

BYLAWS OF THE FORT BEND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Amended and Adopted October 20, 2025

2025 Bylaws Committee:

Secretary Jonathan Marcantel, Committee Chair

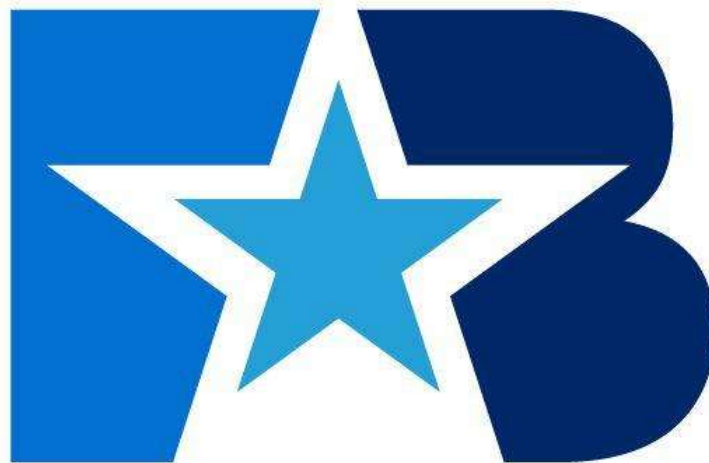
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Mr. Doug Beaton, Mr. Bill Bobrick,

Ms. Beverly Gill, Ms. BJ Johnson,

Dr. Paul Raffoul, Ms. Mary Ross,

Mr. Dylan Russell, Mr. Ted Tankard



**FORT BEND
DEMOCRATS**

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ARTICLE 1. MISSION AND ORGANIZATION

The mission of the Fort Bend County Democratic Party is to mobilize its citizens to advocate Democratic values and principles, to elect Democratic Candidates who serve the public good as stewards of the public trust, and champion progressive and proactive stances in all of its beliefs, actions, measures, leadership and operations.

This organization has been established pursuant to the Texas Election Code. The name of this organization shall be The Fort Bend County Democratic Party. For the purposes of reference in these Bylaws, the organization shall be referred to as the FBCDP. The FBCDP shall be governed by the County Executive Committee (CEC) of the FBCDP in accordance with these Bylaws, the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, and the Texas Election Code.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES OF THE ORGANIZATION

This organization has been established for the purposes of (i) performing the duties assigned to the organization under the Texas Election Code and the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, (ii) to support and elect the Democratic Candidates nominated for public office in Fort Bend County, (iii) on an informed basis, to encourage citizens to participate in local, state and national elections, as is their right and civic duty under the Constitutions of the United States and Texas, and (iv) to promote the adoption of public policies that support the principles and values reflected in the mission of the FBCDP, the State Democratic Executive Committee, and the platform adopted by the Texas Democratic Party.

ARTICLES III. GOVERNANCE

3.1 The County Executive Committee (CEC)

The CEC of the FBCDP shall be the governing body of the organization. The CEC shall exercise those powers and duties conferred upon it by the Texas Election Code, the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, and these Bylaws. The County Chairperson and the Precinct Chairpersons elected to office in the most recent FBCDP primary election or appointed by a majority vote of the CEC to fill a vacancy pursuant to the Texas Election Code shall comprise the CEC. The members of the CEC shall serve a two-year term of office, commencing on the twentieth day following the runoff elections, conducted after the primary elections in even-numbered years.

3.2 Vacancies

A vacancy in the office of the County Chair shall be filled by a majority of the CEC at a meeting at which 51% of the membership shall constitute a quorum, as specified in Texas State law. When there is a vacancy in a precinct Chair in Fort Bend County, the Chairperson or any member of the CEC may nominate a person who is eligible to fill the vacancy. Such vacancy may be filled by a majority of the CEC at a meeting at which twenty-five percent (25%) of the membership shall constitute a quorum, provided that written notification of the proposed action and the nominee is included in the notice for the meeting on the issue. Any member of the FBCDP who voted in the most recent Democratic Primary and resides in a voting precinct without a duly elected precinct Chairperson shall be eligible to be nominated as a precinct Chairperson of that Precinct. Written notice of the replacement member's name and address shall be promptly delivered to the State Chair and to the County Chair (Texas Election Code §171.024).

3.3 Meetings of the County Executive Committee

Meetings of the CEC shall be held in accordance with the requirements of the Texas Election Code, the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, and these Bylaws. Meetings of the CEC shall be called by the Chairperson or the Secretary and shall be held no less than eight (8) times per year. The CEC organizational meeting shall be held on or as soon as practicable after the twentieth day following the runoff elections conducted after the primary elections in even-numbered years even if there are no runoff elections. Special meetings may be called by twenty-five percent (25%) of the CEC members. More than 4 unexcused absences by a Precinct Chair in a 2-year term shall constitute abandonment of office and will be grounds for removal.

3.4 Notice of Meetings

Seven days' written notice of CEC meetings shall be provided by the Chairperson or the Secretary to the members—except in the case of an emergency—in which case 48 hours' written notice of the meeting shall be provided. An emergency shall be deemed to exist when the business to be conducted at the proposed meeting is necessary in order to comply with these Bylaws, the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, or the Texas Election Code. Written notice of meetings of the CEC shall include the date, time, place of the meeting, and the agenda. If mailed, the notice requirements shall be deemed met when postmarked by the United States Postal Service. Written notice of meetings of the Executive Committee may be transmitted by e-mail if available, otherwise in written form by mail.

3.5 Quorum for Non-Statutory Business

A quorum for any meeting of the CEC, other than a statutory meeting required by the Texas Election Code or the Rules of the Democratic Party of Texas, shall be twenty-five percent (25%) of the members, exclusive of any vacancies.

3.6 Order of Business

The order of business or agenda for meetings of the Executive Committee shall be as follows:

1. Call to order by the Chairperson;
2. Invocation;
3. Pledge of Allegiance;
4. Determination of the presence of a quorum by the Secretary;
5. The Secretary's report and, unless waived by the Executive Committee, the reading and approval of the minutes for the previous meeting;
6. The Treasurer's report;
7. Committee reports;
8. Old or unfinished business identified in the written notice of the meeting;
9. New business identified in the written notice of the meeting, and
10. Adjournment.

The foregoing order of business of the meeting may be suspended by a majority vote of the Executive Committee present.

3.7 Conduct of Meetings

The vote of the majority of the members of the CEC present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum has been established shall decide any question or issue to be resolved, unless the affirmative vote of a greater percentage of the members is required by the Texas Election Code or the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party. Unless a member of the party obtains the consent of the members at a meeting, that member of the party may not address the CEC more than two times on any single item of business to be considered at the meeting, and then for no more than three minutes on each occasion. The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the conduct of business at meetings of the Executive Committee, except when inconsistent with

these Bylaws, the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, or the Texas Election Code.

3.7.1 Method of Voting

The method of voting at all CEC meetings may be by voice vote, by (standing) division of the house, by signed written ballot, or by roll call vote. The method used shall be left to the discretion of the Chair, except that on request of any member (who need not be recognized by the Chair to voice such request), a standing division must be held, and the request of 10% of the members present shall require a roll call vote. Any vote that results in a tie shall be decided by a coin toss.

3.7.2 Ballots

At all times, no secret ballots shall be used, no fees shall be charged for voting, and the meetings shall be open. If an item discussed in the Executive Session is to be brought to a vote, that vote must take place after exiting the Executive Session.

3.7.3 Proxy Voting

No proxy voting shall be permitted at meetings of any County, District or Precinct Executive Committee [As prohibited by ELEC §171.026]

3.7.4 Subcommittee Authority

No action of a subcommittee or any standing committee shall replace or supersede the actions or authority of the Committee as a whole, and any actions by subcommittees shall be subject to review, revision, and approval by the superior authority of the full Committee at its subsequent meetings.

3.7.5 Minority Report

Upon the vote of 20% of the members of any FBCDP Committee, a minority report can be prepared and presented. A minority report may be submitted for consideration either by way of amendment or as a substitute for a majority report.

3.7.6 Non-Public Sessions

The County Executive Committee, Committees, and Subcommittees are permitted to conduct non-public sessions to consider financial, legal, strategic, personnel, disciplinary matters, or to review information proprietary to other groups or individuals. However, no votes or formal action may be taken except in public meetings.

3.8 Term of Office

The term of office for members of the County Executive Committee shall begin on the twentieth day following the Primary Runoff election and shall continue for two years or until their successors are elected and certified. (Required by ELEC §171.022(c))

3.9 Qualifications

Democrats 18 years of age or older are eligible for the offices of Precinct Chair or County Chair, provided they meet the following criteria:

1. They are qualified voters (Required by ELEC §161.005 (a)(1)) and voted in the most recent Democratic Primary, not including runoffs, or signed an oath of affiliation:
2. Oath of Affiliation: "I swear that I have not voted in a primary election or participated in a convention of another party during this voting year. I hereby affiliate myself with the Democratic Party."; and
3. They are not candidates for, nor holders of, an elective office of the federal, state, or county government (Required by ELEC §161.005(a)(2)); and
4. They are residents of the precinct or county from which they seek election (Required by ELEC §171.023(a) and §161.005(a)(1)); and
5. For the office of County Chair, further requirements are as follows:
 - a. Verified Democratic Precinct Chair or active member of the Party 6 years and Democratic voting record for the past 3 cycles.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

The officers of the FBCDP shall be responsible for implementing the policies and decisions of the CEC. The CEC Chairperson shall be the County Chair elected by the voters in the most recent FBCDP primary elections. The organizational meeting shall be the first regular CEC meeting after the most recent FBCDP primary elections in even-numbered years. At the organizational meeting, the CEC shall elect a Secretary. If, at any time, the Secretary position is vacant, the Chairperson may appoint an interim Secretary who shall serve until a permanent Secretary is elected. A temporarily-appointed Secretary need not be a CEC member. At the organizational meeting, the CEC shall also elect a Treasurer. The Chairperson may nominate a Sergeant-At-Arms, a Parliamentarian, a Leader of Invocation, a General Counsel, and/or Commissioner Precinct Coordinators--each of whom shall be elected to office by a majority vote of the members of the CEC present and voting at the meeting.

The officers shall serve a two-year term of office, commencing at the organizational meeting of the CEC, and concluding as of the organizational meeting of the CEC in the next even-numbered year.

The FBCDP Officers, the Primary Administrator, and Primary Administration Staff are to remain neutral in the Party Primary and shall not endorse one Democrat over another in any Primary race, and are barred from serving as a vendor to any campaign--partisan or nonpartisan--during their tenure as County Chair. An acknowledgement shall be signed and kept with the Primary paperwork for persons in these positions. This provision shall not apply to appointed officers that are a candidate for office.

The Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer are the Elected Officers of the FBCDP, and shall constitute the Executive Officers of the CEC. All other officers, if appointed, serve at the pleasure of the Chairperson.

4.1 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICERS

4.1.1 The Chairperson

The Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the CEC. In the Chairperson's absence at any meeting of the CEC, the Secretary shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the office of the Chairperson for that meeting. The Chairperson shall be the CEC's official representative; shall execute and deliver contracts and agreements in the name of, and on behalf of, the FBCDP within the limitations established by the budget as approved by the CEC; shall serve ex-officio as a member of all Standing Committees; shall sign checks written on bank accounts maintained by FBCDP if the Treasurer is unavailable; shall prepare and submit for CEC approval a preliminary budget no later than 7 days prior to the CEC meeting in September of each calendar year for the next calendar year; shall submit any budget revision for approval no less than seven (7) days prior to the next CEC meeting. The preliminary budget and amendments may be sent via email. The CEC may approve a revised budget by a majority vote of the members of the CEC present and voting at a meeting called on the issue. The

Chairperson shall with the Treasurer approve the disbursement of funds and the disposition of property belonging to the FBCDP in accordance with the previously approved budget; and shall be responsible for the safekeeping of records of the FBCDP during the term of their office. The Chairperson shall work with all duly elected Officers of the FBCDP. The Chairperson shall not impede any action or obligation duly voted and enacted by the CEC.

4.1.2 The Chairperson Emeritus/Emerita

The Chairperson Emeritus/Emerita will act as a resource to the new County Chair and as a guide for the transition. Upon an affirmative vote of the current Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, they shall be afforded county-wide access to campaign databases for at least the cycle following the end of their term. If the Chairperson Emeritus/Emerita continues to serve as a Precinct Chair, the customary precinct limits shall be extended to county-wide access. This access is not afforded to those who act as vendors to campaigns, as User Agreements forbid it.

4.1.3 Vice Chair

A Vice Chair may be appointed by the Chairperson and approved by the CEC as a non-elected officer of the FBCDP. The main role of the Vice Chair is to act as an assistant to the Chairperson; and to deal with specific tasks or issues of the FBCDP at the direction of the Chairperson. The Vice Chair may be removed at the discretion of the Chairperson or a 2/3rds vote of the CEC. The Vice Chair is not statutorily eligible to preside at meetings of the CEC. The Vice Chair does not have to be a Precinct Chair.

4.1.4 The Secretary

The Secretary shall record the minutes of meetings of the CEC and shall preside at any meeting during the absence of the Chairperson. Additionally, in the absence of the Chairperson, the Secretary is legally authorized and may receive applications for a place on the Primary ballot, which shall be officially filed. At each meeting of the CEC, the Secretary shall report on the actions taken at the previous meeting. The reading and approval of the minutes for the previous meeting may be waived by a majority vote of the members of the CEC present and voting at the meeting. In coordination with the Chair, the Secretary shall be responsible for notifying the members of the CEC of all meetings in writing or by email. Removal of the Secretary must be pursuant to these Bylaws. The Secretary must be a statutory Precinct Chair.

4.1.5 The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be elected by the membership of the CEC; shall be responsible for the funds collected and disbursed; shall reconcile on a monthly basis bank statements of accounts maintained by the Party; shall submit a written Treasurer's report at each meeting of the CEC that covers the financial activity since the last meeting; shall be responsible for preparing and submitting the Ethics Reports and Election Reports to all appropriate parties as outlined in

the Texas Election Code, and shall be one of two authorized signatories on checks written on bank accounts maintained by the FBCDP. The Treasurer's reports may be transmitted to members of the CEC by e-mail. If an unforeseen vacancy in the office of Treasurer occurs, the Chairperson or Secretary shall within 48 hours call a meeting for the sole purpose of electing a Treasurer. The Treasurer must be a statutory Precinct Chair.

4.1.6 The Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian shall advise the body on matters of procedure, upon request, at any CEC meeting. The Parliamentarian shall use these Bylaws, the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, and Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, as the basis of any advice. The Parliamentarian does not have to be a Precinct Chair.

4.1.7 The Sergeant-At-Arms

The Sergeant-At-Arms, if appointed, shall assist in maintaining proper order at CEC meetings. The Sergeant-At-Arms does not have to be a Precinct Chair.

4.1.8 The Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary, if appointed, shall assist the Secretary in their duties as assigned by the Secretary. The Recording Secretary shall be appointed by the Chairperson with the advice of the Secretary. The Recording Secretary shall carry out the duties of the Secretary in their absence, but shall not have the authority to act as Chair for the meeting as outlined in 4.1.1 and 4.1.3 above. The Recording Secretary does not have to be a Precinct Chair.

4.1.9 The Leader of Invocation

The Leader of the Invocation, if appointed, shall lead the invocation at each meeting and official gathering of the FBCDP. The Leader of the Invocation does not have to be a Precinct Chair.

4.1.10 The General Counsel

The General Counsel, if appointed, shall provide legal advice, upon request, to the Chairperson or Executive Officers regarding any responsibilities and duties under these Bylaws, the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, and/or the Texas Election Code. They shall also provide advice on any question of law, and shall advise when outside counsel may be needed. The General Counsel does not have to be a Precinct Chair, but must have voted in the Democratic Primary for the past 2 cycles, and be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Texas.

4.1.11 Commissioner Precinct Coordinators

The Commissioner Precinct Coordinators, if appointed, shall coordinate the Precinct Chairs in each Fort Bend County Commissioner Precinct for the FBCDP. They shall provide assistance in identifying and organizing the precinct

chairs in their commissioner precincts and any other duties as assigned by the Chairperson, and cannot use voter databases on behalf of specific candidates. The Precinct Coordinators must be statutory Precinct Chairs.

4.1.12 Primary Administrator and Primary Administration Staff

The Primary Administrator and Primary Administration Staff (if appointed) are appointed by the Chairperson pursuant to the Texas Election Code.

4.2 Vacancies

4.2.1 Chair

When a vacancy occurs in the office of the County Chair, the outgoing County Chair or the Secretary may call a meeting to fill the vacancy at any time after it occurs. Upon the written request of a Precinct Chair, however, the Secretary shall call a meeting to fill the vacancy for a date not more than twenty days (20) after receiving the request; giving each Precinct Chair notice of the time, place, purpose, and in the manner described in Section 3.4 above. Should the Secretary fail to act after being requested in writing to do so, the State Chair shall call the meeting in like manner. The officer calling the meeting shall designate a Temporary Chair to preside until the new Permanent County Chair is elected (ELEC §171.025).

4.2.2 Secretary and Treasurer

Vacancies in the offices of Secretary or Treasurer resulting from resignation, disability, death, or removal shall be filled by a majority vote of the CEC present and voting at a meeting called to consider the issue. 40% of the elected Precinct Chairs shall constitute a quorum. Thirty (30) days' written notice of the vacancy and the need to meet to fill the vacancy shall be sent to CEC members. The notice shall be given in the manner described in Section 3.4 above.

4.3 Removal

4.3.1 FBCEP Officers

Pursuant to the Disciplinary Process in Article XVI of the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, if any officer elected by the CEC becomes either unable, unwilling, or otherwise refuses to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of their office, that officer may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the CEC members present and voting at a meeting called to consider the issue. A quorum of 40% is required to be present to remove an elected officer. An appointed officer may be removed at the discretion of the Chairperson or by a majority vote of the CEC. Thirty days (30) written notice of the vacancy of an elected office and the need to meet to fill the vacancy shall be sent to CEC members in the manner described in Section 3.4 above.

4.3.2 County Chair or Precinct Chair

Pursuant to the Disciplinary Processes in Article XVI of the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, should the County Chair be removed from Office by the State Democratic Executive Committee, they shall immediately, but no more than 72 hours later, return all FBCDP property to the Executive Officers. This includes all real, personal, tangible, intangible, and intellectual property, including but not limited to keys, login credentials, and physical and digital records. A County Chair who has been removed immediately loses access to FBCDP offices, and regardless of their possession of keys, entering into FBCDP offices without an Executive Officer as escort, which, if such entry is done without such an Executive Officer of FBCDP escort, shall be considered trespassing, and FBCDP may file a complaint with the appropriate law enforcement agencies. A County Chair who has been removed from office by a vote of the State Democratic Executive Committee at a meeting called to take up that issue shall be permanently barred from seeking election to the office of County Chair¹.

¹If the permanent disqualification is found to be a violation of TDP Rules, the 2-year disqualification period found therein shall apply. The Secretary shall be authorized to amend this section without further vote of the CEC.

ARTICLE V. STANDING COMMITTEES

5.1 Standing Committees

The CEC may authorize the creation of Standing Committees. All Standing Committees shall consist of no less than three (3) members. Committee chairpersons and committee members shall be nominated by the Chairperson and elected by a majority vote of the members of the CEC present and voting at the meeting. Any member of the FBCDP having voted in the most recent FBCDP primary elections may serve as a member of a Standing Committee. The Chairperson of each Standing Committee shall be a Precinct Chair or elected officer of the CEC. No member of the CEC may chair more than one Standing Committee at one time. The Chairperson of a Standing Committee shall submit a summary of proposals, activities, and recommendations to the CEC for approval and adoption at least once per year. A final report of Standing Committee activities and outcomes shall be provided to the CEC at the end of each calendar year.

5.1.1 Candidate Recruitment and Review Committee

The Candidate Recruitment and Review Committee shall develop and implement a program designed to recruit and assist qualified Democratic FBCDP candidates seeking election to public office including candidates who wish to seek (i) the FBCDP nomination for election to public office in a primary election conducted by the FBCDP and (ii) election to public office in the general election as the nominee of the FBCDP. Each candidate seeking nomination for County or State Representative office in the primary election to be conducted by the FBCDP shall meet with the Committee at its request and shall provide information requested by the Committee regarding the candidate's qualifications, campaign, and finances. The Committee shall provide assistance and information to a candidate who meets the qualifications to hold public office and possesses the integrity, competence, and, if elected, judgment to faithfully serve the public. The Committee may assist in coordinating campaigns for various candidates running for office, and in conducting training for candidates. The Committee shall have the authority to review currently serving elected officials de novo. Nothing in this Committee description shall be construed to absolve candidates of their duties and responsibilities under the Texas Election Code, to the Texas Ethics Commission, or to the Fort Bend County Elections Administration.

5.1.3 Precinct Development Committee

The Precinct Development Committee shall include the Commissioner Precinct Coordinators and Field Directors. The Committee shall assist Precinct Chairs in organizing the voters in their precinct and offer Precinct Chair and voter database training. Additional committee members who are not Precinct Coordinators or Field Directors may be appointed by the Chairperson.

5.1.4 Training, and Education Committee

The Training and Education Committee shall (i) recruit and train volunteers to contribute time and talents to the operation of the FBCDP, (ii) enhance the effectiveness of the FBCDP by bringing together various constituencies and resources to find ways for Democrats to work together more harmoniously and effectively, (iii) find ways for Democrats to work with others to achieve mutual objectives, increase the involvement and participation in and support of the FBCDP by elected officials, and (iv) conduct activities such as Chair's roundtables, building coalitions, identifying consultants, and training for FBCDP leaders, volunteers, and candidates.

5.1.5 Voter Education & Registration Committee

The Voter Education & Registration Committee shall help to increase voter turnout and participation among Democrats in Fort Bend County through voter education programs, year-round voter registration, Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV), and Ballot by Mail activities.

5.1.7 The Community Outreach & Events Committee

The Community Outreach & Events Committee shall mobilize Democratic activists/affiliates based on common geographical, demographic, or issue-specific interest towards the end of increasing involvement and participation in the FBCDP, and assist the Chairperson in organizing various functions and events for the FBCDP.

5.1.8 The Young Democrats

The Young Democrats shall inspire active participation in FBCDP affairs, and loyalty to the principles of the FBCDP by persons under 36 years of age, and (ii) develop future leaders from among these individuals by working with organizations of high school and college students.

5.1.9 The Finance and Fundraising Committee

The Finance and Fundraising Committee shall raise the funds needed by the FBCDP to perform its political, operational, and other functions effectively as set out by the County Chair in the annual budget. The Finance and Fundraising Committee shall, among other things organize, oversee, and be responsible for the Annual Dinner/Rally, sustaining membership, internet fundraising, large donors, telephone solicitation, fundraising events, and developing new sources of funds (e.g., targeting Democratic Clubs, past chairs of the FBCDP, office holders, constituent groups, former candidates, and precinct-level fundraising). The Finance and Fundraising Committee shall also assist the Chairperson with creation of the annual budget

5.1.10 The Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws Committee shall be responsible for the creation, maintenance, and updating of the FBCDP's bylaws which, along with the Texas Election Code and Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, are the rules that guide FBCDP's operation and activities. The Bylaws Committee shall meet on an as-needed basis as determined by the Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Changes to the bylaws that are new, material, or have a fiscal impact on the organization and the budget shall be approved by a majority vote of the Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer and brought to the CEC for approval.

5.1.11 The Audit Review Committee

The Audit Review Committee shall review the books, records, accounts, and internal controls maintained by the FBCDP in physical and electronic form at least once a year, and shall submit in writing a report to the full CEC of its findings. The Audit Review Committee may recommend that the CEC retain the services of a Certified Public Accountant to conduct an independent financial audit of the FBCDP.

ARTICLE VI. GENERAL PROVISIONS

6.1 Amendment of the Bylaws

These Bylaws shall be reconsidered after each session of the Texas Legislature and shall be amended, as necessary, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the CEC. Except as required under the Texas Election Code or the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, these Bylaws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the CEC present at any meeting called for that purpose, provided that 30-day prior written notice of the proposed amendments was included in the written notice to the CEC of the proposed meeting. The notice shall be in the manner described in Section 3.4 above.

The Secretary of the Fort Bend County Democratic Party shall have the authority to edit this document for typographical errors, style, formatting, or accessibility without affecting the enforceability of these Bylaws. The CEC shall be notified of any changes at the next CEC Meeting.

6.2 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the FBCDP shall begin on January 1 of each year, and shall end on December 31 of that same year:

6.3 Checks, Contracts, etc.

All expenditures on accounts maintained by the FBCDP for amounts lower than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) shall be signed by the Chair or Treasurer with the authorization for the expenditure received from the other officer- Chair or Treasurer- by email or text. The email or text must be retained by the Treasurer to evidence the approval. The CEC must approve any expenditure over \$1,000.00 before the funds are encumbered. Approved budget items, contracts, and recurring expenditures are excluded from this requirement. The Treasurer shall maintain a copy of all expenditures and approvals. The Executive Committee may authorize one or more officers other than the Chairperson or Secretary to execute and deliver agreements, contracts, and other written instruments entered into on behalf of, and in the name of, the FBCDP. Such authorization may be general or specific, but such authorization shall be made in writing and retained by the Executive Officers with the FBCDP's books and records.

6.4 Representation of the FBCDP

No member of the CEC, or officer of the FBCDP, or member of a Standing Committee may act by verbal or written communication, express a position on a public issue, or endorse a Campaign or Candidate for elective office in a communication to the public in the name of the FBCDP. A member of the CEC or a member of a Standing Committee other than an officer may indicate their personal position in a letter to the editor, a personal endorsement of a Campaign or Candidate, or any other communication to the public on a public issue or election contest.

6.5 Fair Disclosure

Any publication authorized by the FBCDP or using the FBCDP's name, letterhead, logo, or other resource that contains any advertising related to the election or defeat of a campaign or candidate seeking the nomination of the FBCDP in a primary election, or in a runoff election shall include the prominent disclosure of the information set out below in no less than 10-point bold type. "Advertisements in this publication regarding any campaign or candidates for public office do not constitute endorsements by the FBCDP. The campaign or candidate is solely responsible for the content, accuracy, and completeness of the information included in their advertisement. Acceptance of advertisement for any campaign or candidate for FBCDP should not be construed as a preference for any campaign or candidate in a contested primary election or a runoff election." In addition, in any advertising related to the election or defeat of any campaign or candidate included in any publication authorized by the FBCDP or using the FBCDP's name, letterhead, logo, or other resources, each such advertisement shall include the prominent disclosure above in no less than 10 point, bold type that the advertisement is a paid political advertisement including the name, street address, and telephone number of the campaign, candidate, or ballot proposition supported or opposed by the advertisement.

6.6 Digital Asset and Account Custodian

The Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Fort Bend County Democratic Party shall be the custodians of all digital assets, accounts, and keys of the FBCDP. No Executive Officer or member shall have the authority to limit the access of these officers from any asset, account, books, records, or key without a 2/3rd majority approval of the CEC. These executive officers shall have administrative access to all accounts with the ability to create, modify, and remove users. This section does not apply to financial accounts, unless the County Chair and Treasurer agree to give the Secretary digital access to financial accounts.

6.7 Severability

In the event that any provision of these Bylaws violates or is inconsistent with the Texas Election Code or the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, that provision shall be deemed to be of no effect and the remaining provisions of these Bylaws shall not be affected thereby. If a provision conflicts with the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, the Bylaws shall be amended to reflect the rule appearing in the TDP Rules, which shall be enacted at the next scheduled meeting after the conflict is discovered or as soon as practice after proper notice per these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The parliamentary authority of the Fort Bend County Democratic Party, its clubs and affiliated organizations shall be the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. The parliamentary authority shall govern all meetings, committees and conventions except where superseded by federal and state laws, the Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, and these Bylaws.

Unless otherwise required by statute or by these Rules, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority governing all FBCDP Committee meetings and procedures.

ARTICLE VIII EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

This article and its sections become operable upon a vote conducted in person, online or by telephonic call of two thirds of the County Executive Committee upon notice by the County Chair or designated Executive Officer. After receiving an affirmative vote, the Chair may propose alternative language to any current standing rule as allowed by this section.

8.1 Alternate Actions or Activities Proposal

In the event that a natural disaster, public health emergency, or orders by authorities resulting from such events significantly inhibits or prohibits the conduct of any procedure, action, meeting, or convention required under these Bylaws or Rules of the Texas Democratic Party, the Chair may propose alternate actions or activities and shall notify the members of the County Executive Committee by email or telephone. The Chair shall request the CEC to adopt the alternate rule(s) by a majority vote conducted at a meeting, by telephone or video conference, or by an online vote at the discretion of the Chair.

8.2 Emergency Rules In Effect

When emergency rules are adopted they shall take precedence over any other rule of the Fort Bend County Democratic Party. These emergency rules shall be sent to all Precinct Chairs. Any such emergency rules shall automatically be rescinded, without further notice, after any such natural disaster, public health emergency, or orders by authorities resulting from such events, has been declared ended by the appropriate authorities who declared any such natural disaster or public health emergency, after which the Rules previously in place shall automatically be restored.

