

# Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin allows any county unit to propose amendments to the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin;

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin requires that changes to county unit constitutions be approved by the administrative committee before they take effect and does not provide county units with the right to contest rejections of their constitutional amendments;

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 3 of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin mandates that county units hold their officer elections between November 1 and December 31;

WHEREAS, the membership of the Democratic Party of Dane County believes that amendments to a county unit's constitution should take effect immediately unless they conflict with the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and that county unit officers should have the right to contest rejections of their constitutional amendments;

WHEREAS, the membership of the Democratic Party of Dane County believes that county units should have the authority to determine the timing of their officer elections;

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Dane County requests that the following amendments be made to the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

## **Amendment 1**

Article VI, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin currently reads:

Section 2 - Each county shall submit a constitution governing for approval by the administrative committee. For new counties, constitutions must be approved prior to the issuance of a charter. Any changes in county constitutions after initial approval shall become effective only after approval by the standing constitution committee. Such approval must be given unless such county constitution or change is in conflict with this constitution. Each county constitution shall be printed or duplicated and copies with amendments shall be available to members of each county.

The Democratic Party of Dane County moves that Article VI, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin be stricken and replaced with the following:

Section 2 - Each county unit shall submit a constitution for approval by the administrative committee. For new county units, constitutions must be approved prior to the issuance of a charter. After initial approval, amendments to a county unit constitution shall be submitted to the administrative committee and shall take effect immediately upon submission. The administrative committee may vote to reject an amendment only if it conflicts with this constitution. If the administrative committee votes to reject an amendment provision, that provision shall have no effect. Before a vote on rejection occurs, the affected county unit's officers shall be notified and given a reasonable opportunity to contest the rejection. Each county unit constitution shall be printed or duplicated, and copies with amendments shall be made available to members of the county unit.

## **Amendment 2**

Article VI, Section 3 of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin currently reads:

The officers of each county shall include a chairperson or co-chairs as defined by county governing documents, vice-chairperson, secretary and treasurer. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person. Counties may provide for additional officers. Officers of a county shall be elected for a term of one year, except that the constitution of a county may provide for two-year terms. The election shall be held **no earlier than November 1 nor later than the following December 31** at a county meeting called for that purpose or at a meeting of delegates when the method of election of county officers by delegates has been approved by the administrative committee. Reasonable written notice of at least ten days of such election meeting must be given by the secretary of each county to the state headquarters and to all paid members of record of the notice date. At each county election only members who meet the requirements defined by the county or are approved members a minimum of 5 days prior to the election shall be eligible to vote. In the event that the chairperson of the county shall fail to call such an election meeting within the period specified herein, the state chairperson shall be authorized to call such an election meeting as soon as practicable provided always that the provisions of this section with respect to notice shall be observed.

The Democratic Party of Dane County moves to strike the words "no earlier than November 1 nor later than the following December 31" from the fifth sentence of this provision.