

CONSTITUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

We, the Democrats of the State of New Jersey, in order to insure the participation in the political process of the United States by all people regardless of race, religion, sex, economic status, or any other attribute irrelevant to the right of individual freedom; and with a desire to rededicate ourselves to the traditional principles of the Democratic Party of the United States and of the State of New Jersey, do hereby acknowledge this Constitution and agree to abide by it as the basic document of the Democratic Party in New Jersey. It is our hope and intention that we can assure the open and free conduct of public affairs in our society and, to that end, we hereby establish and adopt this Constitution of the Democratic Party in the State of New Jersey.

ARTICLE I

Purposes and Powers

The Democratic Party of New Jersey is empowered to:

1. Endorse the principles of the Democratic National Party as contained in the charter and rules of the Democratic National Committee of the United States, subject to the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of New Jersey.
2. Nominate candidates for election under the laws of the State of New Jersey, abiding by the rules of the National Democratic Party for the nomination of candidates for national office, and shall work towards the election of those candidates.
3. Adopt and promote statements of policy both within and without the legislative process.
4. Raise and disburse money.
5. Manage the affairs of the Democratic Party in the State of New Jersey in cooperation with the national, county and municipal Democratic organizations.

ARTICLE II

Democratic Party Organization

The Democratic Party in New Jersey shall be governed by the Democratic State Committee in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE III

Party Standing Committees

1. *The Executive Committee* shall assist the Party Chairperson in administering the affairs of the Democratic Party
2. *The Finance Committee* shall be responsible soliciting contributions and promoting fundraising activities for and in the best interests of the Democratic Party.
3. *The Coordinated Campaign Committee* shall coordinate Democratic campaign efforts; voter registration, research, and such other functions as may promote the best interests of the Democratic Party.
4. *The Council of County Chairpersons* shall serve as an advisory council to the State Committee and to the State Party Chairperson
5. *The Affirmative Action Committee* shall establish and implement a statewide program of affirmative action to encourage greater participation in all party affairs.

ARTICLE IV

Platforms and Policies

1. The Democratic Party is responsible for general Party Policy and organization. The Party is empowered, within the terms of Title 19, to determine Party Platforms to be enacted at the conventions as called for under Title 19; to define issues; issue instructions to party workers; and participate in candidate selection.
2. In addition to meetings convened by the Democratic Party, periodic public hearings may be sponsored by the Party in different parts of the State in order to obtain expressions of public opinion on current issues. These expressions of public attitudes are to be compiled and directed to appropriate Party committees for consideration at the convention of the Party.

ARTICLE V

General Provisions

1. To assure the fair selection of candidates for public offices throughout the state, to assure proper consideration being given to national party platforms and policies and, in order to carry out the states policies of the State and National Parties, the Democratic State Committee shall take such actions as it deems appropriate and necessary within the limits of the law and Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States.
2. Equal opportunity shall be given to all qualified people regardless of race, religion, age, sex, economic status, or any other attribute irrelevant to the right to individual freedom, to participate in all activities carried on by the Democratic Party in New Jersey, including participation as candidates for elective office on all levels.
3. The Democratic Party in New Jersey shall take all affirmative actions necessary to insure that all qualified persons are given the equal opportunity for participation, as discussed in paragraph 2 above. These affirmative actions shall include full implementation of the following six recommendations of the Special Equal Rights Committee chaired by Governor Richard J. Hughes:
 - A) All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party will be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status, or philosophical persuasion.
 - B) No test for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Democratic Party be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity or economic status.
 - C) The time and place for all public meetings of the Democratic Party on all levels will be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons.
 - D) The Democratic Party, on all levels, will support the broadest possible registration without discrimination on grounds of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, ethnic identity, or economic status.
 - E) The Democratic Party will publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party Officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of these procedures will be done in such a fashion that all prospective and current members of each State Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at all levels of the Democratic Party Organization. The Democratic Party will publicize fully and in such a manner to assure notice to all interested parties, a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications of all officers and representatives of the State Democratic Party. Such publication will be done in a timely fashion so that all

prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within each State Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office. F) No Democratic Party Officer or candidate for party or public office, whether national, state, county or municipal, shall publicly support, endorse or assist any duly nominated candidate of another political party who is in opposition to any duly nominated Democratic Candidate while that person holds the position bestowed by the Democratic Party. In the event any such Democratic Party person shall automatically be removed from the position held within the Democratic Party. In the event such person has been placed on the ballot as the nominee for a public elective office, all Democratic support and sponsorship shall be withdrawn immediately.