

**Rules and By-Laws for the  
Democratic Committee of the  
Town of Kinderhook**

ARTICLE I.            Purpose. Pursuant to Article V, Section 3 of the Rules for the Government of the Democratic Party in the County of Columbia, these rules shall guide and govern the affairs of the Democratic Committee of the Town of Kinderhook, hereinafter referred to as the Town Committee.

ARTICLE II.           How Constituted. The Town Committee shall consist of the members of the County Democratic Committee and acting committee members representative of each election district within the Town of Kinderhook.

ARTICLE III.          Officers. The officers of the Town Committee shall be a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, or two Co-Chairpersons, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 1.            Qualifications. Officers shall be members of the Town Committee.

Section 2.            Selection. Officers shall be selected by members having more than 50% of the total weighted vote, as provided for in Article IV, Section 2 of these By-Laws.

Section 3.            Terms of Office. All officers shall serve until their successors are chosen, however, a vote for these offices shall be taken at an organizational meeting within thirty days of the completion of the primary election at which members of the County Committee are chosen. All members of the committee shall be notified in writing of an organizational meeting at least ten days before such meeting shall take place.

Section 4.            Powers and Duties. The powers and duties of officers of the Town Committee shall be such as usually appertain to their respective offices.

Section 5.            Succession. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chairperson or Co-Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson or the remaining Co-Chairperson, as the case may be, shall become acting Chairperson until a special organizational meeting can be held. If any of the offices of Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, or Treasurer become vacant, the Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons, as the case may be, shall appoint a successor or successors subject to the approval of the Town Committee.

ARTICLE IV. Meetings. The Town Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson or the Co-Chairpersons, or upon the call of five or more members, or members representing more than 50% of the weighted vote referred to in Article IV, Section 2 of the By-Laws.

Section 1. Quorum Requirements. A quorum shall exist when at least half the members of the filled seats of the Town Committee are in attendance in person and without giving effect to participation by proxy.

Section 2. Voting. In voting upon all questions before the Town Committee at each meeting thereof, each member in attendance in person or participating by proxy shall be entitled to cast one-half of the exact vote recorded for the Democratic candidate for Governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election in the election district which that member represents. All voting by proxy shall be in accordance with Section 4 hereof.

Section 3. Procedures. The general rules of Parliamentary Law as set forth in Roberts Rules of Order, latest revised ed., shall be followed in all meetings of the Town Committee.

Section 4. Proxy Voting. Members may participate in voting on questions before the Town Committee by proxy provided such proxy is dated, in writing and signed by the absent member, and refers to a specific matter or matters and expresses the position of such member clearly. This provision is intended to allow for voting participation of members who may not be able to attend meetings. This provision is not intended to permit discretionary voting power by a member carrying a proxy, and proxies granting vague or blanket voting authority shall not be valid. A member may carry no more than one proxy to any Town Committee meeting.

ARTICLE V. Endorsements. Town Committee endorsements or nominations allowed by law or custom shall be made with the advice and consent of members of the Town Committee constituting more than 50% of the weighted vote as provided for in Article IV, Section 2.

Section 1. Committee Vacancies. The Town Committee will endorse nominees to fill town vacancies on the County Committee. Such nominees will become acting committee members with the same rights and privileges as other members of the Town Committee.



Section 2. Election Inspectors, Custodians, and Party Representatives. The Town Committee members in each election district will endorse the election inspectors, custodians, and party representatives to work on each election day. In the event that they disagree on an appointment, the Town Committee will endorse an appointee.

ARTICLE VI. Construction and Effect. These Rules shall take effect upon approval by members constituting more than 50% of the weighted vote as provided for in Article IV, Section 2.

Section 1. Amending the By-Laws. These By-Laws may be amended by the Town Committee, if copies of these By-Laws and of the proposed changes to the By-Laws are circulated to all members of the committee at least 14 days before the issue is debated at a meeting of the committee, and the amendments have been proposed and discussed at a meeting of the committee at least fourteen days prior to the meeting at which a vote is taken, and members representing more than 50% of the weighted vote referred to in Article IV, Section 2 of these By-Laws vote to adopt the amendment.

If an amendment which has been circulated to the full committee is changed in a substantial way, a vote may not take place until the procedure described in paragraph one of this section is repeated.

Once a vote has been taken on an amendment, and the amendment fails to garner enough votes to be adopted, the procedure described in paragraph one of this section shall be repeated before another vote may be taken.

Section 2. Board of Elections Notification. Amendments adopted as per the provisions of this article shall not be deemed effective until a copy of the revised By-Laws have been filed with the Columbia County Board of Elections.

This filing may be made by any officer of the committee.

ARTICLE VII. Subcommittees. All committees and subcommittees of the Town Committee shall be formed at the discretion of the Chairperson or the Co-Chairpersons.

These amended By-Laws were approved by a majority vote of the Kinderhook Democratic Committee on September 22, 2005.