



# Bylaws

## Delaware Democratic Party Veterans and Military Family Members Caucus

December 2024

### Section 1: Name, Purpose, and Membership

Delaware Democratic Party Veterans and Military Family Members Caucus

**1. Name**

- a. The organization shall be known as the Delaware Democratic Party Veterans and Military Family Members Caucus, herein referred to as the Caucus or "DVMFC."

**2. Purpose**

- a. The purpose of the DVMFC is to strengthen bonds among Democratic Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States ("Veterans") and military family members in Delaware, promote democratic principles and ideals, actively promote participation by Veterans and military family members in the electoral process, and enhance Veterans and military family members participation in the Democratic Party throughout Delaware and local Delaware communities.
- b. Further to this purpose, the Caucus shall actively encourage and support veterans and military family members to participate as Democratic Party officers and representatives at all levels.
  - a. Promote and encourage the full participation of all veteran and military family member Democrats in all facets of the Delaware Democratic Party and civic processes.
  - b. Give the Party guidance regarding the concerns of Delaware veterans **and** military family members and collaborate with them on policies that reflect the interests and welfare of veteran and military family members, communities, and
  - c. Act as a vehicle for implementing initiatives in veterans communities by building

coalitions with Representative District Committees, local community leaders, and related organizations.

### 3. **Membership**

- a. Full Membership shall be open to all registered Delaware Democrats who
  - i. Identify as a military veteran or;
  - ii. Identify as a military family member.
  - iii. Proof of veteran status may be required by the executive committee. DD-214 or other appropriate document may suffice as determined by the executive committee. A military family member seeking a position on the executive committee will provide the DD-214 of the veteran or active military member relation or other documentation as appropriate. Discretion on discharge status may be a discriminator in committee officer positions.
  - iv. Commit to the purpose of the Caucus; and
  - v. Pay annual dues as set by the Executive Committee or receive a waiver from the Membership Committee.
  - vi. For the purposes of this Caucus, Military Family Members are spouses, parents, or children of a veteran, active duty member, reservist, or guardsman. Grandchildren may be a military family member if they provide support or care for the living grandparent. Survivors of a deceased veteran who had the above relationships with the deceased veteran are also eligible.
- b. Associate membership shall be open to all other registered Democrats who commit to the purpose of the caucus. They will be allowed to participate in general membership activities and meetings as well as serve on caucus committees but shall not be allowed to vote in general caucus matters.

## 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.
  - c. The Caucus reserves the rights the Constitution guarantees of free speech to publish and share views and opinions on all Democratic candidates, whether endorsed or not endorsed, especially concerning matters of interest to communities of color.
  - d. The process for endorsements shall be approved at the Annual Convention and be made available publicly and by request to any member who requests it.
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 call special meetings provided at least seven days advance notice is given to all members.
  - c. A Caucus Conference shall be held in February of odd years 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 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 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.

### Section 3: Caucus Officers and Structure

- 1. Executive Committee
  - a. It shall comprise five elected officers, including a Chair, 1st Vice-Chair, Vice Chair for Military Family Members, 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. Establish and set membership dues according to their discretion;
    - 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.
    - ii. The sitting Chair shall select the Parliamentarian, Chaplain, and Communications Officer within 30 days of his/her election, but must be approved by the Executive Committee and shall serve at the pleasure of the sitting chair.
- 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. 1st 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;
    - iv. Serve as the Chair of the Outreach Committee.
  - c. Vice Chair for Military Family Members
    - i. Shall provide for an Executive Committee position explicitly reserved for military family caucus members.
    - ii. In the absence 1st Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence or incapacitation of the Chair until their return;

- iii. Serve as the Chair of the Military Family Members Committee
    - iv. Perform any other duties as assigned by the Chair
  - d. 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;
    - ii. Serve as the Chair of the Operations Committee.
  - e. Treasurer
    - i. Shall maintain complete records of expenditures and receipts of the Caucus;
    - ii. Shall prepare and present a monthly finance report;
    - iii. Serve as the Chair of the Finance Committee.
- 3. Executive Appointees
  - a. Shall be selected by the Chair and approved by the Executive Committee to serve at the pleasure of the Chair.
  - b. Parliamentarian
    - i. Ensure that all meetings and Annual Conventions adhere to Robert's Rules of Order;
    - ii. Oversees general body votes to ensure eligibility and a proper count with one other officer;
    - iii. Work with the Chair to address any grievances raised;
    - iv. Serve on the Operations Committee.
  - c. Legislative Director
    - i. Develops policy, resolutions, and initiatives in collaboration with Caucus committees and partners;
    - ii. Serve on the Outreach Committee.
  - d. Chaplain
    - i. Prepares and presents invocations, eulogies, and other rites as the spiritual advisor of the Caucus;
    - ii. Serve on the Outreach Committee.
- 4. Liaisons
  - a. Advise the Executive Committee of pertinent issues and matters of interest from their respective constituencies.
  - b. Should include a representative from various conflicts/times of service (i.e., Vietnam, Afghanistan, etc.)
  - c. Should be chosen by the constituency for which they represent.
  - d. Serve on the Outreach Committee.
- 5. Standing Committees
  - a. Outreach
    - i. Maintains the profile and visibility of the Caucus by working with the Chair to develop and execute civic actions and track activity metrics;
    - ii. Prepares and executes a communications plan that reflects Caucus goals and messaging objectives as approved by the Executive Committee;
    - iii. Advises Executive Committee on opportunities to build the Caucus' capacity;
    - iv. Establishes and develops relationships with key community partners to advance the Caucus' mission and objectives.
  - b. Membership
    - i. Maintains membership rolls of the Caucus;
    - ii. Works to expand the membership of the Caucus;
    - iii. Prepares a monthly report on membership totals;
    - iv. Develops and grants Caucus awards and honors at the Annual Convention;
    - v. Advises Executive Committee on ways to serve better and engage Caucus Membership.
  - c. Operations
    - i. Prepares the agenda for the Annual Convention to be approved by the Executive

- Committee;
- ii. Develops and executes Caucus events;
- iii. Compiles and analyzes data to create the year-end report;
- iv. Advises the membership committee on ways to execute initiatives and track effectiveness.
- d. Finance
  - i. Works with the Chair to develop and execute fundraising initiatives and track fundraising metrics;
  - ii. Provides a yearly audit of all Caucus receipts and expenditures to be presented at the Conventions;
  - iii. Ensures compliance with all Caucus, Party, State, and Federal reporting requirements.
- 6. General Membership
  - a. Rights & Responsibilities
    - i. To constitute the pool from which leadership positions within the Caucus are filled;
    - ii. To raise grievances by sending written correspondence to any officer of the Caucus;
    - iii. To be informed of the actions and decisions of the Executive Committee;
    - iv. To meet more regularly as subdivisions under the direction of subdivision chairs;
    - v. Petition for removing officers should be done by sending written correspondence sponsored by at least ten members to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will evaluate if there is a just cause, that is, activities that violate the rules of the Party or Caucus, evidence of misconduct, or neglect of duty. The Executive Committee will then inform the general membership of their findings to be followed by a simple majority vote at the next general meeting as long as at least seven days prior notice has been given for the action;
    - vi. Petition for amendments to these bylaws can be done by sending written correspondence sponsored by at least ten members to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will evaluate if the proposal can be passed without detriment to the Caucus or run afoul of Party or Caucus rules. The Executive Committee will then inform the general membership of their findings to be followed by a simple majority vote at the next general meeting if it is decided the change shouldn't be held until the next Annual Convention as long as at least seven days prior notice has been given for the action.