

**BYLAWS OF THE NEBRASKA DEMOCRATIC LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,  
AND TRANSGENDER (LBGT) CAUCUS  
As Adopted: 8/18/2004**

**ARTICLE I: NAME AND STATUS**

The name of the organization shall be The Nebraska Democratic Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus but may also be referred to as the "Nebraska LGBT Caucus", the "LGBT Caucus", or the "Caucus". The Caucus shall be affiliated with the Nebraska Democratic Party and the National Stonewall Democrats.

**ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

SECTION I.:

Mission Statement

The Nebraska Democratic Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus is devoted to advancing equal rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The Caucus supports the Democratic Party and Democratic candidates who support our mission. It draws its strength from a statewide network of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and straight allied Democrats who are working to realize these goals:

To educate the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, and people who are supportive of it, about the vast differences that exist between the two major parties on the issues of concern to our community;

To lead our party to improve its record on issues of importance to our community, and to work for the recruitment, nomination, election and reelection of Democratic candidates – including qualified openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender candidates – who will be fully supportive of our fight for equality and against bigotry and intolerance;

To encourage our community to support and vote for Democratic candidates who are committed to defeating homophobia and prejudice.

SECTION II.:

The Caucus shall submit a written campaign plan at the first State Central Committee meeting in odd numbered years. The plan shall detail the Caucus' political and campaign goals, objectives and strategies for the proceeding two-year election cycle in accordance with the Bylaws of this Caucus.

## **ARTICLE III: QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

### **SECTION I.:**

Any Democrat registered to vote in the State of Nebraska shall be a member of the Caucus (a "Member") who: subscribes to the purposes of the Caucus, as described in the mission statement in Article II; and complies with the provisions of these Bylaws in good standing.

### **SECTION II.:**

Members shall be registered as Democrats to vote in the State of Nebraska. Membership shall be statewide and established by payment of voluntary annual contributions and/or completion of a membership form.

## **ARTICLE IV: DUES**

Voluntary annual contributions shall be determined annually at the statewide meeting in January.

## **ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP AND MAILING LISTS**

### **SECTION I.:**

The Secretary of the Caucus shall coordinate the maintenance of the list of Members, which shall include the name and last known contact information of the Member and the date on which the Member first qualified for membership. The membership list of the Caucus shall be confidential and shall not be delivered or disclosed to any Member or any person other than the Executive Committee of the Caucus.

### **SECTION II.:**

The mailing list may be used for Caucus business or for mailings for other Nebraska Democratic Party purposes, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Caucus. The mailing list of the Caucus shall be confidential and shall not be delivered or disclosed to any person or organization other than the Executive Committee of the Caucus.

### **SECTION III.:**

No mailing will indicate LGBT status or affiliation.

## **ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS**

### **SECTION I.:**

The officers of the Caucus shall be Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Congressional District Chair from each of the three Congressional Districts, and must be members of the LGBT community.

### **SECTION II.:**

There shall be one at-large Ally representative (non-voting member) and Immediate Past Chair (non-voting member) to the Executive Committee to serve in an advisory capacity.

### **SECTION III.:**

The Caucus shall strive to maintain gender equity when electing officers.

### **SECTION IV.:**

The elected officers, *the Ally representative* and the Immediate Past Chair of the Caucus shall constitute the Executive Committee.

### **SECTION V.:**

The Executive Committee shall be the administrative body of the Caucus and shall have the power and authority to do and perform all acts and functions which the Caucus itself might do or perform, not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

### **SECTION VI.:**

The term of office for the officers shall be two (2) years. There are no term limits.

### **SECTION VII.:**

The Executive Committee shall fill any vacancies on the Executive Committee for the balance of the term.

## **ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS' DUTIES**

### **SECTION I.:**

The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Caucus and the Executive Committee, shall appoint Ad Hoc committees, shall represent the Caucus on the Nebraska Democratic Party State Executive and Nebraska State Democratic Party Central Committee and shall perform other duties that are pertinent to the office.

## SECTION II.:

The Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair during any absence, incapacity, or temporary disability of the Chair and perform such duties as may be assigned by the Chair.

## SECTION III.:

The Secretary shall coordinate the maintenance of the membership and mailing lists, keep the minutes of all meetings of the Caucus, send out notices of all meetings, and perform other duties that are pertinent to the office. The Secretary shall be the custodian of all the papers of the Caucus. The Secretary, at the expiration of his/her term, shall surrender all property of the Caucus in his/her possession to the Executive Committee of the Caucus.

## SECTION IV.:

The Treasurer shall receive all monies, pay all bills as ordered by the Executive Committee of the Caucus, make a report of the expenses of the Caucus at each meeting of the Executive Committee, and make a financial statement to the members at the meeting of the Caucus. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all the financial records of the Caucus. The Treasurer, at the expiration of his/her term, shall surrender all property of the Caucus in his/her possession to the Executive Committee. Checks written need two signatures: one of the Treasurer and the other of the Chair or his/her appointee from the Executive Committee of the Caucus.

## SECTION V.:

The three District Chairs shall represent their Districts on the Executive Committee and shall coordinate membership drives throughout their Districts, and other duties, as assigned by the Chair.

## SECTION VI.:

All nonvoting members of the Executive Committee will serve in an advisory capacity and complete duties, as assigned by the Chair.

## **ARTICLE VIII: RESIGNATIONS, REMOVALS, AND VACANCIES**

### SECTION I.:

Resignations of the members of the Executive Committee shall be effective upon receipt of such resignation, in writing, to the Chair.

### SECTION II.:

A member of the Executive Committee may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the Executive Committee for malfeasance or for conduct clearly contrary to the purposes or best interests of the Caucus.

SECTION III.:

Any member of the Executive Committee who is absent from two (2) consecutive meetings may be subject to removal. If two (2) unexcused consecutive absences occur, a certified letter shall be sent by the Secretary or Chair's appointee. The certified letter shall advise the Member of absences and consequences. If no response is received from the Member by the Chair by the next meeting, the position shall be considered vacated.

SECTION IV.:

The Executive Committee shall fill any vacancies on the Executive Committee for the balance of the vacated term.

**ARTICLE IX: MEETINGS**

SECTION I.:

The Executive Committee shall meet at least four (4) times during the year. At least one such meeting shall be held on a face-to-face basis. Other such meetings may be by teleconference or other similar communication through which all participants can hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence at such meetings. A quorum for the Executive Committee shall be a majority of its membership, excluding vacancies.

SECTION II.:

Special meetings may be called by a 2/3rds vote of the Executive Committee and may be by teleconference.

SECTION III.:

The membership shall convene annually at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee. The annual meeting shall occur at approximately the same time each year. The membership shall receive at least sixty (60) days prior written notice of the annual meeting, per the contact information given by the Members. A quorum for the annual meeting shall be ten percent (10%) of the voting membership. The quorum requirement may be waived by a 2/3rds vote of the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE X: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

### **SECTION I.:**

Names of proposed officers will be placed in nomination from the floor during the annual meeting held in conjunction with the Nebraska State Democratic Party Convention.

### **SECTION II.:**

Elections shall be held at the annual meeting occurring in even calendar years.

### **SECTION III.:**

The term of office shall be defined as beginning on the Monday immediately following the Nebraska State Democratic Party Convention in which the officer was duly elected and shall end on the Sunday immediately following the next Nebraska State Democratic Party Convention.

## **ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

The Bylaws for the Caucus may be amended at the annual meeting by a 2/3rds majority vote of the members present, providing that a written copy of the proposed amendments has been mailed to the members at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the Caucus.

## **ARTICLE XII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Caucus in all situations to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XIII: ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PROVISIONS**

The Caucus shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, ethnic or national origin, age, disability, veteran status, social or economic status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other factor unrelated to membership and the mission of the Caucus.

## **ARTICLE XIV.: DISSOLUTION**

In the event of dissolution of the Nebraska Democratic LGBT Caucus, the assets shall be dispersed in accordance with state statutes.