

**EIGHTH DISTRICT
DEMOCRATS AND INDEPENDENTS**

BYLAWS

July, 2001

*It shall be the purpose of the **Eighth District Democrats and Independents (EDDI)** to:*

educate voters residing in the 8th District comprising portions of Lake, Cook and McHenry Counties regarding the candidates and incumbents running for office in local, state and national elections;

educate these voters on local, state and national issues affecting them and 8th District;

promote, advance and support Democratic candidates, principles, and all local, county, state and national Democratic organizations.

I. ORGANIZATION

Section 1. *This organization shall be called the Eighth District Democrats and Independents and, upon compliance with chartering requirements shall be an affiliate of the Democratic Party.*

Section 2. *Annual dues are voluntary. Suggested contribution will be a minimum of \$20.00. Each January, the organization shall mail requests for voluntary contributions.*

Section 3. *A voting Member shall be a dues-paying Democrat or Independent and follow this organization's mission statement and bylaws. They may attend meetings, participate in discussions and have full voting rights.*

Section 4. *The membership is the highest authority of this organization and shall be empowered to take or direct any action consistent with these bylaws or the bylaws or constitution of any chapter or organization with which this organization is affiliated.*

II. EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. *The Executive Board shall be: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and other committee chairs.*

Section 2. *The Executive Board shall be elected per section VI.*

Section 3. *No one person may hold more than 1 Executive Board office, except that the positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined. Under those circumstances, the Secretary/Treasurer shall have one vote.*

Section 4. *The Executive Board shall be the highest authority between membership meetings and shall act on behalf of the membership to the extent urgent business requires prompt and decisive action subject to membership approval. The Executive Board shall not take any action affecting the vital interests of this organization without membership approval.*

III. DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

MEMBERS

Section 1. *The Chairperson shall:*

- a. Be the chief executive, preside over all meetings when present, and attend meetings of the County Central Committee in the county where he/she may live;*
- b. Act as the political director of the organization by coordinating and directing the political activities;*
- c. Appoint committee persons with the approval of the majority of the voting membership present.*

Section 2. *The Vice–Chairperson shall:*

- a. Preside over all meetings when The Chairperson is unable to;*
- b. Be an intricate part of any committees;*
- c. Provide any assistance, consult with and advise the Chairperson, members of the Executive Board and voting members when able for the education and benefit of the goals of the EDDI.*

Section 3. *The Treasurer shall:*

- a. Manage the checkbook and bank reports of the Organization;*
- b. Present a financial report to the group at each meeting;*
- c. Be responsible for reporting the required financial disclosure statements with the Illinois State Board of Elections.*

Section 4. *The Recording Secretary shall:*

- a. Take minutes at all meetings;*
- b. Distribute typed minutes from the previous meeting;*
- c. Handle communications that are received or need to be sent;*
- d. Manage the membership database.*

Section 5. *The Organization's other committees shall consist of: Outreach, Union Liaison, Marketing and Research. The committees can be changed by a vote of the members.*

Section 6. *The duties of the chairpersons of these respective committees are as follows:*

Outreach Coordinator – To establish connections with community groups in order to recruit precinct committee people and election judges for the Democratic party, as well as expand the Organization's membership.

Marketing Director/Web Master – To coordinate the advertisement, promotion and publicity of the Organization's events, including fundraisers. In addition, the Organization's web site shall either be

directly maintained or supervised by this person.

Union Liaison – To establish and maintain connections with unions in the 8th District in order to recruit precinct committee people and election judges for the Democratic Party, as well as expand the Organization's membership. In addition, this person will communicate as needed with union members through their newsletters and through mailings.

Research Director – To gather information on opposition candidates in the 8th District, particularly the Republican candidate for the 8th District Congressional seat. After approval by the executive committee, this material may be posted on the web site and/or distributed to members. No research will be performed for specific candidates unless compensation is paid to the Organization.

IV. MEETINGS

Section 1. *Meetings shall be held on the third Tuesday of every month, generally, at a time and place that is convenient to the majority of the membership. Date, time and place of the meetings may be changed for the convenience of the Organization.*

Section 2. *A vote passes with a majority of voting members present. The Chairperson may not vote except to break a tie.*

Section 3. *Three out of Four Executive Board members will constitute a quorum for an Executive Board meeting, should such a meeting be necessary.*

Section 4. *Two out of the Four Executive Board members and 3 other voting members that do not hold executive board status constitutes a quorum at regularly scheduled meetings.*

Section 5. *Meetings will start at such time that a quorum is present and shall last no longer than 2 hours, unless a majority of the voting members approve an extension of the meeting time.*

Section 6. *The Chairperson or Vice–Chairperson shall have the authority to call a special meeting.*

V. EXPENDITURES

Section 1. *Any amount over \$50.00 must be approved by a simple majority of the voting members present as long as a quorum has been met.*

VI. ELECTIONS, REMOVALS AND VACANCIES

ELECTIONS:

Section 1. *An election will be held annually at the regularly scheduled meeting in the month of June.*

Section 2. *Nominations are to be made at the meeting prior to the elections (May). After nominations are made the chairperson will appoint an election committee to monitor and conduct the elections.*

Section 3. *The month prior to nominations (April), the Recording Secretary will send out a notice of nominations and elections to the membership on the official membership list.*

Section 4. *To hold an executive office the member must be a registered voter and have no outstanding debts to the organization.*

Section 5. Elections will be held by paper ballot or e-mail ballot.

Section 6. In the event of a tie vote, the election committee will place names of candidates in a hat and the first name drawn out of the hat will determine the winner.

Section 7. Winners of elections will assume their positions as soon as the election results are confirmed. (On July 1st)

REMOVALS:

Section 1. An elected officer may be removed for good and sufficient cause upon a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of voting members in the organization. A motion to remove shall be made at a regularly scheduled meeting or special meeting. A majority of voting members present shall vote to consider the removal at the next regularly scheduled or special meeting. Following the passage of a motion to consider removal of the officer, said officer's duties and privileges shall be suspended pending a final vote on removal. The officer must be given an opportunity to defend any charges against him/her and argue for a continuation in his/her position as an officer, prior to the vote.

VACANCIES:

Section 1. Vacancies shall be filled by nomination and a 2/3 vote of voting members present.

VII. AMENDMENT AND RATIFICATION

Section 1. To amend these bylaws, a resolution or motion in writing calling for amendment, alteration or revision shall be presented and read at the regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 2. This document shall be distributed to all members, after which a final vote will be taken at the next regularly scheduled meeting. All amendments must be presented at the meeting prior to the vote (e.g. this document may not be amended and ratified at the same meeting.) These bylaws shall be ratified and amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of voting members present.

This Document was approved by the membership on:_____.

Recording Secretary