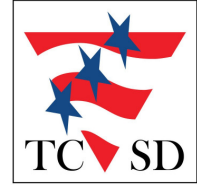


# Bylaws of the Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats



## Article I. Name

The name of the organization shall be the Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats, herein also referred to as "the Organization."

## Article II. Purpose

The purpose of the Organization is:

- To inform Democratic candidates and officeholders of issues of importance to members of the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender community and our supporters and voters (herein also referred to as the LGBTQ community);
- To promote the Democratic Party's message of economic justice and social progress in the LGBTQ community;
- To evaluate candidates for public office and actively support those candidates who best promote the Organization's mission;
- To encourage the participation of members of the Organization in the campaigns of Democratic candidates and at all levels of the Democratic Party, including Tarrant County;
- To facilitate the election of Democratic candidates to public office by maximizing Democratic turnout in the LGBTQ community;
- To build coalitions with other organizations and communities that support the Organization's mission, reach out to under-represented and diverse groups within our community in order to bring about greater harmony and understanding; and increase the Organization's visibility and influence through participation in community activities and events;
- To strive to make Tarrant County a better place for LGBTQ people to live, work, play and raise families.

## Article III. Members

Section 1. Anyone may make application for membership in the Organization. To be accepted as a member, a person must:

- Sign a statement of allegiance subscribing to the purposes of the Organization, to be submitted with their membership application; and

- Pay annual membership dues as set by the Executive Board.

Section 2. Members shall have the right to vote on the endorsements of the Organization in a Primary or General Election, to run for office in the Organization, to vote on election of the officers of the Organization, and to vote on amendments to the bylaws.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall set annual membership dues. The Membership Chair shall notify members when their dues are payable one month prior and on the anniversary of their joining the Organization. Those whose dues are not paid within two months of their anniversary shall be automatically dropped from membership in the Organization.

Section 4. Any member whose actions are judged by a majority of the Executive Board to be prejudicial or detrimental to the Organization may be expelled from the Organization, upon recommendation of the Executive Board, by a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting at a called meeting of the Organization.

Section 5. The membership list is to be kept confidential and shall not be rented, traded, sold or provided to any candidate or other organization, except for the Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus, our parent organization.

Section 6. Any member may resign by filing a written resignation with the membership chair.

## **Article IV. Officers**

Section 1. The officers of the Organization shall be a President, Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 2. At the regular meeting of the membership held in February, nominations shall be accepted for these offices. To be eligible for election, a candidate for office must be a current member of the Organization. The election shall be held at this meeting. The officers shall be elected by ballot to serve for one year or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected.

Section 3. The President shall preside at all meetings or designate a Chair for the meeting; shall be Chair of the Executive Board; shall be a non-voting member of all committees; shall create special committees as deemed necessary; and shall be the official spokesperson for the group. In addition, The President, or their representative, shall serve as the Organization's representative to the Texas Stonewall Democrats. The President shall have the discretion to disburse funds up to \$250 for business arising between Executive Board meetings. The Executive Board shall be made aware of these transactions at the following Board meeting.

Section 4. The Vice-President shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the President; shall be responsible for coordinating the Organization's participation in special events consistent with the Organization's stated mission; shall be responsible for contacting guest speakers for the regular Organization meetings; shall serve at the discretion of the President as liaison to other Democratic Party clubs, non-partisan political groups, and community organizations in Tarrant County; and shall perform all duties as assigned by the President.

Section 5. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Organization and of the Executive Board; shall provide the minutes of prior meetings at each meeting of the Organization; shall maintain an updated record of all standing rules, resolutions and policies adopted by the Executive Board or the membership; shall handle the Organization's official correspondence; and shall perform all duties as assigned by the President.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall collect and disburse the funds of the Organization. All funds shall be kept in a financial institution(s) approved by the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall keep books of account in which there shall be recorded all receipts and disbursements of the Organization for at least three years. The Treasurer shall have the authority to disburse funds as directed by the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall make monthly and annual reports to the membership; shall provide all information and documentation pertaining to the Organization's financial history for audit purposes; and shall perform all other duties as assigned by the President.

Section 7. The Past President shall serve in an advisory capacity to the President; shall chair the Nominating Committee; and shall perform all other duties as assigned by the President.

Section 8. An officer may be removed from office upon recommendation of a two-thirds majority of the Executive Board on a roll call vote or upon submission of a petition signed by at least 25 percent of the members. Such recommendation or petition must be submitted to the membership at a called meeting and shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting to remove the officer.

Section 9. An officer may resign by providing a written notice of such resignation to the Organization. The resignation shall be effective upon the date of receipt of the notice of resignation or the date specified in such notice. Acceptance of the resignation shall not be required to make the resignation effective.

## **Article V. Meetings**

Section 1. The regular meetings of the Organization shall be held monthly, at a time to be determined by the Organization.

Section 2. All members shall be notified of the time, date, and location of the membership meetings by mail, e-mail, social media, or telephone in advance of the date set for the meeting.

Section 3. The February meeting shall be known as the annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.

Section 4. Special meetings may be called by the President or by a majority of the Executive Board or at the written and signed request of ten members of the Organization. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call.

Section 5. A quorum for meetings shall be those members present and in good standing at the time of the meeting and a simple majority of those is required to pass motions. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Section 6. A member's right to vote on motions or in elections begins on the first day of the month following payment of dues.

Section 7. If all of the members of the executive board shall meet at any time or place or consent to the holding of a meeting, such meeting shall be valid without call or notice, and any action may be taken at such meeting.

Section 8. Any action that could be taken at a board meeting may be taken without a meeting if consent in writing, setting forth the action to be taken, shall be signed by everyone entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof. Such consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote. Each written consent shall bear the date and signature of each person who consents to the action.

## **Article VI. Committees**

Section 1. The chair of the membership committee shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Organization. The chair of the membership committee shall have the authority to appoint two members to the committee.

- The Chair of the Membership Committee shall preside over all meetings of the Membership Committee; shall maintain all membership records; shall certify that a member is current and eligible to vote; and shall perform all duties as assigned by the President.

- The Membership Committee shall promote membership in the Organization and shall coordinate Organization outreach and recruitment activities.
- Members of the Membership Committee shall serve for one year not to exceed the term of regularly elected Officers of the Organization or until a successor is elected.

Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall be chaired by the immediate past president and shall consist of an even number of additional members of whom half shall be appointed by the Executive Board and the remaining half shall be elected at the January general meeting from among members who do not sit on the Executive Board. In the event that the immediate past president is no longer a member in good standing of the Organization or is otherwise unavailable to serve as chair of the Nominating Committee, the President shall appoint another Organization member to serve as chair. The Nominating Committee shall be charged with the responsibility for recruiting candidates for officers and elected committee chairs in advance of the annual meeting. The committee shall provide a slate of nominees annually at the February meeting.

Section 3. The Communications Committee Chair shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Organization. The Communications Committee Chair shall have the authority to appoint ad-hoc members of the Communications Committee at their discretion. The Communications Committee Chair shall provide members with notices of meetings, elections, delegate selection and proposed changes in the bylaws; shall provide communications concerning meetings, programs and projects of the Organization to the LGBTQ community and the community at large; and shall develop mechanisms for promoting awareness of the Organization and enhancing its image through social media.

Section 4. The Action Team Committee Chair shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Organization and shall have the authority to appoint members of the Action Team Committee. The Action Team Committee shall promote and implement the registration of voters, and shall be responsible for the recruitment and placement of Organization volunteers.

Section 5. The Fundraising Committee Chair shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Organization. The Fundraising Committee Chair shall have the authority to appoint ad-hoc members of the Fundraising Committee and shall organize periodic special events for the purpose of raising funds for the Organization.

Section 6. The President shall have the authority to nominate up to four additional members of the Executive Board. These may have authority for specific projects and tasks, which may be of an ongoing nature.

Confirmation of each Board Member-At-Large requires an affirmative vote by a majority of the members present at the next general meeting of the Organization.

Section 7. The Organization shall conduct an audit of its financial records annually, and in addition when a new Treasurer is appointed to fill an unexpired term. The President shall nominate at least one, and up to three, Auditors, who will be confirmed by a vote of the Executive Board. The Auditors shall present their report to the general membership at the second regular meeting following the annual meeting of the Organization. Members of the Executive Board may not serve as Auditors

## **Article VII. The Legislative Advocate**

A Legislative Advocate may be nominated by the President. Confirmation requires an affirmative vote by a majority of the members present and voting at the next general meeting of the Organization. Upon confirmation, the Legislative Advocate shall be a member of the Executive Board. The Legislative Advocate shall represent the Organization on any local, state, and/or national lobbying federations with which the Organization is affiliated and shall keep the Executive Board informed of the activities of such groups.

## **Article VIII. The Executive Board**

Section 1. The four elected officers of the Organizations, along with the elected committee chairs (Membership, Communications, Fundraising and Action Team), shall be members of the Executive Board. The Past President, if available to serve, the Legislative Advocate, if appointed, and all Board Members-At-Large, if appointed, shall also be members of the Executive Board.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Organization between its business meetings; shall fix the hour and place of meetings; shall make recommendations to the Organization; and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws. The Board shall be subject to the orders of the Organization, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Organization, or with the Organization's purpose.

Section 3. The quorum for meetings of the Executive Board shall be a simple majority of its members.

Section 4. The Executive Board shall meet at the discretion of the President or a simple majority of the Executive Board. Notice of all meetings

of the Board shall be given to each member of the Executive Board by mail, e-mail, or by telephone at least seven days prior to the meeting date.

Section 5. Each member of the Executive Board shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote. A member must be present to vote. No proxy voting is permitted.

Section 6. Any vacancy occurring on the Executive Board shall be filled by a nominee of the President and appointed by a vote of the Executive Board.

Section 7. Any Executive Board member may be removed for cause by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members of the Executive Board at a properly called meeting.

Section 8. The Executive Board may accept on behalf of the Organization any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for the general purpose or for any special purpose of the Organization.

## **Article IX. Endorsements**

Section 1. The Organization may endorse a candidate(s) or issue(s) in any election submitted to the electorate for a vote.

Section 2. Only members of the Democratic Party, and Democratic candidates in partisan or non-partisan elections, are eligible for endorsement by this Organization.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall prepare a list of candidates and/or issues to be submitted to the membership for endorsement consideration in a Primary or General Election. The Executive Board is not obliged to select every item on a ballot, but may choose only those items it justly deems viable and appropriate for consideration.

Section 4. The Executive Board shall adopt rules-of-procedure for the endorsement process prior to the meeting at which Organization members shall make endorsements in a Primary or General Election.

Section 5. The Executive Board may at its discretion require candidates for endorsement to complete a questionnaire or to produce documents as a prerequisite for endorsement. The contents or text of any questionnaire must be approved by the Executive Board.

Section 6. Endorsements for a Primary or General Election shall be made by the members at a properly called meeting consistent with the rules-of-procedure. Candidate(s) or issue(s) for endorsement consideration must receive a majority vote of the members present to receive an endorsement from the Organization. In the event no candidate(s) or issue(s) for endorsement consideration receives more than 50% of the vote, a runoff

election must occur. A situation of no endorsement is permitted. Recommendations to vote against a candidate(s) or ballot issue(s) is permitted.

Section 7. Members shall have the right to question any candidate or candidate's representative seeking endorsement during an endorsement meeting. Members shall further have the right to disseminate information in favor of or against any particular candidate(s) or ballot issue(s), whether produced by the candidate or the member, to the members present at the endorsement meeting. No member shall be restricted in communicating his or her opinion or views either verbally or in writing at any meeting of the Organization. No member, including members of the Executive Board, shall be barred from endorsing candidates prior to the Organization's endorsement meeting provided that the member so doing does not use the Organization's name in that endorsement in any way.

## **Article X. Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Organization may adopt.

## **Article XI. Amendment of Bylaws**

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of the Organization, provided that all such amendments shall have been submitted to the membership at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the meeting at which said amendments are to be voted. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a properly called meeting of the membership shall be required for adoption of any amendments to these Bylaws.

## **Article XII. Anti-Discrimination Provisions**

This Organization shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, ethnic or national origin, age, disability, veteran status, social or economic status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other factor unrelated to membership and the mission of the Organization.