

**RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA**

Revised July 21st, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

5	PREAMBLE	2
6	RULE 1 MINORITY INCLUSIVITY	3
7	RULE 2 CITY-COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEES	4
8	RULE 3 TRIBAL COMMITTEES	5
9	RULE 4 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS	6
10	RULE 5 STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE	6
11	RULE 6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	9
12	RULE 7 EXECUTIVE BOARD	100
13	RULE 8 VACANCIES & REMOVAL OF OFFICERS	122
14	RULE 9 CONVENTIONS	143
15	RULE 10 PROXIES	165
16	RULE 11 PRE-PRIMARY & CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT POLICY	165
17	RULE 12 RULES OF ORDER	166
18	RULE 13 AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES	176
19	RULE 14 PROCEDURES FOR FILLING A VACANCY FOR A DEMOCRATIC	
20	CANDIDATE FOR AN OFFICE WITHIN ONE COUNTY	16
21	RULE 15 SPECIAL NOMINATING CONVENTION TO FILL A VACANCY FOR A	
22	CANDIDATE FOR A MULTI-COUNTY OFFICE	17
23	RULE 16 SPECIAL NOMINATING CONVENTION TO FILL A VACANCY FOR A	
24	CANDIDATE FOR STATEWIDE OFFICE	18
25	RULE 17 SUBMISSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FILLING A VACANCY IN THE	
26	LEGISLATURE OR IN A BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	19
27	RULE 18 APPEALS	210

1 **RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY**
2 **OF THE STATE OF MONTANA**

3 Revised June 4th, 2021

4
5 **PREAMBLE**

6
7 **SECTION A: MISSION, TAX STATUS & LOCATION**

8 1. **Mission:** The Montana Democratic Party recruits, trains and elects Democrats to local,
9 statewide and federal office to ensure a government of the people, by the people, and for the
10 people of Montana.

11 2. **Tax Status:** The Montana Democratic Party is a 527 Political Non-Profit. The Montana
12 Democratic Party adheres and follows all rules and regulations of the State of Montana and the
13 United States Federal Government.

14 3. **Location:** The headquarters of the Montana Democratic Party is located at 303 North Ewing
15 Street, Helena, MT. The location of this entity is determined by the Executive Board. Additional
16 office locations may be determined by the Executive Director.

17
18 **SECTION B: STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

19 1. All public meetings of the Democratic Party are open to all members of the Democratic Party
20 of Montana regardless of race, creed, sex, age, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic
21 status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or philosophical persuasion. Members of the
22 Democratic Party are defined as any individuals who are supportive of the Democratic Party's
23 mission and values, without test of membership or oath, and are in good standing with the
24 organization. All members of the Democratic Party of Montana shall be encouraged to
25 participate in party affairs.

26 2. The time and place for all meetings of the Democratic Party of Montana shall be publicized
27 fully and in such manner to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings shall be
28 held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate interested
29 persons. Specific notice requirements and timelines are listed throughout the document under
30 their appropriate headings.

1 3. The Democratic Party of Montana shall publicize a complete description of the qualifications
2 for the procedures to elect officers of the Montana State Democratic Party. Such publication
3 should be done in a timely fashion so prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or
4 appointed position will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.

5 4. The Montana State Central Committee and county central committees are encouraged to
6 expand their membership, register new voters and engage in field activities that advance the
7 mission of the Democratic Party.

8 5. Use of the term “Executive Board district” in these rules, including Montana's Presidential
9 Delegate Selection Plan, means the allocation of Montana's counties in the following manner:

10 a. Prior to the “Call to Order” of the Officers Convention of 2023,

11 **Western District:** Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Flathead, Glacier, Granite,
12 Jefferson, Lake, Lewis & Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Mineral, Missoula, Pondera, Powell,
13 Ravalli, Sanders and Silver Bow Counties

14 **Eastern District:** Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels,
15 Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Gallatin, Garfield, Golden Valley, Hill, Judith Basin, Liberty,
16 McCone, Meagher, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie,
17 Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure,
18 Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux and Yellowstone Counties

19 b. Following the “Call to Order” of the Officers Convention of 2023, all references to
20 “Executive Board district” will refer to either Montana Congressional District Number
21 One or Montana Congressional District Number Two and the political subdivisions that
22 fall within those boundaries.

23
24 **RULE 1 INCLUSIVITY**

25
26 1. It shall be the duty of the Party officers to encourage persons from every income level, young
27 people, women, persons of minority races or ethnicities, senior citizens, LGBT persons, and
28 other under-represented and minority groups to participate in and seek selection as delegates to
29 Party conventions and as members of Party committees.

30 2. The Montana Democratic State Central Committee shall adopt an affirmative action plan to
31 ensure equal participation in Party affairs, including delegate selection, in keeping with State

1 Party rules and rules adopted by the Democratic National Committee. The plan shall include
2 specific goals and periodic assessments to evaluate the degree to which (a) participation by
3 women, minorities, and members of all age groups and socio-economic classes is representative
4 of each group’s presence in Montana’s Democratic electorate and whether (b) opportunities for
5 engagement and leadership are hindered by other requirements in these rules. When adopted,
6 such plan is fully enforceable as a rule of the Montana Democratic Party.

7 3. To facilitate access by deaf Montanans, the State Party shall provide qualified American Sign
8 Language (“ASL”) interpreters and/or adequate Communication Access Realtime Translation
9 (“CART”) for all State Party conventions and other public meetings it conducts and shall
10 encourage county central committees to adopt rules for the provision of qualified ASL
11 interpreters and/or CART for their events to which the general public is invited, including
12 candidate forums, educational presentations, and the like.

13 4. To recognize the original and continuing influence of Montana’s indigenous people on our
14 state and our party, the opening ceremonies of all Montana Democratic Party formal meetings
15 will include an acknowledgment of the original occupants of the land on which the meeting takes
16 place.

17

18 **RULE 2 CITY-COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEES**

19

20 **SECTION A: STRUCTURE & TERMS OF A CITY-COUNTY CENTRAL**
21 **COMMITTEE**

22 1. The city, county, and Montana State Democratic Central Committees shall be organized as
23 provided in the laws of Montana and in these rules.

24 2. In each county of the state there is a Democratic county central committee which consists of
25 the two duly elected or appointed precinct representatives, who shall be of different gender
26 identities, of each precinct.

27 3. Precinct representatives hold such position for terms of two years from the date of their
28 election or in the case of appointment, until the next regularly scheduled election.

29 4. Those precinct representatives who reside within the limits of any incorporated city or town
30 shall constitute ex-officio the city central committee and shall have the same power and

1 jurisdiction as to the Democratic Party in such city affairs as the county central committee has in
2 county matters, except to fill vacancies as provided in Rules 7, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

3
4 **SECTION B: COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONVENTIONS & ELECTIONS**

5 1. The county central committee shall meet in county convention between April 15 and May 31
6 of each odd-numbered year and elect the following officers:

- 7 a) a county chair and vice chair, with no more than one of any gender identity;
- 8 b) two state representatives, with no more than one of any gender identity;
- 9 c) four state central committee alternates, with no more than two of any gender identity.

10 These officers serve as alternates to the chair or vice chair, or state representatives. State
11 central committee alternates shall replace members of the gender identity whenever
12 possible. The county convention shall designate first and second alternates;

- 13 d) a secretary and a treasurer.

14 2. Only precinct representatives, and current county central committee officers may vote for
15 officers at the county convention. Officers are not required to be precinct representatives. The
16 officers elected by the county convention shall constitute the executive committee of the county
17 central committee and are charged with the execution of the county party's policies and programs
18 between meetings of the full committee. Notwithstanding any other provision of these rules, they
19 shall be entitled to full voting privileges at all other meetings of the county central committee.

20 3. Appointed precinct representatives shall have the same rights, privileges, duties and
21 responsibilities as elected precinct representatives.

22
23 **SECTION C: DCCC VOTING RIGHTS**

24 1. The county central committee may not adopt any rules or regulations that conflict with the
25 laws of Montana, the rules of the Montana Democratic Party or the rules of the national
26 Democratic Party.

27
28 **RULE 3: TRIBAL COMMITTEES**

29 1. Democrats from each of the seven Tribal Reservations in Montana, as well as the Little Shell-
30 Chippewa Tribe, shall be permitted to participate in the governing process of the Montana

1 Democratic Party through participation in tribal committees, whose boundaries each are defined
2 by the geographic borders of each reservation.

3 2. Each tribal committee, including the Crow, Northern Cheyenne, Fort Peck, Fort Belknap,
4 Rocky Boy, Blackfeet, Flathead and Little Shell-Chippewa, shall develop bylaws in accordance
5 with the rules of the Montana Democratic Party and shall follow those bylaws in selecting the
6 tribal committee leaders authorized herein.

7 3. Each Tribal Committee shall be entitled to two delegates, with one vote each, at the Montana
8 Democratic Party Platform, Rules, Officers and Special Nominating Conventions.

9 4. Tribal committees may not adopt any rules or regulations that conflict with the laws of
10 Montana, the rules of the Montana Democratic Party or the rules of the National Democratic
11 Party.

12

13 **RULE 4 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

14 1. The Montana Democratic Party seeks to engage partner organizations that share our
15 Democratic Values.

16 2. Partner organizations must receive a 2/3 vote by the Executive Board of the Montana
17 Democratic Party to be recognized as a partner.

18 3. The Montana Democratic Party may rescind a partner relationship with a 2/3 vote of the
19 Executive Board at any time.

20 4. Partner organizations will be granted one voting members at the Officers Convention and five
21 voting members from each Executive Board District at the Platform Convention.

22

23 **RULE 5 STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

24

25 **SECTION A: MEMBERS OF THE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

26 1. The Montana Democratic State Central Committee consists of:

- 27 a) all voting members of the State Party Executive Board, as defined in Rule 7;
- 28 b) the county chair and vice chair of each county, or, in their absence, the state central
29 committee alternates;

- 1 c) the state representatives from each county, or, in their absence, the state central
2 committee alternates;
- 3 d) the president (or, if absent, the vice president) of any partner organization of the
4 Montana Democratic Party; and
- 5 e) Democrats holding the positions of Lieutenant Governor, Clerk of the Supreme Court
6 or Public Service Commissioner.

7

8 **SECTION B: OFFICERS OF THE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

9 1. The officers of the Montana Democratic State Central Committee are the State Chair, Vice
10 Chair, National Committee Members, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Director.

11 2. The election procedures for officers of the Montana Democratic State Central Committee are
12 provided in Rule 9. The selection process for an Executive Director is provided in Rule 6.

13 3. It is the duty of all officers to support the platform adopted at the Platform Convention and the
14 Democratic Party nominees who support the Democratic platform. The specific duties of the
15 Party's officers include:

16 a) **State Chair:** The State Chair shall

- 17 • issue calls for and preside at all meetings and conventions of the State Central
18 Committee and the Executive Board;
- 19 • act as a resource for Democratic Party members, organizations, political
20 candidates and campaigns;
- 21 • raise funds for the State Democratic Party;
- 22 • serve as a spokesperson on issues with the advice of the Executive Board;
- 23 • work with the Treasurer and Executive Director to oversee finances of the
24 organization;
- 25 • ensure decisions of the Executive Board are completed;
- 26 • appoint committees on finance, rules, and personnel;
- 27 • appoint other committees as needed; and
- 28 • perform such other duties as the Executive Board may assign.
- 29 • The State Chair shall be paid a monthly stipend in recognition of the time and
30 effort required to fulfill the responsibilities of the position. This stipend will be
31 set and approved by the State Executive Board.

1 **b) State Vice Chair:** The State Vice Chair shall

- 2 • preside at meetings in the absence of the State Chair, or where action by the Chair
- 3 would constitute a conflict of interest;
- 4 • assist the chair in undertaking the responsibilities of the Chair;
- 5 • assist the Chair and Executive Director in raising funds for the State Democratic
- 6 Party; and
- 7 • perform such other duties as the Executive Board may assign.

8 **c) Secretary:** The Secretary shall

- 9 • take, distribute and maintain minutes of meetings of the Executive Board;
- 10 • work with the Executive Director and Chair to prepare agendas for Executive
- 11 Board meetings;
- 12 • work with the Executive Director and Chair to ensure proper notice be made
- 13 available in compliance with these rules; and
- 14 • perform such other duties as the Executive Board may assign.

15 **d) Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall

- 16 • ensure the Executive Board is meeting fiduciary responsibilities;
- 17 • be responsible for accurate reporting required by federal and state law;
- 18 • serve as Chair of the Finance Committee; and
- 19 • perform such other duties as the Executive Board may assign.

20 **e) National Committee Members:** The National Committee Members shall

- 21 • serve as liaisons between the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and the
- 22 Executive Board;
- 23 • attend and participate fully in the meetings of the DNC: the Winter Meeting,
- 24 Summer Meeting and the meeting of the Western Caucus;
- 25 • submit a written report, in a timely manner, to the Executive Board and report in
- 26 person at the Executive Board meetings subsequent to the DNC Meetings; and
- 27 • serve as unpledged delegates to the National Presidential Convention every four
- 28 years.

29 **SECTION C: STRUCTURE, TERMS & NOTICE**

1 1. The Montana Democratic State Central Committee is the permanent party authority in the
2 State of Montana. The committee is authorized to adopt and promulgate all necessary rules for
3 the conduct of party affairs.

4 2. Meetings of the Montana Democratic State Central Committee may be called by the Chair, the
5 Executive Board, or 20% of the State Central Committee. Members of the State Central
6 Committee shall be notified at least 10 days prior to State Central Committee meetings.

7 3. At any meeting of the Montana Democratic State Central Committee, 50% of registered
8 members in attendance shall constitute a quorum.

9
10 **RULE 6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

11
12 **SECTION A: HIRING & TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT**

13 1. The Executive Board shall, in its sole discretion, employ an executive director at such rate of
14 compensation as it shall determine necessary.

15 2. The contract of employment shall be in writing, shall embody all of the terms and conditions
16 of employment, and shall be approved by the Personnel Committee and ratified by the Executive
17 Board.

18 a) **Selection Process:** An opening in the position of the Executive Director shall be
19 advertised by the State Chair. Applicants shall be considered by the Personnel
20 Committee. The Personnel Committee shall submit a list of approved candidates to the
21 Executive Board, in priority order. The Executive Board shall approve or disapprove the
22 nomination with a majority vote. If the Executive Board approves the nomination, the
23 nominated person shall be offered the position of Executive Director.

24 b) **Dismissal Process:** An executive director who has been hired may be dismissed by a
25 2/3 vote of the total membership of the State Executive Board at a special meeting called
26 on 15 days written notice. The notice shall contain the performance issues and be signed
27 by the Chair and 25 percent of the members of the Executive Board. Prior to the vote,
28 Executive Director shall be given a full hearing and the opportunity to address personnel
29 issues.

30
31 **SECTION B: EX-OFFICIO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER**

1 1. The Executive Director shall serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the State Central
2 Committee and Executive Board; however, the Executive Director is not authorized to be present
3 in any executive session without specific approval of the body.

4
5 **SECTION C: OPERATIONS, FINANCES & MANAGER OF STAFF**

6 1. The Executive Director shall provide overall supervision and leadership to the staff of the
7 Montana Democratic Party and shall be responsible for the day-to-day administrative operations
8 of the corporation.

9 2. The Executive Director shall obtain or provide expertise as is necessary to raise revenue,
10 oversee all financial records, and meet compliance requirements of State and Federal law, work
11 with the Chair, the Treasurer, and Finance Committee to submit quarterly financial reports to the
12 Executive Board, and inform the Executive Board of the organization's financial status.

13 3. The Executive Director will comply with all adopted financial controls and policies per the
14 Executive Board.

15
16 **SECTION D: AUTHORITY & ACCOUNTABILITY**

17 1. The Executive Director shall be accountable and report to the Executive Board and shall
18 assume such responsibilities and perform such duties as may be assigned by the Chair or the
19 Executive Board, but not by individual members of the Board.

20 2. The Executive Director may hire additional staff as necessary to achieve the goals of the
21 organization. The Executive Director shall have power to supervise, to hire, and fire staff within
22 policies outlined by the Executive Board.

23 3. The Executive Board shall create a Personnel Committee responsible for providing guidance
24 and oversight in staff policy and staff grievances.

25
26 **RULE 7 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

27
28 **SECTION A: ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

29 1. The policies and programs of the Montana Democratic State Central Committee will be
30 directed and conducted by the Executive Board according to these rules and the Montana
31 Democratic State Central Committee including the Presidential Delegate Selection Plan.

1 2. Members of the Executive Board shall comply with a published code of ethics designed to
2 ensure that their actions as Executive Board members reflect creditably upon the office they
3 serve. At a minimum, members of the Executive Board shall not use their office to gain special
4 privileges or benefits and shall refrain from acting in their official capacities when their
5 independence of judgment would be adversely affected by personal interest or duties.
6

7 **SECTION B: MEETINGS & NOTICE**

8 1. The Executive Board shall hold regular meetings at least four times a year. Meetings may be
9 called by the State Chair or by any five members of the Executive Board.

10 2. Members of the Executive Board shall be notified at least 10 days prior to Executive Board
11 meetings.

12 3. A quorum shall consist of 50% of the Executive Board.
13

14 **SECTION C: MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

15 1. Members of the Executive Board are:

16 a) the State Chair and State Vice Chair;

17 b) the immediate past State Chair and immediate past State Vice Chair (the persons most
18 recently holding the offices of State Chair and State Vice Chair unless they were removed
19 from office pursuant to Rules 6 or 7, resigned from that office, or now hold another office
20 entitled to vote);

21 c) the Treasurer and Secretary;

22 d) the National Committee Members;

23 e) four district chairs, with equal representation of different gender identities consisting
24 of one male-identifying and one female-identifying, county central committee chair or
25 vice chair from each Executive Board district;

26 f) eight district members, consisting of two men and two women from each Executive
27 Board district;

28 g) Democratic legislators holding the positions of Speaker of the House, President of the
29 Senate, and Majority Leader of the House and Senate; or the Minority Leader and Whip
30 of the House and Senate;

1 h) Democrats holding the offices of Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State
2 Auditor and Superintendent of Public Instruction; and

3 i) The Montana Democratic members of the United States Senate and United States
4 Congress.

5 j) The officials enumerated in (h) and (i) may designate a representative to act in their
6 absence.

7 k) In addition, the Executive Director shall be a non-voting, ex-officio member of the
8 Executive Board.

9
10 **SECTION D: COMMITTEES**

11 1. The three standing committees of the Executive Board are Finance, Personnel, and Rules.

12 a) **Finance Committee:** The Treasurer of the State Central Committee shall serve as the
13 Chair of the Finance Committee. The State Chair shall appoint other members to the
14 committee.

15 b) **Personnel Committee:** The State Chair shall serve as the Chair of the Personnel
16 Committee. The State Chair shall appoint six additional Executive Board members to the
17 Personnel Committee, three of which must be Democratic incumbents holding state or
18 federal elective offices (or their designated representatives).

19 c) **Rules Committee:** The State Chair shall appoint a Rules Committee.

20 2. The State Chair shall appoint other committees as needed.

21
22 **SECTION E: REMOVAL FOR ABSENCE**

23 1. Any executive committee member who fails to attend any three successive meetings of the
24 Executive Board, after proper notice being given of those meetings, shall be dropped from
25 membership on the Executive Board, unless a satisfactory excuse is provided and accepted by a
26 majority vote of the Executive Board.

27 2. This does not apply to members listed in Rule 7, Section C, #1(g), (h), (i), or (j).

28
29 **RULE 8 VACANCIES & REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

30
31 **SECTION A: VACANCIES**

- 1 1. A vacancy exists whenever a precinct representative, officer or member dies, resigns, becomes
2 permanently incapacitated or fails to maintain the qualifications of the office. A vacancy also
3 exists whenever the State Chair, State Vice Chair, or any permanent, paid employee of the
4 Montana Democratic Party becomes a candidate for or holds any state or national office,
5 excluding the office of state legislator.
- 6 2. Unless specified otherwise in this rule, or in law, vacancies on any committee or board shall
7 be filled by election by members of such committee.
- 8 3. Vacant positions shall be filled as follows:
- 9 a) **Precinct Representatives:** Remaining members of the county central committee shall
10 elect a precinct resident to fill the vacancy.
- 11 b) **Officers of City or County Central Committees:** Vacant seats for officers not filled
12 by an appropriate alternate already provided in these rules shall be filled by a person
13 having the necessary qualifications for the vacant seat and shall be elected by the county
14 central committee, except as provided in Rule 8, Section A, #3(e).
- 15 c) **Executive Board Members:** If the State Chair position becomes vacant, the State
16 Vice Chair shall become Chair. Vacancies in the positions of State Vice Chair or board
17 members, including National Committee Members, shall be filled by a vote of the
18 Executive Board, subject to the notice requirements in Rule 8, Section B, #2. Central
19 Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs shall be advised of such vacancies in their regions 14
20 days in advance of the vote. Nominations must be made by Board members, and
21 candidates for vacancies must meet the same qualifications as the person formerly
22 occupying the position. Election shall be by majority vote of the board members present
23 and voting.
- 24 d) **Immediate Past State Chair & Vice Chair:** Vacancies in the position of immediate
25 past State Chair and immediate past State Vice Chair shall not be filled.
- 26 e) **No Established Central Committee:** If there are no elected or appointed precinct
27 committee persons serving in a county, the State Chair shall appoint, with the approval of
28 a majority of the Executive Board, county central committee officers to form a new
29 committee. The appointed officers, who must be residents of the county, may then fill
30 vacant precinct positions as provided in Rule 8, Section A, #3(a). The appointed officers
31 shall serve until the next county convention.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

SECTION B: REMOVAL

1. Members of the Executive Board, except the National Committee Members, may be removed from office for cause by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board at a special meeting called on 15 days written notice. The notice shall contain the issues and be signed by 25% of the members of the Executive Board. Prior to the vote, the member shall be given an opportunity to address the matters of concern.

2. City or county central committee officers may be removed from office according to rules established by each county central committee, or in the absence of county rules, by a 2/3 vote of the total membership of the committee.

RULE 9 CONVENTIONS

SECTION A: STATE PLATFORM CONVENTION

1. **Date:** The State Chair shall call the Platform Convention after the primary election and no later than September 15 in even-numbered years to formulate the state platform of the Democratic Party and perform such other business as may properly be brought before such a meeting.

2. Delegates:

a) Delegates to the State Platform Convention shall include the Montana Democratic State Central Committee, the Democratic nominees for all state elective offices, the United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives, and both Democratic incumbents and nominees for the Montana Legislature.

b) Partner organizations of the Montana Democratic Party are also entitled to five delegates from each Executive Board district. Each partner organization shall nominate delegates to be elected at the Platform Convention. Prior to the Platform Convention, partner organizations shall present any nominations to the State Executive Board for verification that such nominations were properly made under the rules of the respective chartered organization.

1 c) Persons serving as delegates may hold only one delegate position. Persons eligible to
2 hold more than one delegate position must designate the position for which they desire to
3 serve as a delegate. Vacant positions may be filled by an eligible alternate.

4 3. **Quorum:** At the State Platform Convention, 40% of the delegates eligible to attend and vote
5 shall constitute a quorum.

6
7 **SECTION B: STATE OFFICERS CONVENTION**

8 1. **Date:** The State Chair shall call the State Officers Convention between July 1 and October 31
9 of each odd numbered year to elect a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary of the State
10 Central Committee and members of the Executive Board.

11 2. **Delegates:** Delegates to the State Officers Convention shall include all members of the
12 Montana Democratic State Central Committee and Democratic incumbents of the Montana
13 Legislature.

14 3. **Quorum:** At the State Officer Convention, 40% of the delegates eligible to attend and vote
15 shall constitute a quorum.

16 4. **Terms of State Officers:** Officers and Executive Board members shall hold office for a term
17 of two years or until a successor is elected.

18
19 **SECTION C: NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELECTIONS**

20 1. **Election Procedure:**

21 a) At each state convention to elect delegates to a national Presidential Nomination
22 Convention, a number of National Committee Members, as determined by the
23 Democratic National Committee, shall be elected.

24 b) The persons eligible to vote for these officers and the manner of their election, shall be
25 as provided in Rule 9, Section B.

26 c) The State Chair shall file the names of the National Committee Members with the
27 Democratic National Committee no later than five days from the date of their selection.

28 2. **Terms of National Committee Members:** The National Committee Members shall serve
29 four-year terms commencing on the day the national convention adjourns and terminating on the
30 day the next national convention adjourns.

1 **SECTION D: CONVENTION RULES**

2 1. **Registration:** For both the Platform Convention and the Officers Convention, delegates must
3 register according to procedures established by the State Chair.

4 2. **Rules:** All matters pertaining to any state convention not provided for by law or these rules
5 shall be governed by rules adopted by such conventions.

6

7 **RULE 10 PROXIES**

8

9 1. No proxy vote will be recognized at any county, city, district, or state Democratic meeting.

10

11 **RULE 11 PRE-PRIMARY & CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT POLICY**

12

13 1. During a statewide or federal election campaign, the Montana State Democratic Party shall
14 expend no funds and provide no tactical support for any candidate. The Executive Board may by
15 2/3 vote authorize the expenditure of funds and tactical support for proven incumbents who have
16 consistently demonstrated support of the Party platform and issues for incumbents who are
17 running unopposed.

18 2. Absent Executive Board support of a proven statewide or federal incumbent, the State Chair,
19 Vice Chair, Executive Director and paid party staff shall maintain neutrality throughout any
20 contested primary.

21 3. The Executive Board may expend Party funds during a primary campaign for the
22 entertainment of visiting dignitaries from outside the state who may have been invited to appear
23 in the state at the request of the State Central Committee or the Executive Board.

24 4. The State Chair, Vice Chair, Executive Director and paid staff of the Montana Democratic
25 Party shall resign these positions if they file to run for elective office in a contested primary.

26

27 **RULE 12 RULES OF ORDER**

28

29 1. "Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR)," shall govern the proceedings of all
30 meetings existing under these rules, except as provided in Rule 9, Section D, #2.

31

1 **RULE 13 AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES**

2
3 1. **Voting:** These rules may be amended at any meeting of the Montana Democratic State Central
4 Committee by a 2/3 vote of those present.

5 2. **Notice:** Fifteen days written notice of the proposed change shall be given to Montana
6 Democratic State Central Committee members. Notices may be delivered by email.

7 3. **Quorum:** At any meeting of the Montana Democratic State Central Committee, 20% shall
8 constitute a quorum.

9
10 **RULE 14 PROCEDURES FOR FILLING A VACANCY FOR A DEMOCRATIC**

11 **CANDIDATE FOR AN OFFICE WITHIN ONE COUNTY**

12
13 1. Vacancies occurring among Democratic candidates that by law are to be filled by action of the
14 county central committee shall be filled according to the provisions of this rule insofar as they do
15 not conflict with state law.

16 2. Appointment of a person to fill the vacancy shall be by a majority vote of the precinct
17 representatives present at a meeting called for that purpose and publicized throughout the county.
18 The county chair shall provide reasonable written or email notice to committee members unless
19 the deadline for filling the vacancy as determined by the election administrator precludes such
20 notice, in which case notification by telephone shall be required.

21 3. At the meeting, nominations of persons qualified to fill the vacancy may be made by precinct
22 representatives. Following the close of nominations, an election shall be held with each precinct
23 representative voting for one person. (If more than one vacancy is to be filled at the meeting,
24 separate votes shall be taken for each vacancy.) The person receiving a majority of the votes cast
25 shall be reported by the county chair to the election administrator as the party nominee. If no
26 person receives a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, the name of the person receiving
27 the fewest votes shall be stricken from subsequent ballots until one person receives a majority of
28 the votes cast.

29
30 **RULE 15 SPECIAL NOMINATING CONVENTION TO FILL A VACANCY FOR A**

31 **CANDIDATE FOR A MULTI-COUNTY OFFICE**

- 1
- 2 1. In the event the Democratic Party shall have to nominate a candidate for a multi-county
- 3 district office, the procedures for such nomination shall be as provided in this rule.
- 4 2. The State Chair shall call a nominating convention. The State Chair or his or her designee
- 5 shall preside. The convention shall choose a secretary and may adopt rules for nominating
- 6 speeches, candidate presentations and other procedural matters.
- 7 3. The precinct representatives from precincts within the district shall be delegates to the
- 8 nominating convention.
- 9 4. The State Chair shall issue a convention call to the county chair of each county within the
- 10 district. The call shall be issued so as to provide reasonable notice to the delegates. The call shall
- 11 include at least the following:
- 12 a) the time, date and place of the nominating convention;
- 13 b) a list of the counties and precincts within the district;
- 14 c) the procedures for certifying the identity of precinct representatives eligible to
- 15 participate; and
- 16 d) the qualifications required of the person to be nominated at the convention.
- 17 5. Any delegate may nominate any Democrat meeting the qualifications provided by law for the
- 18 vacancy being filled.
- 19 6. The delegates shall cast ballots using weighted votes. Each delegate shall cast a weighted vote
- 20 equal to one-half the votes cast in his or her precinct for the Democratic candidate for U.S.
- 21 Representative in the most recent general election.
- 22 7. The person receiving a majority of the total votes cast shall be declared the Party's nominee. If
- 23 no person receives a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, the name of the person
- 24 receiving the fewest votes shall be stricken from subsequent ballots until one person receives a
- 25 majority of the votes cast.

26

27 **RULE 16 SPECIAL NOMINATING CONVENTION TO FILL A VACANCY FOR A**

28 **CANDIDATE FOR A STATEWIDE OFFICE**

- 29
- 30 1. In the event the Democratic Party shall have to nominate a candidate for statewide office, the
- 31 procedures for such nomination shall be as provided in this rule.

1 2. The State Chair shall call a meeting of the Montana Democratic State Central Committee.
2 Reasonable written notice of the meeting shall be issued unless deadlines imposed by the
3 Secretary of State, the laws of Montana, or other authority shall necessitate shorter notice by
4 telephone. The notice of the meeting shall include:

- 5 a) a statement that the purpose of the meeting is to fill a vacancy for the Democratic
6 Party's candidate for statewide office, and naming the office;
- 7 b) the date, time and place of the meeting;
- 8 c) the procedures by which the nominee will be chosen at the meeting;
- 9 d) the procedures for certifying the election of State Central Committee members not
10 already on record with the State Chair; and
- 11 e) the qualifications required of the person to be nominated at the meeting.

12 3. Only members of the Montana Democratic State Central Committee shall be entitled to
13 participate in the meeting, except that the State Central Committee may adopt rules allowing
14 nominating speeches by other persons and may agree to hear presentations by candidates for the
15 nomination. Following the close of nominations, the members of the Montana Democratic State
16 Central Committee shall vote. The person receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared
17 the Party's nominee. If no person receives a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, the
18 name of the person receiving the fewest votes shall be stricken from subsequent ballots until one
19 person receives a majority of the votes cast.

20 4. The State Chair and Secretary shall sign a certificate of nomination naming the person selected
21 and shall deliver the original to the Secretary of State.

22
23 **RULE 17 SUBMISSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FILLING A VACANCY IN**
24 **THE LEGISLATURE OR IN A BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

25
26 1. In the event the Democratic Party shall have to recommend to county commissioners a list of
27 candidates to fill a vacancy in the legislature, or in the office of county commissioner, as
28 provided by law, the procedures for compiling such list (and a second list, if needed) shall be as
29 provided in this rule.

30 2. Vacancy in a district entirely within one county.

1 a) following any necessary consultation with the county commissioners, the county chair
2 shall call a meeting of the county central committee, providing reasonable written or
3 email notice, or notifying members by telephone if four days written notice cannot be
4 afforded.

5 b) at the meeting, precinct representatives shall nominate a minimum of three persons
6 qualified to serve in the vacant office. Following the close of nominations, each
7 representative shall cast a ballot, voting for no more than three candidates and not more
8 than once for any one candidate. The names of the three persons receiving the most votes
9 shall be certified to the appropriate body by the county chair as the recommended
10 candidates of the Democratic Party.

11 3. Vacancy in a district comprising of two or more counties.

12 a) following any necessary consultation with the county commissioners, the State Chair
13 shall call a nominating convention in a convenient location in one of the counties
14 comprising the district.

15 b) reasonable written or email notice of the meeting shall be provided to all delegates;
16 notice by telephone will be required unless at least four days written notice can be
17 provided.

18 c) precinct representatives from precincts within the district shall be delegates to the joint
19 meeting. The State Chair or his or her designee shall preside at the joint meeting.

20 d) delegates shall nominate a minimum of three persons qualified to serve in the vacant
21 office.

22 e) each delegate shall cast a ballot, voting for no more than three candidates and not
23 voting more than once for each candidate. The weight of each delegate's vote shall be
24 equal to one-half the votes received in that precinct at the last election by the person
25 vacating the office. (The State Chair shall have final authority to assign weighted votes in
26 instances where precinct lines, or district lines may have changed since the election, or
27 other circumstances dictate.) Ballots marked with the proper weighted votes shall be
28 distributed by the presiding officer through a roll call of the counties and their precincts.

29 f) the names of the three persons receiving the most votes shall be certified to the county
30 commissioners by the State Chair as the recommended candidates of the Democratic
31 Party.

1

2 **RULE 18 APPEALS**

3

4 1. In all cases where application of these rules is contested, the aggrieved party must file a
5 timely, written protest with the State Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director.

6 2. The State Chair will call on the state Rules Committee to investigate and resolve the conflict.

7 The Rules Committee's decision is final, unless overruled by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board.

8

9 These Rules become effective upon filing with the Office of the Secretary of State, pursuant to

10 Mont. Code Ann. § 13-38-105