monies toward base voter operations in certain areas.

e.) Outreach

The Outreach Committee shall coordinate the outreach activities of the membership and assist in candidate recruitment and development of Democratic candidates of LGBT individuals throughout the State.

ARTICLE VII. Impeachment of Officers and Revocation of Membership

Section I. Authority

The Executive Committee shall be the ruling body in investigations and enforcement of impeachment proceedings and the revocation of memberships of any Executive Committee or Caucus member.

Section II. Grounds for Impeachment and Revocation of Membership

The following shall constitute grounds for impeachment and removal from office or revocation of membership:

- a.) Malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance of office or membership;
- b.) Theft or unauthorized use of Caucus property or monetary funds;
- c.) Illegal activity and/ or abuse of relationship with Caucus.

Section III. Proceedings

To begin impeachment proceedings, a member of the Caucus must submit a signed accusation to the Executive Committee. The first order of business at the following Executive Committee meeting would be a statement by the accuser followed by a defense by the accused before the matter is put to a vote. Officers shall be impeached or membership revoked by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee, subject to immediate removal.

Section IV. Petitioning Ruling

The decision of the Executive Committee is final, except that an individual whose membership or office is revoked may petition at the next Annual Meeting of the Caucus or at the Meeting of the Caucus at the NDP State Convention to confirm or overrule the decision of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

Resolutions and Platform Positions

Section I. Caucus Resolutions

Resolutions and proclamations by the Caucus may be passed by a simple majority vote at the Annual Meeting of the Caucus, at the Meeting of the Caucus at the NDP State Convention or at any time by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Section II. NDP Platform Positions

In federal election years, this Caucus will consider endorsement of additions and changes to the NDP Platform as the Caucus to that organization. Such platform endorsements shall require a simple majority vote of membership at the Annual Meeting of the Caucus or at the Meeting of the Caucus at the NDP State Convention.

ARTICLE IX.

Ratification and Amendments of Bylaws

Section I. Ratification of Bylaws

The Bylaws of this Caucus shall take effect at the conclusion of the NDP State Central meeting at which this Caucus is granted provisional or full status as a caucus of the NDP. The Bylaws of this Caucus must be ratified at the NDP State Convention immediately following the granting of provisional or full status as a caucus of the NDP.

Section II. Amending Bylaws at NDP State Convention

The bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote at the Meeting of the Caucus at the NDP State Convention.

Section III. Amending Bylaws at the Annual Meeting

The Bylaws may also be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the membership present at the Annual Meeting of the Caucus. Any amendment made during a regular or special meeting must be ratified by a 2/3 majority vote of the Caucus at the next NDP State Convention or shall be considered null and void.

ARTICLE X

Parliamentary Authority

The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all deliberations not herein contained by the appropriate authority of the Caucus.