

1 **RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY**
2 **OF THE STATE OF MONTANA**

3 Revised June 4th, 2021

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1 **RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY**
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4

5 **PREAMBLE**

6

7 **SECTION A: MISSION, TAX STATUS & LOCATION**

8 1. **Mission:** The Montana Democratic Party recruits, trains and elects Democrats to local,
9 statewide and federal office to ensure a government of the people, by the people, and for the
10 people of Montana.

11 2. **Tax Status:** The Montana Democratic Party is a 527 Political Non-Profit. The Montana
12 Democratic Party adheres and follows all rules and regulations of the State of Montana and the
13 United States Federal Government.

14 3. **Location:** The headquarters of the Montana Democratic Party is located at 303 North Ewing
15 Street, Helena, MT. The location of this entity is determined by the Executive Board. Additional
16 office locations may be determined by the Executive Director.

17

18 **SECTION B: STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

19 1. All public meetings of the Democratic Party are open to all members of the Democratic Party
20 of Montana regardless of race, creed, sex, age, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic
21 status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or philosophical persuasion. Members of the
22 Democratic Party are defined as any individuals who are supportive of the Democratic Party's
23 mission and values, without test of membership or oath, and are in good standing with the
24 organization. All members of the Democratic Party of Montana shall be encouraged to
25 participate in party affairs.

26 2. The time and place for all meetings of the Democratic Party of Montana shall be publicized
27 fully and in such manner to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings shall be
28 held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate interested
29 persons. Specific notice requirements and timelines are listed throughout the document under
30 their appropriate headings.

1 3. The Democratic Party of Montana shall publicize a complete description of the qualifications
2 for the procedures to elect officers of the Montana State Democratic Party. Such publication
3 should be done in a timely fashion so prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or
4 appointed position will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.

5 4. The Montana State Central Committee and county central committees are encouraged to
6 expand their membership, register new voters and engage in field activities that advance the
7 mission of the Democratic Party.

8 5. Use of the term “Executive Board district” in these rules, including Montana's Presidential
9 Delegate Selection Plan, means the allocation of Montana's counties in the following manner:

10 a. Prior to the “Call to Order” of the Officers Convention of 2023,

11 **Western District:** Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Flathead, Glacier, Granite,
12 Jefferson, Lake, Lewis & Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Mineral, Missoula, Pondera, Powell,
13 Ravalli, Sanders and Silver Bow Counties

14 **Eastern District:** Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels,
15 Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Gallatin, Garfield, Golden Valley, Hill, Judith Basin, Liberty,
16 McCone, Meagher, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie,
17 Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure,
18 Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux and Yellowstone Counties

19 b. Following the “Call to Order” of the Officers Convention of 2023, all references to
20 “Executive Board district” will refer to either Montana Congressional District Number
21 One or Montana Congressional District Number Two and the political subdivisions that
22 fall within those boundaries.

23
24 **RULE 1 MINORITY INCLUSIVITY**

25
26 1. It shall be the duty of the Party officers, to encourage persons from every income level, young
27 people, women, persons of minority races or ethnicities, senior citizens, LGBT persons, and
28 other under-represented and minority groups to participate in and seek selection as delegates to
29 Party conventions and as members of Party committees.

30 2. The Montana Democratic State Central Committee shall adopt an affirmative action plan to
31 ensure equal participation in Party affairs, including delegate selection, in keeping with State

1 Party rules and rules adopted by the Democratic National Committee. When adopted, such plan
2 is fully enforceable as a rule of the Montana Democratic Party.

3 3. To facilitate access by deaf Montanans, the State Party shall provide qualified American Sign
4 Language (“ASL”) interpreters and/or adequate Communication Access Realtime Translation
5 (“CART”) for all State Party conventions and other public meetings it conducts and shall
6 encourage county central committees to adopt rules for the provision of qualified ASL
7 interpreters and/or CART for their events to which the general public is invited, including
8 candidate forums, educational presentations, and the like.

9

10 **RULE 2 CITY-COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEES**

11

12 **SECTION A: STRUCTURE & TERMS OF A CITY-COUNTY CENTRAL**
13 **COMMITTEE**

14 1. The city, county, and Montana State Democratic Central Committees shall be organized as
15 provided in the laws of Montana and in these rules.

16 2. In each county of the state there is a Democratic county central committee which consists of
17 the two duly elected or appointed precinct representatives, who shall be of different gender
18 identities, of each precinct.

19

20 3. Precinct representatives hold such position for terms of two years from the date of their
21 election or in the case of appointment, until the next regularly scheduled election.

22 4. Those precinct representatives who reside within the limits of any incorporated city or town
23 shall constitute ex-officio the city central committee and shall have the same power and
24 jurisdiction as to the Democratic Party in such city affairs as the county central committee has in
25 county matters, except to fill vacancies as provided in Rules 7, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

26

27 **SECTION B: COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONVENTIONS & ELECTIONS**

28 1. The county central committee shall meet in county convention between April 15 and May 31
29 of each odd-numbered year and elect the following officers:

30 a) a county chair and vice chair, with no more than one of any gender identity;

31 b) two state representatives, with no more than one of any gender identity;

1 c) four state central committee alternates, with no more than two of any gender identity.
2 These officers serve as alternates to the chair or vice chair, or state representatives. State
3 central committee alternates shall replace members of the gender identity whenever
4 possible. The county convention shall designate first and second alternates;
5 d) a secretary and a treasurer.

6 2. Only precinct representatives, and current county central committee officers may vote for
7 officers at the county convention. Officers are not required to be precinct representatives. The
8 officers elected by the county convention shall constitute the executive committee of the county
9 central committee and are charged with the execution of the county party's policies and programs
10 between meetings of the full committee. Notwithstanding any other provision of these rules, they
11 shall be entitled to full voting privileges at all other meetings of the county central committee.

12 3. Appointed precinct representatives shall have the same rights, privileges, duties and
13 responsibilities as elected precinct representatives.
14

15 **SECTION C: DCCC VOTING RIGHTS**

16 1. The county central committee may not adopt any rules or regulations that conflict with the
17 laws of Montana, the rules of the Montana Democratic Party or the rules of the national
18 Democratic Party.
19

20 **RULE 3: TRIBAL COMMITTEES**

21 1. Democrats from each of the seven Tribal Reservations in Montana, as well as the Little Shell-
22 Chippewa Tribe, shall be permitted to participate in the governing process of the Montana
23 Democratic Party through participation in tribal committees, whose boundaries each are defined
24 by the geographic borders of each reservation.

25 2. Each tribal committee, including the Crow, Northern Cheyenne, Fort Peck, Fort Belknap,
26 Rocky Boy, Blackfeet, Flathead and Little Shell-Chippewa, shall develop bylaws in accordance
27 with the rules of the Montana Democratic Party and shall follow those bylaws in selecting the
28 tribal committee leaders authorized herein.

1 3. Each Tribal Committee shall be entitled to two delegates, with one vote each, at the Montana
2 Democratic Party Platform, Rules, Officers and Special Nominating Conventions.

3 4. Tribal committees may not adopt any rules or regulations that conflict with the laws of
4 Montana, the rules of the Montana Democratic Party or the rules of the National Democratic
5 Party.

6 **RULE 4 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

- 7
- 8 1. The Montana Democratic Party seeks to engage partner organizations that share our
9 Democratic Values.
- 10 2. Partner organizations must receive a 2/3 vote by the Executive Board of the Montana
11 Democratic Party to be recognized as a partner.
- 12 3. The Montana Democratic Party may rescind partner relationship with a 2/3 vote of the
13 Executive Board at any time.
- 14 4. Partner organizations will be granted one voting member at the Officers Convention and five
15 voting members from each Executive Board District at the Platform Convention.

16

17 **RULE 5 STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

18

19 **SECTION A: MEMBERS OF THE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

- 20 1. The Montana Democratic State Central Committee consists of:
- 21 a) all voting members of the State Party Executive Board, as defined in Rule 6;
- 22 b) the county chair and vice chair of each county, or, in their absence, the state central
23 committee alternates;
- 24 c) the state representatives from each county, or, in their absence, the state central
25 committee alternates;
- 26 d) the president (or, if absent, the vice president) of any partner organization of the
27 Montana Democratic Party; and
- 28 e) Democrats holding the positions of Lieutenant Governor, Clerk of the Supreme Court
29 or Public Service Commissioner.
- 30

1 **SECTION B: OFFICERS OF THE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

2 1. The officers of the Montana Democratic State Central Committee are the State Chair, Vice
3 Chair, National Committee Members, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Director.

4 2. The election procedures for officers of the Montana Democratic State Central Committee are
5 provided in Rule 8. The selection process for an Executive Director is provided in Rule 5.

6 3. It is the duty of all officers to support the platform adopted at the Platform Convention and the
7 Democratic Party nominees who support the Democratic platform. The specific duties of the
8 Party's officers include:

9 a) **State Chair:** The State Chair shall

- 10 • issue calls for and preside at all meetings and conventions of the State Central
11 Committee and the Executive Board;
- 12 • act as a resource for Democratic Party members, organizations, political
13 candidates and campaigns;
- 14 • raise funds for the State Democratic Party;
- 15 • serve as a spokesperson on issues with the advice of the Executive Board;
- 16 • work with the Treasurer and Executive Director to oversee finances of the
17 organization;
- 18 • ensure decisions of the Executive Board are completed;
- 19 • appoint committees on finance, rules, and personnel;
- 20 • appoint other committees as needed; and
- 21 • perform such other duties as the Executive Board may assign.
- 22 • The State Chair shall be paid a monthly stipend in recognition of the time and
23 effort required to fulfill the responsibilities of the position. This stipend will be
24 set and approved by the State Executive Board.

25 b) **State Vice Chair:** The State Vice Chair shall

- 26 • preside at meetings in the absence of the State Chair, or where action by the Chair
27 would constitute a conflict of interest;
- 28 • assist the chair in undertaking the responsibilities of the Chair;
- 29 • assist the Chair and Executive Director in raising funds for the State Democratic
30 Party; and
- 31 • perform such other duties as the Executive Board may assign.

1 c) **Secretary:** The Secretary shall

- 2 • take, distribute and maintain minutes of meetings of the Executive Board;
- 3 • work with the Executive Director and Chair to prepare agendas for Executive
- 4 Board meetings;
- 5 • work with the Executive Director and Chair to ensure proper notice be made
- 6 available in compliance with these rules; and
- 7 • perform such other duties as the Executive Board may assign.

8 d) **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall

- 9 • ensure the Executive Board is meeting fiduciary responsibilities;
- 10 • be responsible for accurate reporting required by federal and state law;
- 11 • serve as Chair of the Finance Committee; and
- 12 • perform such other duties as the Executive Board may assign.

13 e) **National Committee Members:** The National Committee Members shall

- 14 • serve as liaisons between the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and the
- 15 Executive Board;
- 16 • attend and participate fully in the meetings of the DNC: the Winter Meeting,
- 17 Summer Meeting and the meeting of the Western Caucus;
- 18 • submit a written report, in a timely manner, to the Executive Board and report in
- 19 person at the Executive Board meetings subsequent to the DNC Meetings; and
- 20 • serve as unpledged delegates to the National Presidential Convention every four
- 21 years.

22 **SECTION C: STRUCTURE, TERMS & NOTICE**

23 1. The Montana Democratic State Central Committee is the permanent party authority in the

24 State of Montana. The committee is authorized to adopt and promulgate all necessary rules for

25 the conduct of party affairs.

26 2. Meetings of the Montana Democratic State Central Committee may be called by the Chair, the

27 Executive Board, or 20% of the State Central Committee. Members of the State Central

28 Committee shall be notified at least 10 days prior to State Central Committee meetings.

29 3. At any meeting of the Montana Democratic State Central Committee, 50% of registered

30 members in attendance shall constitute a quorum.

1 **RULE 6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

2
3 **SECTION A: HIRING & TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT**

4 1. The Executive Board shall, in its sole discretion, employ an executive director at such rate of
5 compensation as it shall determine necessary.

6 2. The contract of employment shall be in writing, shall embody all of the terms and conditions
7 of employment, and shall be approved by the Personnel Committee and ratified by the Executive
8 Board.

9 a) **Selection Process:** An opening in the position of the Executive Director shall be
10 advertised by the State Chair. Applicants shall be considered by the Personnel
11 Committee. The Personnel Committee shall submit a list of approved candidates to the
12 Executive Board, in priority order. The Executive Board shall approve or disapprove the
13 nomination with a majority vote. If the Executive Board approves the nomination, the
14 nominated person shall be offered the position of Executive Director.

15 b) **Dismissal Process:** An executive director who has been hired may be dismissed by a
16 2/3 vote of the total membership of the State Executive Board at a special meeting called
17 on 15 days written notice. The notice shall contain the performance issues and be signed
18 by the Chair and 25 percent of the members of the Executive Board. Prior to the vote,
19 Executive Director shall be given a full hearing and the opportunity to address personnel
20 issues.

21
22 **SECTION B: EX-OFFICIO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER**

23 1. The Executive Director shall serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the State Central
24 Committee and Executive Board; however, the Executive Director is not authorized to be present
25 in any executive session without specific approval of the body.

26
27 **SECTION C: OPERATIONS, FINANCES & MANAGER OF STAFF**

28 1. The Executive Director shall provide overall supervision and leadership to the staff of the
29 Montana Democratic Party and shall be responsible for the day-to-day administrative operations
30 of the corporation.

- 1 2. The Executive Director shall obtain or provide expertise as is necessary to raise revenue,
2 oversee all financial records, and meet compliance requirements of State and Federal law, work
3 with the Chair, the Treasurer, and Finance Committee to submit quarterly financial reports to the
4 Executive Board, and inform the Executive Board of the organization's financial status.
5 3. The Executive Director will comply with all adopted financial controls and policies per the
6 Executive Board.

7

8 **SECTION D: AUTHORITY & ACCOUNTABILITY**

- 9 1. The Executive Director shall be accountable and report to the Executive Board and shall
10 assume such responsibilities and perform such duties as may be assigned by the Chair or the
11 Executive Board, but not by individual members of the Board.
12 2. The Executive Director may hire additional staff as necessary to achieve the goals of the
13 organization. The Executive Director shall have power to supervise, to hire, and fire staff within
14 policies outlined by the Executive Board.
15 3. The Executive Board shall create a Personnel Committee responsible for providing guidance
16 and oversight in staff policy and staff grievances.

17

18 **RULE 7 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

19

20 **SECTION A: ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- 21 1. The policies and programs of the Montana Democratic State Central Committee will be
22 directed and conducted by the Executive Board according to these rules and the Montana
23 Democratic State Central Committee including the Presidential Delegate Selection Plan.

24

25 **SECTION B: MEETINGS & NOTICE**

- 26 1. The Executive Board shall hold regular meetings at least four times a year. Meetings may be
27 called by the State Chair or by any five members of the Executive Board.
28 2. Members of the Executive Board shall be notified at least 10 days prior to Executive Board
29 meetings.
30 3. A quorum shall consist of 50% of the Executive Board.

31

32 **SECTION C: MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

1 1. Members of the Executive Board are:

2 a) the State Chair and State Vice Chair;

3 b) the immediate past State Chair and immediate past State Vice Chair (the persons most
4 recently holding the offices of State Chair and State Vice Chair unless they were removed
5 from office pursuant to Rules 6 or 7, resigned from that office, or now hold another office
6 entitled to vote);

7 c) the Treasurer and Secretary;

8 d) the National Committee Members;

9 e) four district chairs, with equal representation of different gender identities consisting
10 of one male-identifying and one female-identifying, county central committee chair or
11 vice chair from each Executive Board district;

12 f) eight district members, consisting of two men and two women from each Executive
13 Board district;

14 g) Democratic legislators holding the positions of Speaker of the House, President of the
15 Senate, and Majority Leader of the House and Senate; or the Minority Leader and Whip
16 of the House and Senate;

17 h) Democrats holding the offices of Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State
18 Auditor and Superintendent of Public Instruction; and

19 i) The Montana Democratic members of the United States Senate and United States
20 Congress.

21 j) The officials enumerated in (h) and (i) may designate a representative to act in their
22 absence.

23 k) In addition, the Executive Director shall be a non-voting, ex-officio member of the
24 Executive Board.

25
26 **SECTION D: COMMITTEES**

27 1. The three standing committees of the Executive Board are Finance, Personnel, and Rules.

28 a) **Finance Committee:** The Treasurer of the State Central Committee shall serve as the
29 Chair of the Finance Committee. The State Chair shall appoint other members to the
30 committee.

1 b) **Personnel Committee:** The State Chair shall serve as the Chair of the Personnel
2 Committee. The State Chair shall appoint six additional Executive Board members to the
3 Personnel Committee, three of which must be Democratic incumbents holding state or
4 federal elective offices (or their designated representatives).

5 c) **Rules Committee:** The State Chair shall appoint a Rules Committee.

6 2. The State Chair shall appoint other committees as needed.

7

8 **SECTION E: REMOVAL FOR ABSENCE**

9 1. Any executive committee member who fails to attend any three successive meetings of the
10 Executive Board, after proper notice being given of those meetings, shall be dropped from
11 membership on the Executive Board, unless a satisfactory excuse is provided and accepted by a
12 majority vote of the Executive Board.

13 2. This does not apply to members listed in Rule 6, Section C, #1(g), (h), (i), or (j).

14

15 **RULE 8 VACANCIES & REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

16

17 **SECTION A: VACANCIES**

18 1. A vacancy exists whenever a precinct representative, officer or member dies, resigns, becomes
19 permanently incapacitated or fails to maintain the qualifications of the office. A vacancy also
20 exists whenever the State Chair, State Vice Chair, or any permanent, paid employee of the
21 Montana Democratic Party becomes a candidate for or holds any state or national office,
22 excluding the office of state legislator.

23 2. Unless specified otherwise in this rule, or in law, vacancies on any committee or board shall
24 be filled by election by members of such committee.

25 3. Vacant positions shall be filled as follows:

26 a) **Precinct Representatives:** Remaining members of the county central committee shall
27 elect a precinct resident to fill the vacancy.

28 b) **Officers of City or County Central Committees:** Vacant seats for officers not filled
29 by an appropriate alternate already provided in these rules shall be filled by a person
30 having the necessary qualifications for the vacant seat and shall be elected by the county
31 central committee, except as provided in Rule 7, Section A, #3(e).

1 c) **Executive Board Members:** If the State Chair position becomes vacant, the State
2 Vice Chair shall become Chair. Vacancies in the positions of State Vice Chair or board
3 members, including National Committee Members, shall be filled by a vote of the
4 Executive Board, subject to the notice requirements in Rule 6, Section B, #2. Central
5 Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs shall be advised of such vacancies in their regions 14
6 days in advance of the vote. Nominations must be made by Board members, and
7 candidates for vacancies must meet the same qualifications as the person formerly
8 occupying the position. Election shall be by majority vote of the board members present
9 and voting.

10 d) **Immediate Past State Chair & Vice Chair:** Vacancies in the position of immediate
11 past State Chair and immediate past State Vice Chair shall not be filled.

12 e) **No Established Central Committee:** If there are no elected or appointed precinct
13 committee persons serving in a county, the State Chair shall appoint, with the approval of
14 a majority of the Executive Board, county central committee officers to form a new
15 committee. The appointed officers, who must be residents of the county, may then fill
16 vacant precinct positions as provided in Rule 7, Section A, #3(a). The appointed officers
17 shall serve until the next county convention.

18

19 **SECTION B: REMOVAL**

20 1. Members of the Executive Board, except the National Committee Members, may be removed
21 from office for cause by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board at a special meeting called on 15 days
22 written notice. The notice shall contain the issues and be signed by 25% of the members of the
23 Executive Board. Prior to the vote, the member shall be given an opportunity to address the
24 matters of concern.

25 2. City or county central committee officers may be removed from office according to rules
26 established by each county central committee, or in the absence of county rules, by a 2/3 vote of
27 the total membership of the committee.

28

29 **RULE 9 CONVENTIONS**

30

31 **SECTION A: STATE PLATFORM CONVENTION**

1 1. **Date:** The State Chair shall call the Platform Convention after the primary election and no
2 later than September 15 in even-numbered years to formulate the state platform of the
3 Democratic Party and perform such other business as may properly be brought before such a
4 meeting.

5 2. **Delegates:**

6 a) Delegates to the State Platform Convention shall include the Montana Democratic
7 State Central Committee, the Democratic nominees for all state elective offices, the
8 United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives, and both Democratic
9 incumbents and nominees for the Montana Legislature.

10 b) Partner organizations of the Montana Democratic Party are also entitled to five
11 delegates from each Executive Board district. Each partner organization shall nominate
12 delegates to be elected at the Platform Convention. Prior to the Platform Convention,
13 partner organizations shall present any nominations to the State Executive Board for
14 verification that such nominations were properly made under the rules of the respective
15 chartered organization.

16 c) Persons serving as delegates may hold only one delegate position. Persons eligible to
17 hold more than one delegate position must designate the position for which they desire to
18 serve as a delegate. Vacant positions may be filled by an eligible alternate.

19 3. **Quorum:** At the State Platform Convention, 40% of the delegates eligible to attend and vote
20 shall constitute a quorum.

21
22 **SECTION B: STATE OFFICERS CONVENTION**

23 1. **Date:** The State Chair shall call the State Officers Convention between July 1 and October 31
24 of each odd numbered year to elect a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary of the State
25 Central Committee and members of the Executive Board.

26 2. **Delegates:** Delegates to the State Officers Convention shall include all members of the
27 Montana Democratic State Central Committee and Democratic incumbents of the Montana
28 Legislature.

29 3. **Quorum:** At the State Officer Convention, 40% of the delegates eligible to attend and vote
30 shall constitute a quorum.

1 4. **Terms of State Officers:** Officers and Executive Board members shall hold office for a term
2 of two years or until a successor is elected.

3
4 **SECTION C: NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELECTIONS**

5 **1. Election Procedure:**

6 a) At each state convention to elect delegates to a national Presidential Nomination
7 Convention, a number of National Committee Members, as determined by the
8 Democratic National Committee, shall be elected.

9 b) The persons eligible to vote for these officers and the manner of their election, shall be
10 as provided in Rule 8, Section B.

11 c) The State Chair shall file the names of the National Committee Members with the
12 Democratic National Committee no later than five days from the date of their selection.

13 **2. Terms of National Committee Members:** The National Committee Members shall serve
14 four-year terms commencing on the day the national convention adjourns and terminating on the
15 day the next national convention adjourns.

16
17 **SECTION D: CONVENTION RULES**

18 **1. Registration:** For both the Platform Convention and the Officers Convention, delegates must
19 register according to procedures established by the State Chair.

20 **2. Rules:** All matters pertaining to any state convention not provided for by law or these rules
21 shall be governed by rules adopted by such conventions.

22
23 **RULE 10 PROXIES**

24
25 1. No proxy vote will be recognized at any county, city, district, or state Democratic meeting.
26

27 **RULE 11 PRE-PRIMARY & CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT POLICY**

28
29 1. During a statewide or federal election campaign, the Montana State Democratic Party shall
30 expend no funds and provide no tactical support for any candidate. The Executive Board may by
31 2/3 vote authorize the expenditure of funds and tactical support for proven incumbents who have

1 consistently demonstrated support of the Party platform and issues for incumbents who are
2 running unopposed.

3 2. Absent Executive Board support of a proven statewide or federal incumbent, the State Chair,
4 Vice Chair, Executive Director and paid party staff shall maintain neutrality throughout any
5 contested primary.

6 3. The Executive Board may expend Party funds during a primary campaign for the
7 entertainment of visiting dignitaries from outside the state who may have been invited to appear
8 in the state at the request of the State Central Committee or the Executive Board.

9 4. The State Chair, Vice Chair, Executive Director and paid staff of the Montana Democratic
10 Party shall resign these positions if they file to run for elective office in a contested primary.

11

12 **RULE 12 RULES OF ORDER**

13

14 1. "Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR)," shall govern the proceedings of all
15 meetings existing under these rules, except as provided in Rule 8, Section D, #2.

16

17 **RULE 13 AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES**

18

19 1. **Voting:** These rules may be amended at any meeting of the Montana Democratic State Central
20 Committee by a 2/3 vote of those present.

21 2. **Notice:** Fifteen days written notice of the proposed change shall be given to Montana
22 Democratic State Central Committee members. Notices may be delivered by email.

23 3. **Quorum:** At any meeting of the Montana Democratic State Central Committee, 20% shall
24 constitute a quorum.

25 **RULE 14 PROCEDURES FOR FILLING A VACANCY FOR A DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE** 26 **FOR AN OFFICE WITHIN ONE COUNTY**

27

28 1. Vacancies occurring among Democratic candidates that by law are to be filled by action of the
29 county central committee shall be filled according to the provisions of this rule insofar as they do
30 not conflict with state law.

- 1 2. Appointment of a person to fill the vacancy shall be by a majority vote of the precinct
2 representatives present at a meeting called for that purpose and publicized throughout the county.
3 The county chair shall provide reasonable written or email notice to committee members unless
4 the deadline for filling the vacancy as determined by the election administrator precludes such
5 notice, in which case notification by telephone shall be required.
- 6 3. At the meeting, nominations of persons qualified to fill the vacancy may be made by precinct
7 representatives. Following the close of nominations, an election shall be held with each precinct
8 representative voting for one person. (If more than one vacancy is to be filled at the meeting,
9 separate votes shall be taken for each vacancy.) The person receiving a majority of the votes cast
10 shall be reported by the county chair to the election administrator as the party nominee. If no
11 person receives a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, the name of the person receiving
12 the fewest votes shall be stricken from subsequent ballots until one person receives a majority of
13 the votes cast.

14 **RULE 15 SPECIAL NOMINATING CONVENTION TO FILL A VACANCY FOR A CANDIDATE**
15 **FOR A MULTI-COUNTY OFFICE**
16

- 17 1. In the event the Democratic Party shall have to nominate a candidate for a multi-county
18 district office, the procedures for such nomination shall be as provided in this rule.
- 19 2. The State Chair shall call a nominating convention. The State Chair or his or her designee
20 shall preside. The convention shall choose a secretary and may adopt rules for nominating
21 speeches, candidate presentations and other procedural matters.
- 22 3. The precinct representatives from precincts within the district shall be delegates to the
23 nominating convention.
- 24 4. The State Chair shall issue a convention call to the county chair of each county within the
25 district. The call shall be issued so as to provide reasonable notice to the delegates. The call shall
26 include at least the following:
- 27 a) the time, date and place of the nominating convention;
 - 28 b) a list of the counties and precincts within the district;
 - 29 c) the procedures for certifying the identity of precinct representatives eligible to
30 participate; and
 - 31 d) the qualifications required of the person to be nominated at the convention.

1 5. Any delegate may nominate any Democrat meeting the qualifications provided by law for the
2 vacancy being filled.

3 6. The delegates shall cast ballots using weighted votes. Each delegate shall cast a weighted vote
4 equal to one-half the votes cast in his or her precinct for the Democratic candidate for U.S.
5 Representative in the most recent general election.

6 7. The person receiving a majority of the total votes cast shall be declared the Party's nominee. If
7 no person receives a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, the name of the person
8 receiving the fewest votes shall be stricken from subsequent ballots until one person receives a
9 majority of the votes cast.

10 **RULE 16 SPECIAL NOMINATING CONVENTION TO FILL A VACANCY FOR A CANDIDATE**
11 **FOR A STATEWIDE OFFICE**
12

13 1. In the event the Democratic Party shall have to nominate a candidate for statewide office, the
14 procedures for such nomination shall be as provided in this rule.

15 2. The State Chair shall call a meeting of the Montana Democratic State Central Committee.
16 Reasonable written notice of the meeting shall be issued unless deadlines imposed by the
17 Secretary of State, the laws of Montana, or other authority shall necessitate shorter notice by
18 telephone. The notice of the meeting shall include:

- 19 a) a statement that the purpose of the meeting is to fill a vacancy for the Democratic
20 Party's candidate for statewide office, and naming the office;
- 21 b) the date, time and place of the meeting;
- 22 c) the procedures by which the nominee will be chosen at the meeting;
- 23 d) the procedures for certifying the election of State Central Committee members not
24 already on record with the State Chair; and
- 25 e) the qualifications required of the person to be nominated at the meeting.

26 3. Only members of the Montana Democratic State Central Committee shall be entitled to
27 participate in the meeting, except that the State Central Committee may adopt rules allowing
28 nominating speeches by other persons and may agree to hear presentations by candidates for the
29 nomination. Following the close of nominations, the members of the Montana Democratic State
30 Central Committee shall vote. The person receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared
31 the Party's nominee. If no person receives a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, the

1 name of the person receiving the fewest votes shall be stricken from subsequent ballots until one
2 person receives a majority of the votes cast.
3 4. The State Chair and Secretary shall sign a certificate of nomination naming the person selected
4 and shall deliver the original to the Secretary of State.

5 **RULE 17 SUBMISSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FILLING A VACANCY IN THE**
6 **LEGISLATURE OR IN A BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
7

8 1. In the event the Democratic Party shall have to recommend to county commissioners a list of
9 candidates to fill a vacancy in the legislature, or in the office of county commissioner, as
10 provided by law, the procedures for compiling such list (and a second list, if needed) shall be as
11 provided in this rule.

12 2. Vacancy in a district entirely within one county.

13 a) following any necessary consultation with the county commissioners, the county chair
14 shall call a meeting of the county central committee, providing reasonable written or
15 email notice, or notifying members by telephone if four days written notice cannot be
16 afforded.

17 b) at the meeting, precinct representatives shall nominate a minimum of three persons
18 qualified to serve in the vacant office. Following the close of nominations, each
19 representative shall cast a ballot, voting for no more than three candidates and not more
20 than once for any one candidate. The names of the three persons receiving the most votes
21 shall be certified to the appropriate body by the county chair as the recommended
22 candidates of the Democratic Party.

23 3. Vacancy in a district comprising of two or more counties.

24 a) following any necessary consultation with the county commissioners, the State Chair
25 shall call a nominating convention in a convenient location in one of the counties
26 comprising the district.

27 b) reasonable written or email notice of the meeting shall be provided to all delegates;
28 notice by telephone will be required unless at least four days written notice can be
29 provided.

30 c) precinct representatives from precincts within the district shall be delegates to the joint
31 meeting. The State Chair or his or her designee shall preside at the joint meeting.

1 d) delegates shall nominate a minimum of three persons qualified to serve in the vacant
2 office.

3 e) each delegate shall cast a ballot, voting for no more than three candidates and not
4 voting more than once for each candidate. The weight of each delegate's vote shall be
5 equal to one-half the votes received in that precinct at the last election by the person
6 vacating the office. (The State Chair shall have final authority to assign weighted votes in
7 instances where precinct lines, or district lines may have changed since the election, or
8 other circumstances dictate.) Ballots marked with the proper weighted votes shall be
9 distributed by the presiding officer through a roll call of the counties and their precincts.

10 f) the names of the three persons receiving the most votes shall be certified to the county
11 commissioners by the State Chair as the recommended candidates of the Democratic
12 Party.

13
14 **RULE 18 APPEALS**

15
16 1. In all cases where application of these rules is contested, the aggrieved party must file a
17 timely, written protest with the State Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director.

18 2. The State Chair will call on the state Rules Committee to investigate and resolve the conflict.
19 The Rules Committee's decision is final, unless overruled by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board.

20
21 These Rules become effective upon filing with the Office of the Secretary of State, pursuant to
22 Mont. Code Ann. § 13-38-105