

Proposed IDP Constitutional Amendments 2024

Constitutional Amendment #1

Submitted by: Jackie Cordon and Sandy Dockendorff,

Rationale: The district central committees have a minimum of 3 members, for good reason. For at least the district/state conventions of 2018-2022, the State Central Committee has voted to make this required for District and state conventions also and allot 3 per county. They chose not to for the 2024 conventions. This resulted in numerous counties receiving 1 delegate. As Democrats, we seek to elect a diverse group of people to our conventions. Being allotted 1 delegate makes that difficult. We have a diverse population in many of our rural counties, and getting that perspective to our district and state conventions helps with Party building, whereas limiting their involvement beyond the county discourages involvement and cuts the ability of counties to continue to develop volunteers as future candidates for office.

Proposed Amendment:

Changes in Red:

Article V Section 2 -

Conventions, Call and Apportionment Congressional District Conventions, composed of delegates elected at County Conventions to represent their respective counties at such District Conventions, shall be held each even-numbered year within the Congressional Districts. The State Chair, subject to the approval of the State Central Committee, shall issue a call for such conventions in the same manner and at the same time that the call for precinct caucuses is issued. . The number of votes to which each county shall be entitled in such conventions shall be the same as for the State Convention as based upon the weighting required by **provisions of** Article IX, Section 7.

Article IX, Section 7 - Apportionment of Delegates

Apportionment of delegates to conventions and to district and state convention committees shall be according to a formula which gives equal weight to the Democratic votes cast in the most recent electoral contests for United States President and the

Governor of Iowa. *Each county shall be allotted at least three convention delegates.*

Constitutional Amendment #2

Submitted by: Mary McAdams

“As a duly elected delegate to the 2024 State Convention, I submit the following amendment to the 2022 IDP Constitution for consideration and vote to approve:”

Proposed Amendment:

Strike Article VI, Section 3, paragraph a in its entirety and renumber succeeding paragraphs beginning with a.

Constitutional Amendment #3

Submitted by: Cecille Thompson

Rationale: The amendment clarifies that constituency caucuses are a part of the IDP and are under the purview of State Central Committee of the IDP.

Proposed Amendment:

Amend Art. VI, Sect. 2, Subsection “b” as follows:

a. The Constituency Caucuses include the Arab-American, Armed Forced Veterans, Asian & Pacific Islander, Black, Climate Change/Environmental, Disability, Labor, Latino, Native American, Progressive, Rural, Senior/Retirees, Stonewall, and Women Caucuses.

The primary purposes of the Constituency Caucuses shall be to encourage and facilitate active participation in the Iowa Democratic Party by the constituency and to represent the concerns of the constituency within the Iowa Democratic Party.

As entities within the Iowa Democratic Party the Constituency Caucuses are subject to governance by the State Central Committee and may petition the State Central Committee for funding to support outreach, education, or other official programming of the caucus. Each Constituency Caucus shall establish and maintain bylaws and a mission statement, both of which shall be subject to the approval of the State Central

Committee.

Constitutional Amendment #4

Submitted by: Jan Norris, Mary McAdams, and Sarah Eastman

Rationale: Establishing the Steering Committee as part of the constitution

Proposed Amendment:

Strike the language of Article VII and replace it with the following:

Article VII – Steering Committee of the State Central Committee

A Steering Committee of the Iowa Democratic Party shall be a standing committee of the State Central Committee (SCC) with the authority to impact operational and election-related activities of the Iowa Democratic Party, specifically, but not limited to:

1. Oversight and direction of IDP bank accounts and spending;
2. Implementation of comprehensive statewide communication strategy;
3. Development of statewide organizing efforts;
4. Monitoring the implementation of an approved strategic plan.

Section 1: Membership

1. Members of the Steering Committee shall include:

- a. one person elected by the State Central Committee members from each Congressional District,
- b. one member from a low-population county (defined as having a population of fewer than 25,000 people) elected by the SCC members as a whole,
- c. the Democratic leader from the Iowa House,
- d. the Democratic leader from the Iowa Senate,
- e. one statewide executive office holder (elected by a majority of the statewide Democratic office holders),
- f. the State Party Chair, and
- g. State Party Treasurer.

2. Elections of members identified in paragraphs a and b above shall be held during the first meeting of the SCC following the State Convention.
3. All elections under this article shall be by a majority of those eligible to vote and present at the meeting during which the election shall occur. "Present" is defined as physically or remotely in attendance at the same time and date.
4. No secret, absentee or proxy ballots

Section 2: Purpose

The Steering Committee shall serve in an advisory capacity, providing Iowa Democratic Party officials with insight and feedback. Further responsibilities include advocacy for the strategic plan of the Iowa Democratic Party amongst other Party leaders and supporters.

1. The agenda of each meeting shall include a report of budget actuals and fundraising goals, as well as progress to date toward the completion of short and long-term goals within the strategic plan.
2. The Steering Committee shall prepare an annual budget for the Iowa Democratic Party, subject to approval by the SCC. Amendments to the annual budget may be approved by the Steering Committee at a stated meeting so long as the amendment is noted in the agenda. No such amendment requiring an increase in expenditure exceeding \$10,000 shall be approved without a majority vote of the SCC.
3. The Steering Committee shall review and may develop recommendations for amendments to the IDP Constitution and shall forward such recommendations to the SCC at least sixty days in advance of each State Democratic Convention.
4. Agendas shall be forwarded to members of the Steering Committee and all members of the State Central Committee at least five days in advance of the stated meeting.

Section 3: Ad hoc committees

At the discretion of the State Democratic Party Chair, ad hoc committees of the Steering Committee may be named with specific goals to meet or duties to perform, and for a specified duration. The Chair of each such ad hoc committee shall be a member of the Steering Committee, though people other than Steering Committee members may be appointed as members. Committees formed under this paragraph shall report to the full Steering Committee at least quarterly.

Section 4: Meetings

1. The Steering Committee shall meet monthly and additional meetings may be called to resolve time-sensitive issues.
2. Portions of any meeting may be closed to anyone not currently serving on the Steering Committee or the SCC, staff, and invited guests.
3. Any items on the agenda that shall be discussed in a closed session shall be so noted on the agenda.
4. No votes shall be taken during a closed session.
5. SCC members may attend, but discussion shall be limited to Steering Committee members and those asked to present information as requested by the Steering Committee.

Constitutional Amendment #5

Submitted by: Sandy Dockendorff

Proposed Amendment:

Strike Article VI, Section 3, paragraph d and renumber the remaining paragraphs in this Section.

Constitutional Amendment #6

Submitted by: Sandy Dockendorff

Proposed Amendment:

Amend Art. VI, Section 2, paragraph d, as follows:

Election of officers: The State Central Committee shall meet and organize no later than thirty (30) days following the adjournment of the State Convention. Members of the State Central Committee shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, a (remove) Secretary, and a (remove) Treasurer, (remove) and such other officers that they may deem necessary within ninety (90) days following the general election of each presidential year. Such

officers need not be members of the State Central Committee; however, they must be eligible members of the Iowa Democratic Party. The term of office of each officer shall be for **two four (change)** years and until their successor is elected and qualified.

Constitutional Amendment #7

Submitted by: R.R.S. Stewart

Rationale:

- 1) Later in the document, the President of College and Young Democrats is referred to as “CYD President” without it having been defined earlier in the document what CYD stands for.
- 2) To permit the College and Young Democrats Vice-President to be seated at an SCC meeting in the absence of the President of the Iowa College and Young Democrats to gain consistency with how committee and constituency caucus vice-chairs are treated in the constitution.

Proposed Amendment:

Amend Art. VI, Sect. 2, Subsect. “a” as follows:

a. The membership of the State Central Committee shall include:

- The District Committeepersons,
- ~~the~~ The National Committeepersons,
- ~~the~~ The Chair of the State Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee,
- ~~the~~ The President of the Iowa College and Young Democrats (“CYD”),
- The Chair of the State Rules and Nominations Committee,
- The Chair of the State Platform Committee, and
- ~~the~~ The ~~chairs~~ Chairs of the ~~fourteen~~ Constituency Caucuses.

In those cases where a Vice-Chair of a committee or caucus, or a CYD Vice-President, has been elected, they shall receive all notices of meetings and shall vote in the absence of the President or respective Chair, or if the President or respective Chair is already voting in another capacity. ~~in place of absent members of the committee or caucus from which they were elected .~~