

MCDCC Standing Rules

(as adopted and amended thru October 19, 2023)

1. Notice of Bylaw or Standing Rule Changes:

Text of proposed changes to the Marion County Democratic Party Bylaws or Rules will be sent to the general membership via email at least six days prior to the Central Committee meeting in which they will be first read. (Revised April 20, 2023)

2. Procedure for Submitting a Bylaw or Standing Rule Change:

The proposed change shall be submitted to the Chair, Rules Chair or in person at a Central Committee Meeting as a motion to refer to the Rules Committee.

The Rules Committee shall have 60 days to review the proposal and submit the proposal to the Executive Committee. Please plan to attend the committee meeting to speak to the proposal.

The Rules Committee will be looking to make sure the proposal does not conflict with existing bylaws or statute.

The Rules Committee may also revise the language of the proposal if necessary.

The Rules Committee shall refer any changes that affect a standing committee to said standing committee for comments and consideration within 30 days.

Once reviewed, the proposal with the committee's recommendation must be submitted at the next Executive Committee meeting so it may be reviewed and included in the next Central Committee agenda.

The proposed change must be presented at the next regular Central Committee.

3. Procedure for the nominations and election for the Reorganization of the Central Committee:

The Membership Committee will announce the formation of an Ad Hoc Nominating Committee by the third Thursday of September in even numbered years. The Ad Hoc Nominating Committee shall consist of three to five members selected by the Membership Committee. The Communications Committee should send an announcement to all PCPs with 48 hours of the September meeting, informing all PCP's of the Nominating Committee and how candidates are to submit their names.

Nominations for inclusion on a paper ballot must be submitted to the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee by the first of November.

4. Voter Activation Network (VAN) Access.

- A. The Central Committee is authorized by the Democratic Party of Oregon (DPO) to grant VAN access in all county and municipal elections where at least 75% of the voters in any particular district live within Marion County. The Central Committee is not authorized to grant VAN access for any other race; such access is authorized directly by the DPO.
- B. If the Chair of Marion County Democrats believes that a candidate should not have access to VAN, then the Chair shall refer the matter to the Executive Committee for review. The Executive Committee shall review and make a recommendation to the Central Committee. The Chair shall call a Special Meeting of the Central Committee to resolve the issue within ten (10) days.
- C. If the candidate is denied access to VAN, the candidate shall be informed of their right to appeal the denial to DPO.
- D. The DPO Administration Committee will consider appeals to denials of VAN access and are the final authority for granting access.
- E. The Central Committee shall not grant VAN access to any Political Action Committee, other than one which supports a single candidate.
- F. The Central Committee shall determine the fee for use of VAN by a candidate per DPO policy.
- G. The Central Committee Chair shall ensure that Democratic candidates promptly receive the correct level of VAN access, commensurate with endorsement, following Central Committee and DPO policies and rules.
- H. All PCPs shall have access to minimum privilege VAN accounts for their respective precinct upon written request. A PCP who is denied access to VAN for their respective precinct may appeal the denial to the Central Committee.

(revised October 23, 2023)

5. Endorsement

- A. The Central Committee is an open forum for registered Democrats who are candidates in partisan and nonpartisan races where a candidate's constituency is located within the boundaries of Marion County (hereinafter "local").
- B. Local Candidate Endorsement

- a. Endorsement of local candidates is by a majority vote of the Central Committee.
- b. In primaries and nonpartisan races, the Central Committee may endorse more than one local candidate for the same position.
- c. Local candidates may seek endorsement by written request to the Chair of the Candidate Support Committee or a member of the Executive Committee. If received by a member of the Executive Committee, the request shall be referred to the Candidate Support Committee for review and recommendation.
- d. Upon receiving such a request, the Candidate Support Committee shall promptly review the candidate seeking endorsement and prepare a report for the Central Committee including the recommendation to endorse or not to endorse the candidate. In the event that the Candidate Support Committee has not been convened, the Executive Committee shall perform this duty.
- e. The recommendation(s) to endorse or not endorse candidate(s) shall be delivered at the next General or Special Meeting. The Executive Committee shall call a Special Meeting when the next scheduled General Meeting occurs too late to make timely endorsement(s).
- f. In each race, each endorsed candidate shall receive equal benefits of endorsement.
- g. The Neighborhood Leader Program may, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee, recommend to voters any registered Democrat that is running in a nonpartisan race.
- h. The Central Committee may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, rescind endorsement of a candidate. The Executive Committee must provide written notice to the candidate in question at least seven (7) days before such a motion may be considered at a Central Committee meeting. If the Central Committee has rescinded endorsement, the Chair shall request DPO to rescind VAN access for the candidate.

C. Endorsement of, or Opposition to, a Ballot Measure

- a. Endorsement or opposition of a ballot measure is by a sixty percent (60%) majority vote of the Central Committee.
- b. The Legislative Committee shall review each initiative petition that has been authorized for circulation by the Secretary of State or, if a local or county-wide election, by the County Clerks Office for circulation.

- c. The Legislative Committee shall prepare a report for the Central Committee on each ballot measure including a recommendation to endorse, to oppose, or to not take a position on the ballot measure. In the event that the Legislative Committee has not been convened, the Executive Committee shall perform this duty.
- d. The recommendation(s) shall be delivered at the next General or Special Meeting. The Executive Committee shall call a Special Meeting when the next scheduled General Meeting occurs too late to make timely endorsement(s).

(revised October 23, 2023)

6. Length of a Business or Special Meeting

A business meeting or a special meeting of the Marion County Democrat Central Committee shall be no more than two hours in length, excepting that the time may be extended by a motion providing a specified amount of additional time if approved by a majority vote of the Precinct Committee Persons present. (Adopted February 16, 2023)