



Delaware Democratic Party PRIDE Caucus

June 1, 2023

Section 1: Name, Purpose, and Membership

Delaware Democratic Party PRIDE Caucus

1. Name

a. The organization shall be known as the Delaware Democratic PRIDE Caucus; "PRIDE"

2. Purpose

a. The purpose of PRIDE is to engage LGBTQIA+ and ally Democrats in political participation, community advocacy, and legislative commentary.

b. In furtherance of this purpose, the Caucus shall actively encourage and support LGBTQIA+ persons to run for office, participate as Democratic Party officers, seek appointments in government departments and on boards and commissions, and serve as representatives at all levels.

- c. PRIDE shall also serve to provide the Party guidance regarding the concerns of the LGBTQIA+ community, and collaborate with them on policies that reflect the interests of the community and welfare of the LGBTQIA+ communities; and
- d. Members will also work to implement various LGBTQIA+ friendly initiatives and amplify messages through building coalitions with thought leaders and related organizations.

3. Definitions

LGBTQIA+ = L - Lesbian, G - Gay, B – Bisexual/Bi-gender, T - Trans, Q - Queer/Questioning, I - Intersex, A - Asexual/Agender, and “+” – It is the catch all for the other ways one refers to their gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression that was not listed previously including but not limited to Pansexual, and inclusive of global Indigenous communities such as the Two Spirit community, the Muxes of Mexico, the Pacific Islander communities of Māhū and Aikāne, and the Hijras of South Asia.

Gender – It is a social and cultural construct. It’s how a person’s identity relates to society’s idea of what it means to be a woman, man, neither, or a mix of many genders.

Sexual Orientation - Refers to an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic and/or sexual attractions with respect to gender(s).

Gender Identity – A person’s deeply-held inner feelings of whether they are female, male, both, or neither. Their gender identity isn’t seen by others.

Gender Expression - How one chooses to express their gender identity through their name, pronouns, clothing, hair style, behavior, voice, and/or body features.

4. Membership

- a. PRIDE shall be composed of voting and non-voting members, that:
 - Are registered Democrats or any minor 16-17 years of age.
 - Voting members are defined as voters registered in Delaware who support the Party, believe in the values and mission of PRIDE, and who submit a Caucus Membership form and proper dues to the Caucus within twelve (12) months prior to a vote with the exception of a vote for officers. Members who joined the Caucus fewer than sixty (60) days prior to an election of officers shall not vote for or be allowed to run as candidates for officers of the Board of the Caucus.*
 - Pay annual dues as set by the Executive Committee or receive a waiver.*
- b. The Executive Committee may establish non-voting categories of membership, and shall define those categories as necessary.

Section 2: Caucus Operations

1. Endorsements

- a. The Caucus may elect to endorse any candidate for partisan or nonpartisan office in a primary election and recommend the candidate to the appropriate Party committee. This shall not bind any member of the Caucus from making a public endorsement or

contribution in their independent capacity of any candidate whether endorsed or not endorsed by the Party or Caucus.

b. The Caucus may elect to endorse or not endorse any candidate in the general election but must coordinate any financial contributions with the Party.

2. Meetings

a. General meetings of the Caucus will be held at a time most convenient for the majority of the membership and should occur monthly.*

b. The Executive Committee may from time to time call special meetings provided at least seven days advance notice is given to all members.

c. There shall be a Caucus Conference held in February of every other year* on a date selected by the Executive Committee to elect new leadership, approve of a new platform, and amend bylaws as needed.

d. The time and place for all general meetings may be shared with the Party for publication and all members should be notified by email at least seven days in advance.

e. No less than one-third of the general voting membership shall constitute a quorum for any business.

f. No votes shall not be taken by secret ballot.

g. Except as otherwise provided, all questions before the Caucus shall be determined by a simple majority vote of those members allowed to vote and present in person or by proxy.

h. Voting by proxy shall be allowed on matters presented during regular meetings. Proxies may be either general or limited and either instructed or uninstructed but must be done by members regularly allowed to vote. All proxies shall be in writing and transferable if so specified. No member may at any one time hold or exercise a proxy for more than one other member of the Caucus.

i. General meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

3. Dues and Fiscal Year **

1. The fiscal year will begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

2. Annual dues will be collected from all members at a cost approved by the Executive Committee on the date of membership and each subsequent anniversary of membership.

3. Non-payment of dues will make a member inactive and unable to vote on PRIDE matters.

4. In case of economic hardship, and upon request by the member, dues may be waived by the Executive Committee.

Section 3: Caucus Officers and Structure

1. Executive Committee

a. Shall be made up of five elected officers to include a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.

b. Rights & Responsibilities

- i. Serve as the governing body of the Caucus;
- ii. Establish and execute the Caucus' strategic plans;
- iii. Fill vacant offices in between Annual Conventions;
- iv. Approve Executive Appointees nominated by the Chair;
- v. Establish and recall Liaison positions within the Caucus;
- vi. Set the dates and agendas for meetings;

- vii. Propose membership dues for a vote by Caucus members; *
- viii. Propose amendments to these bylaws to present for a vote by Caucus membership;
- ix. Establish subsequent standing or temporary committees and determine membership requirements. *

c. Election

- i. Executive officers shall be elected by a simple majority of members present at the Annual Convention of odd-numbered years and serve for two years.

2. Duties of Officers

a. Chair

- i. Shall preside over all general meetings, Executive Committee meetings, and Annual Conventions;
- ii. Shall serve as the official representative to the State Party Executive Committee if so invited;
- iii. Shall be empowered to speak on behalf of the Caucus and serve as the official representative to any other group;
- iv. May delegate and recall any authority granted to any other member;
- v. Have and exercise the usual powers and duties of a Chairperson.

b. Vice-Chair

- i. Shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence or incapacitation of the Chair until their return;
- ii. Assume the duties of the Chair upon the Chair's death, removal or resignation for the remainder of their term;
- iii. Perform any other duties as assigned by the Chair

c. Secretary

- i. Shall make necessary preparations for meetings to include but not limited to preparing agendas as directed by the Chair, sending meeting notifications, responding to correspondence, as well as recording and distributing the minutes of meetings and Annual Conventions;

d. Treasurer

- i. Shall maintain complete records of expenditures and receipts of the Caucus;
- ii. Shall prepare and present a monthly finance report;
- iii. Make any necessary campaign finance filings.

3. Committees

- a. Committees established by this Caucus shall choose their own chair and secretary from among the committee members, report to the Caucus and Executive Committee, and the committee secretary shall submit written reports to the Executive Committee for disbursement with the minutes of the Caucus. The Chair shall appoint the members of each Committee pursuant to member-indicated interest.
- b. The following Standing Committees are established:
 - i. [Outreach and Communications, etc.]*
- c. Ad Hoc Committees shall include:
 - i. [Bylaws Committee prior to Conventions, Endorsements and Contributions prior to Elections, etc.]*

*To be determined and subject to being updated by the Executive Committee has been elected.

**Once formed and members have joined we will implement and set dates that are appropriate.