

Strafford County Democratic Committee Bylaws

Article I Name and Affiliation

Part I Name

The name of this organization shall be: The Strafford County Democratic Committee.

Part II Affiliation

The Strafford County Democratic Committee shall be an affiliate of the State Committee of the New Hampshire Democratic Party; and all parts of these Bylaws shall conform to the Constitution of the State Democratic Party and the Democratic Platform of the New Hampshire Democratic Party.

Article II - Purpose

Part I Mission Statement

The mission of the Strafford County Democratic Committee is to serve the people of Strafford County, New Hampshire by promoting and defending New Hampshire's democratic values for all as outlined and described in the New Hampshire Democratic Party Platform, by recruiting Democratic candidates for public office, and by organizing and mobilizing the communities in Strafford County to elect Democratic candidates.

Part II Powers and Duties

The Strafford County Democrats shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Conducting business of the Democratic Party in Strafford County, New Hampshire,
2. Electing a Committee Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer and at-large delegate(s) to two-year terms in coordination with the State Party.
3. Filling vacancies where the Chair of the County Executive Committee will promptly notify the State Chair in writing of any vacancy within the County Committee. Vacancies will be filled according to the [New Hampshire Democratic Party's Constitution](#) as amended on September 30, 2023 - Chapter 6, Section C, Subsection 3, within forty-five (45) days from the time of the notification of the vacancy by majority vote of members of the County Committee present and voting at a meeting properly advertised for that purpose.

4. Attending the NHDP State Convention and State Committee meetings,
5. Recruiting and electing candidates to public office who are members of the Democratic Party and whose views are consistent with the Party's policies and platform to run for public office at the local, county, state, and national levels,
6. Supporting the activities of local Democratic Committees within the county, and
7. Raising and expending funds in support of Democratic candidates and Party activities,

Article III Membership

Membership to the Strafford County Democratic Committee shall be open to all registered Democratic Party members who are residents of Strafford County.

Article IV Officers/Executive Committee

Part I Officers

The Officers shall consist of a Chair, a Vice Chair (or co-Chair), a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The officers are also members of the Executive Committee and the NHDP State Committee.

Part II At-Large Executive Committee Members

At-Large members of the County Executive Committee are members of the Executive Committee and are apportioned for each 5,000 Democratic voters or fraction thereof as recorded in the county in the immediately preceding Presidential election as defined in the New Hampshire Democratic State Party Constitution

Part III Duties of the Officers

The duties and responsibilities of the four officers of the Strafford County Democratic Committee shall be:

1. Chair or Co-Chairs (in lieu of a Vice Chair):

- 1.1. Issue the call for; and preside at, meetings of the Strafford County Democratic Committee and the Executive Committee as required by the bylaws, or at such time as the chair deems necessary, and ensuring no meetings fall on any religious holidays
- 1.2. Appoint members to all standing and special committees; be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee,
- 1.3. Sign all contracts with the approval of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee,
- 1.4. In the absence of the treasurer, have the authority to disburse funds up to \$250 per transaction per quarter without the approval of a majority of the Executive Committee.
- 1.5. Serve as presiding officer of the Strafford County Democratic Committee, and serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the State Democratic Committee,
- 1.6. The County Chair may appoint any person who is a registered Democrat and a resident of Strafford County to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee until the next meeting of the Strafford County Democratic Committee at which time an election shall be held to fill said vacancy for the remainder of the term.
- 1.7. Special committees shall be appointed by the Chair for specific purposes and shall serve for the length of the designated project.
- 1.8. Committee reports shall be presented as directed by the Chair.
- 1.9. Serve on the Executive Committee of the NHDP
2. Vice-Chair: Perform the duties of and serve in the absence or incapacitation of the Chair, or if there is a vacancy In the office of chair and perform other such duties as requested by the Chair or by vote of the Executive Committee.
3. Secretary:
 - 3.1. Record the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee and the Strafford County Democratic Committee,
 - 3.2. Distribute said minutes to all members of the Executive Committee,
 - 3.3. Conduct correspondence for the Executive Committee, the County Committee, and as directed by the Chair and
 - 3.4. Preside at meetings of the Executive Committee and the County Committee, in the absence of both the Chair and the Vice Chair.
4. Treasurer:
 - 4.1. Is responsible for maintaining all funds, making disbursements, and maintain financial records as directed by the Chair or the Committee
 - 4.2. Obtain approval of a majority of the Executive Committee for the disbursement of all funds in excess of \$250

- 4.3. Perform such other duties, consistent with the office, as directed by the Chair.
5. Only the four County Committee Officers shall serve on the NHDP State Committee.

Part IV
Resignation, Removal, & Replacement of Executive Members

The removal of an officer other than the Chair for cause shall be upon recommendation of the Chair. The officer shall be suspended from office upon recommendation of the Chair and a vote of a majority of the Executive Committee members present and voting at a duly called meeting of said committee. Such suspension shall be presented to the Strafford County Democratic Committee at its next duly called meeting. The Chair will inform the NHDP of his recommendation for removal as well as the reasons for removal base on the improper conduct(s) listed below.

The Chair may be removed from office for failure to properly conduct the duties of said office, upon recommendation of a majority members of the Executive Committee and a vote of a majority of the members of the Strafford County Democratic Committee present end voting at a duly called meeting of the Strafford County Democratic Committee.

Vacancies will be filled within sixty (60) days by majority vote of members of the County Committee present and voting at a meeting properly advertised for that purpose.

Improper conduct of duties include:

1. Three consecutive unexcused absences at County Committee or Executive Committee meetings, or
2. Unexcused absences at more than one half of the duly called County Committee or Executive Committee meetings in a given year, or
3. Publicly supporting, to include contributing funds or facilitating others to contribute funds to, a candidate of another political party or a candidate opposed to a duly nominated candidate of the Democratic Party, or
4. Changing their voter registration status so as to no longer be a registered member of the Democratic Party, or
5. Changing their residency to a location outside of Strafford County, or
6. Conviction of a felony, disbarment, or eviction from another recognized organization for financial improprieties

Part V

Resignation, Removal, and Replacement of Local Officers

When a local officer resigns, is unable to perform the duties of the office to which elected, or neglects, fails, or refuses to perform the duties of that office, or publicly supports a candidate of another political party or another candidate opposed to a duly nominated candidate of the Democratic Party, the local committee will remove that officer according to its bylaws.

In the event a local committee neglects or refuses to do so, the County Chair, with approval of the County Executive Committee, may declare the office vacant. The County Executive Committee may appoint an acting officer who will serve until the local committee elects a replacement.

Article VI- Meetings

Part I

1. The County Executive Committee shall meet at least ten (10) times per year and be cognizant of religious holidays. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee must be present for official business to take place.
2. The Strafford County Democratic Committee shall meet no less than four times a year. In months when the County Committee is scheduled to meet, the Executive Committee meeting shall be held in conjunction with the County Committee meeting. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee must be present for official business to take place.
3. Meetings of the Executive Committee and the Strafford County Democratic Committee shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. Robert's Rules of Order only require a majority to pass a motion with the exception of Article VII – Amendment Procedure.
4. The County Committee shall meet once every odd-numbered year after April 1 and before July 1 to elect the County Officers and representatives to the NHDP State Committee. To ensure neutrality, the elections held at the County Committee organizational meeting shall be run by the State Chair and NHDP staff. All County Committee meetings must be open and accessible to the public with fourteen (14) days' notice and posted in at least three places, including the events calendar as maintained on the NHDP website.

Article VII - Amendment Procedure

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Strafford County Democratic Committee members present. All proposed amendments must be

submitted in writing to the Executive Committee of the Strafford County Democratic Committee, which shall make its recommendation no later than the second county committee meeting following receipt of the proposal. A vote on the proposed amendment shall take place at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Strafford County Democratic Committee following the recommendation of the Bylaws Committee. The Chair shall place the proposal on the agenda and the proposal shall be published at least seven days before the meeting at which it is to be voted upon