



HERNANDO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**PREAMBLE**

We, the Democrats of Hernando County, united in common purpose, hereby re-dedicate ourselves to the principals which have historically sustained our Party. Recognizing that a political party which wishes to lead must listen to those it would lead, a party which asks for the people's trust must call forth the best the county, state and nation can achieve must embody the best of the heritage and tradition.

The Hernando County Democratic Party, at all levels, shall encourage voter registration without discrimination on grounds of race, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, or physical disability.

What we seek for our county, state and nation, we hope for all people; individual freedom in the framework of a just society, political, freedom in the framework of meaningful participation by all citizens.

Bylaws of the  
Democratic Executive Committee  
Hernando County, Florida  
Adopted May 27, 1993  
Reprinted Dec. 29, 1995  
Amended August 24, 1995  
Amended March 29, 2003  
Amended July 15, 2004  
Amended March 6, 2009

## SECTION ONE

### 1. NAME AND PURPOSE:

- 1.1 *Name:* The official name of this organization shall be the Hernando County Democratic Executive Committee (HCDEC).
- 1.2 *Purpose:* The purpose of the HCDEC shall include the election of Democratic office holders, support the principles of the Democratic Party, determination of policy and carrying out the work of the Democratic party in Hernando County.

## SECTION TWO

### 2. MEMBERSHIP

#### 2.1 *Elected Members*

- 2.1.1 *Definition:* Elected members shall be defined as those persons elected pursuant to Section 2.1.3 and those elected by the HCDEC to fill vacancies in precincts. Once a person is elected in a precinct or is appointed at-large or to fill a vacancy in the precinct into which he or she moved, for purposes of eligibility to seek office, such a person shall be classified as an elected member for the duration of that term. If a vacancy does not exist in the precinct where the member moves, a special at-large status shall be created for that member not to be counted against the total number of appointed members entitled to Hernando County.
- 2.1.2 *Optional Precinct System:* In a county consisting of fewer than two hundred (200) precincts, the elected membership of the county Democratic Executive Committee shall consist of a man and a woman from each precinct who are registered Democrats and who reside in, are registered to vote in, and are elected from the precinct they are to represent. Should the voter registration of any precinct total more than one thousand (1,000) as of January 1, of a year in which qualifying for election to county Democratic Executive Committee occurs, the county Democratic Executive Committee may, by amendment to its Bylaws, and upon immediate notification to the Supervisor of Elections of that county by certified mail, and upon immediate notification to the State Chair by certified mail, elect an additional one (1) man and one (1) woman to represent all such precincts. They shall be elected by a plurality of vote on the first primary ballot of each Presidential election year. At any time a precinct totals one thousand (1,000) registered voters or when new precincts are created, additional county Democratic Executive Committee positions may be created. Such positions shall be filled by the county Democratic Executive Committee according to its procedures for filling vacancies.

- 2.1.3 *Election of Members:* HCDEC members shall qualify and be elected to office at such times and in such manner as provided by Florida Statutes (currently by a majority vote on the First Primary Ballot of each presidential election year) and by the HCDEC to fill vacancies in precincts.
- 2.1.4 *Term of Office:* Elected members of the HCDEC shall take office on the first day of the month following each general election and shall serve for a term of four (4) years. Members elected by the HCDEC to fill precinct vacancies shall take office at the time of their election and their terms of office shall run concurrently with that of elected members.

## 2.2 AUTOMATIC MEMBERS:

- 2.2.1 *Definition:* Automatic members shall be defined as: All resident Democratic elected officials of Hernando County or appointed by the Governor to fill a vacancy in an elective office, Presidents of duly chartered Democratic Clubs and Presidents of county Democratic Black Caucuses.
- 2.2.2 Such members shall serve for the duration of their term of office and shall enjoy voting privileges; however, automatic members may not serve as officers of the HCDEC.
- 2.2.3 Automatic members shall not be required to meet the attendance requirements nor shall they be computed when determining a quorum.

## 2.3 APPOINTED MEMBERS:

- 2.3.1 *Definition:* Membership of the HCDEC may include an additional ten percent (10%) of the total elected membership to which entitled. These members shall be nominated by the Membership Committee after investigation by said Committee, appointed by the Chair with the approval of the majority vote of the membership of the HCDEC present and voting. Appointed members shall serve at-large and shall enjoy voting and other privileges and responsibilities of membership except holding office. Selection of appointed members shall be made in order to achieve political, economic, or diversity and balance within the HCDEC.
- 2.3.2 *Term of Office:* The term of office for appointed members shall be one (1) year commencing with the date of appointment, however, it shall expire immediately prior to the commencement of the organizational meeting of the next committee. Said members may be reappointed.
- 2.3.3 *Special At-Large Status:* At any time after the election of officers, a county Democratic Executive Committee may allow, at the request of a Democratic Party elected official from the county, state or national Democratic Party level, a special at-large status for that person. Such positions shall not be included in a county Democratic Executive Committee's appointed membership quota. If the elected official is an elected member of the County Democratic Executive Committee, a vacancy would be created in the district or precinct that he or she represents. Said vacancy shall be filled in accordance with that county Democratic Executive Committee's Bylaws.
- 2.3.4 Special At-Large members shall not be required to meet attendance requirements and shall be computed when determining a quorum.

## 2.4 RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP:

- 2.4.1 *Loyalty Oath:* Each HCDEC member shall take and abide by the Loyalty Oath prescribed by the State Democratic Party prior to admission to the HCDEC.
- 2.4.2 *Attendance:* Each HCDEC member shall be responsible for attending each HCDEC meeting and signing his or her name to the official attendance sheet provided by the Credentials Committee for that meeting.
- 2.4.3 *Absences:* No HCDEC member shall accumulate more than three (3) unexcused absences from HCDEC meetings each twelve (12) month period following the date of taking office.
- 2.4.4 *Discipline:*
- 2.4.4.1 General: The HCDEC shall have general authority to discipline itself and the individual members thereof in such a manner as may reasonably be necessary to carry out its lawful purpose.
- 2.4.4.2 The HCDEC shall follow the requirements and authority of the Florida Statutes with respect to removal of committee members by reason of absence or violation of oath of office.
- 2.4.4.3 Any person shall be removed from office as a member of said committee either because of:
- a) Unexcused absences in excess of that allowed by 2.4.3 or
  - b) Violation of oath of office.
- After prior notification to the Chair or Credentials Committee Chair, absences of the following shall constitute sufficient reason for absence:
- a) Sickness of self or sickness or death of member of immediate family.
  - b) Business engagement out of town or other reasonable excuse.

## SECTION THREE

### 3 OFFICERS:

- 3.1 *Definition:* The officers of the HCDEC shall be a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, who shall be of the opposite sex from the Chairperson; a Secretary and a Treasurer who shall be of the opposite sex from the Secretary. In addition, the HCDEC membership shall elect one (1) man and one (1) woman to represent the HCDEC on the State Executive Committee of the Florida Democratic Party.
- 3.2 *Term of Office:* The terms of office for the above named HCDEC officers shall be four (4) years, or until their successors are duly elected. No member of the HCDEC shall hold more than one (1) elected office at a time.
- 3.3 Only full time residents of Hernando County shall be eligible to hold an office in the HCDEC.

## SECTION FOUR

### 4 ELECTION PROCEDURE OF OFFICERS:

- 4.1 The officers of the HCDEC shall be elected by a majority vote in accordance with the Charter and Bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party and the Bylaws of the HCDEC:
  - 4.1.1 Nominations shall be made by motion from the floor provided previous permission has been secured from the proposed candidate.
  - 4.1.2 A person can nominate himself/herself.
  - 4.1.3 Each elected and automatic member shall have one (1) vote.
  - 4.1.4 Voting shall be by open ballot.
  - 4.1.5 Quorum for each HCDEC meeting shall consist of no less than forty (40%) percent of members. A quorum of HCDEC members must be present throughout the election process. Should a quorum cease to exist the meeting must be adjourned and those offices not yet elected must be put off until the next meeting.
  - 4.1.6 Ballots are to be prepared by the Secretary.
  - 4.1.7 The Secretary will maintain minutes during the meeting.
  - 4.1.8 The Credentials Committee shall prepare a Teller's Sheet and Report Form designed for use by the Tellers Committee to count all ballots.
  - 4.1.9 A nomination does not need a second.
  - 4.1.10 After each nomination, the presiding officer repeats the name of the nominated person to the assembly. For example, John Jones for County Chair. Are there further nominations for County Chair?
  - 4.1.11 The presiding officer will then close nominations for that office by repeating the phrase, "Are there any more nominations", three times.
  - 4.1.12 No other nominations for other offices will be considered until after the election of the County Chair and after the newly elected Chair becomes the presiding officer.
  - 4.1.13 Each nominee for the office of County Chair and other offices will be permitted a maximum of five (5) minutes of time reserved for them and they may allocate that time in whatever manner they desire.
  - 4.1.14 A "Teller's Committee" consisting of a person designated by the HCDEC Secretary will supervise the counting of the ballots along with a representative chosen by each candidate to reflect that each nominee will be represented during the counting of the ballots in the presence of the full committee.

- 4.1.15 In the event that no one (1) candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be in a runoff.
- 4.1.16 Balloting shall proceed without recess until one (1) candidate shall have received a majority of the votes cast.

4.2 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

- 4.2.1 HCDEC Officers and State Committeepersons shall be elected every four (4) years at the “Organizational” meeting after Presidential elections as required by the Bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party.
- 4.2.2 Only those members elected in accordance with Florida Statutes, the Charter and Bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party and these Bylaws shall be eligible to serve as an HCDEC Officer or State Committeeperson.
- 4.2.3 No later than thirty (30) days after newly elected committee members take office on the first of December of each Presidential election year, the HCDEC shall hold an Organizational Meeting called by the Chairperson of the preceding committee who shall preside over the Organizational Meeting until a new HCDEC Chairperson is elected;
- 4.2.4 Prior to the beginning of the meeting, the Chairperson shall determine that all Precinct Chairs have signed the official roster and the proper Loyalty Oaths have been completed.

4.2.5 The order of business shall be as follows:

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order           | 7. Election of State Committeewoman |
| 2. Invocation              | 8. Election of State Committeeman   |
| 3. Pledge of Allegiance    | 9. Election of Vice Chairperson     |
| 4. Roll Call               | 10. Election of Secretary           |
| 5. Credentials Report      | 11. Election of Treasurer           |
| 6. Election of Chairperson | 12. Adjournment                     |

4.3 PROXIES: Moved from Section 10

- 4.3.1 Any member of the HCDEC who for any sufficient excuse is unable to attend any meeting of the HCDEC may designate in writing, as a proxy, any qualified Democratic voter who lives in the same precinct, except that such designee shall not be a member of the HCDEC. On presentation of written Proxy, the holder of such Proxy shall be given all the rights of the proceedings of the specific meeting as if he or she were a member of the HCDEC.
- 4.3.2 Proxies may not account for more than ten percent (10%) in computing a quorum.
- 4.3.3 Proxies shall not be considered in the fulfillment of attendance requirements.
- 4.3.4 Said Proxy shall be in substantially the form of Attachment #1 of these Bylaws and shall be verified by the Credentials Committee

#### 4.4 REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS:

4.4.1 The HCDEC shall meet at least quarterly with the calendar year beginning in January. Special meetings of the HCDEC may be called by the Chairperson or by petition of a majority of elected membership of the HCDEC. Official notice of all meetings must be mailed at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting date. Special meeting notices must contain subject matter.

4.4.2 The Credentials Committee shall insure all Precinct Chairs sign the official attendance record and all Proxies are in order.

4.4.3 The order of Business of Regular and Special Meetings shall be as follows:

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order           | 7. Treasurers Report    |
| 2. Invocation              | 8. Communications       |
| 3. Pledge of Allegiance    | 9. Committee Reports    |
| 4. Credentials Committees  | 10. Unfinished Business |
| 5. Quorum Report           | 11. New Business        |
| 6. Minutes of Last Meeting | 12. Adjournment         |

4.4.4 *New Business Defined:* The membership may vote on a matter if:

4.4.4.1 The appropriate HCDEC existing committee has discussed and voted to bring the matter before the HCDEC membership at its next regular scheduled meeting, or,

4.4.4.2 Two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting vote to hear the issue; or,

4.4.4.3 The HCDEC position must be sent to the State Executive Committee or the Central Committee of the Florida Democratic party as an expression of the HCDEC opinion before the next scheduled meeting of the HCDEC. Only the State Committeepersons or the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson may make the motion for the subject matter to be brought before the HCDEC under this provision.

4.4.5 *Unfinished Business:* Matters remaining unresolved from previous meetings shall be eligible for a vote at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

4.4.6 *Leave of Absence:* any officer of a county Democratic Executive Committee seeking the Democratic nomination for public office shall take a leave of absence from the county Democratic Executive Committee. This leave shall commence at the time of opening a campaign account for said public office and extending for the duration of the campaign. The vacancy created shall be filled by the County Democratic Executive Committee for the interim period.

#### 4.5 VACANCIES:

4.5.1 If an HCDEC Office becomes vacant, an election shall be held within forty-five (45) days. Written notice shall be provided to HCDEC members at

least fifteen (15) days before the election. Notice of vacancy shall be sent by certified mail to the State Chairman within ten (10) days. In the event that a vacancy is filled by a person who is not of the gender required by section 3.1 above, that requirement shall be waived for the unexpired term.

4.5.2 A vacancy in the State Executive Committee membership for Hernando County shall be filled for the unexpired term by the HCDEC membership by election within thirty (30) days of the creation of said vacancy.

## **SECTION FIVE**

### **5 DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

#### **5.1 *Chairperson:***

5.1.1 Preside at all meetings of the HCDEC and of the Steering Committee;

5.1.2 Appoint all committee Chairs and with the input of each Chair, appoint the members of all committees.

5.1.3 Appoint a Parliamentarian.

5.1.4 Advise the Secretary of any special meeting in sufficient time for the Secretary to send notice of such meeting to HCDEC members;

5.1.5 Approve and countersign all checks issued by the Treasurer;

5.1.6 Serve as ex-officio member of all committees;

5.1.7 Promulgate in conjunction with the appropriate committee, prepare an annual precinct organization activity, campaign schedule and campaign budget;

5.1.8 Serve as the official spokesperson of the HCDEC or to designate a temporary spokesperson; and

5.1.9 Receive resignations of officers and committee members.

#### **5.2 *Vice-Chairperson:***

5.2.1 Act during the absence or inability of the Chairperson to carry out all duties assigned above. When acting in the place of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall have all the powers and be subject to all the responsibilities hereby given to, or imposed upon, the Chairperson.

5.2.2 Serve as Program Chairperson for all scheduled regular meetings.

5.2.3 Serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.

5.2.4 Perform such other duties as the Chairperson shall direct.

5.3 *Secretary:*

- 5.3.1 Attend and keep minutes and records of all meetings of the HCDEC and submit copies of said minutes and records for HCDEC files and state party files;
- 5.3.2 Keep files and report on correspondence related to HCDEC;
- 5.3.3 Furnish to the credential committee a list of all qualified members of the HCDEC, or proxies, at each meeting of the HCDEC;
- 5.3.4 Mail written notice of each regular or special meeting at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting except in case of emergency or as specifically stipulated in these Bylaws. Special meeting notices should include an agenda (if possible) and a brief summary of issue items requiring a decision at that meeting;
- 5.3.5 Serve as ex-officio member of all committees;
- 5.3.6 Perform such other duties as the Chairperson shall direct.
- 5.3.7 Appoint a representative to supervise the “Teller’s” committee during all elections.

5.4 *Treasurer:*

- 5.4.1 Deposit any and all funds in such bank or banks as the HCDEC may direct, and to be responsible for all funds of the HCDEC, as required by Florida Statutes, and by the Charter and Bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party;
- 5.4.2 Keep a record of all deposits, receipts and expenditures;
- 5.4.3 The Treasurer shall issue all checks which must be countersigned by either the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson;
- 5.4.4 Render at each meeting a written accounting of all deposits, receipts and expenditures as of the 15<sup>th</sup> of the current month and at other times when requested by the steering committee; shall pay out funds in excess of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars only as authorized by the steering committee and shall pay out funds over five hundred (\$500.00) dollars only as authorized by the membership. The Treasurer shall prepare and submit, with the Chairperson’s approval all financial reports required by the Supervisor of Elections of Hernando County and such other financial reports and/or filings as may, from time to time, be required by law;
- 5.4.5 Arrange for an annual audit or compilation of the financial condition of the HCDEC by qualified examiners who shall not be members of the HCDEC. Audits shall be conducted in substantial compliance with standard account procedures. A copy of the audit shall be filed with the Florida Democratic Party and with the Hernando County Supervisor of Elections prior to April 1, of the ensuing year;
- 5.4.6 Transfer all records to the successors in office after all accounts have been audited and approved by the appropriate authorities.
- 5.4.7 Serve as ex-officio member of all committees and a standing member of the Finance Committee;

- 5.4.8 Prepare an annual operating budget with the assistance of the Finance Committee and its subsequent presentation to the HCDEC.
- 5.4.9 Perform such other duties as the Chairperson may direct.
- 5.5 *State Executive Committeepersons:* The duties of the State Committeeman and State Committeewoman are to serve as liaison between the state Florida Democratic Party and the county DEC; liaison between the DEC and the clubs; members of the State Executive Committee and county DEC Steering Committee; members of the county DEC Campaign Committee; and members of other committees as designated by the HCDEC Charter and Bylaws.
  - 5.5.1 Inform the HCDEC of any questions to be brought before the State Executive Committee, or in the event a regular HCDEC meeting is not scheduled, inform the HCDEC Chairperson of the need to call a meeting of the steering committee;
  - 5.5.2 Report all actions taken at both the Central and State Executive Committee meetings at the next HCDEC meeting, and to place a copy of the Central and State Executive Committee agendas in the HCDEC files.
  - 5.5.3 Reflect to the best of their knowledge, the wishes of the HCDEC is all votes cast;
  - 5.5.4 Keep the HCDEC Constitution and Bylaws Committee informed of all changes made in the Charter and Bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party.
  - 5.5.5 Attend all Central Committee and State Executive Committee meetings, or when such attendance is not possible, obtain proxies.

Section Six - Meetings was moved to Section 4 Election Procedures

## SECTION SIX.

- 6 COMMITTEES: Members are encouraged to serve on at least one standing or special committee and participate in its activities. All committees shall meet at the discretion of their chair unless otherwise specified

### 6.1 STEERING COMMITTEE:

The Steering Committee shall be comprised of all officers, the State Committeepersons, the Chairperson of standing committees, the President (s) of duly chartered Democratic Clubs and the President of the county Black Caucus. Other HCDEC members may be invited to attend for the purpose of making reports on special projects.

- 6.1.1 It is the function of the Steering Committee to help the chair govern the day-to-day operation of the HCDEC. The Steering Committee may hire staff as needed and as included in the annual budget approved by the HCDEC.
- 6.1.2 The Steering Committee shall meet at least one week prior to any regular or called HCDEC meeting to review the agenda as presented by the Chairperson.

6.1.3 The Steering Committee shall be empowered to act on behalf of the full committee in between regular meetings of the HCDEC. Such actions are subject to approval at the next HCDEC meeting.

## 6.2 OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES

6.2.1 *Affirmative Action Committee:* Work in conjunction with the Florida Democratic Party Affirmative Action Committee to carry out the Affirmative Action policies of the Democratic Party.

### 6.2.2 Campaign Committee

This committee shall:

1. During election years, provide information (by means of pamphlets, seminars and other such means as may be available) on ways Registered Democrats residing in Hernando County may conduct a successful campaign.
2. Supervise political canvasses and literature distribution efforts

### 6.2.3 Organization Committee: This committee shall:

6.2.3.1. Introduce new HCDEC members to their duties and responsibilities.

6.2.3.2 Conduct orientation seminars to train members in precinct organization..

6.2.4 *Constitution and Bylaws Committee:* This committee shall study, report and recommend proposed changes in the Bylaws of the HCDEC and ensure the Bylaws are in compliance with the Charter and Bylaws of both State and National Democratic Party Charters and Bylaws.

### 6.2.5 *Credentials Committee:* This committee shall:

6.2.5.1 Record attendance at HCDEC meetings and determine presence of a quorum (40% of membership).

6.2.5.2 Verify and report the credentials of membership at Organizational Meeting.

6.2.5.3 Verify all proxies in accordance with these Bylaws.

6.2.5.4 Investigate any alleged violations by a member of his or her oath of office and make a report to the HCDEC, giving full due process to the member both in the committee and the HCDEC.

6.2.5.5 Receive in writing all requests from members for excused absences. Such requests may be submitted in advance, but shall be submitted in writing not later than thirty (30) days following the absence.

6.2.5.6. All records of the credentials committee shall be surrendered to the recording secretary at the close of the next meeting.

- 6.3 *Finance Committee:* The Finance Committee shall:
- 6.3.1 Upon request of the Executive Committee the Steering Committee or the HCDEC, this committee shall advise the group as it relates to financial situations.
  - 6.3.2 Recommend to the HCDEC ways and means of raising funds for the purpose of maintaining the organization and promoting campaigns to elect Democrats.
  - 6.3.3 Work with the Treasurer in preparing the annual budget.
- 6.4 *Legislative Liaison Committee:* This committee shall:
- 6.4.1 Monitor action in the State Legislature and the National Congress and keep the HCDEC informed in legislative action.
  - 6.4.2 Recommend action on legislative matters.
- 6.5 *Public Relations and Publicity Committee:* This committee shall:
- 6.5.1 Obtain publicity in the best interest of the HCDEC and the Florida Democratic Party.
  - 6.5.2 Receive from the Membership Committee lists of what precinct vacancies exist on the HCDEC and publicize these in a newsletter to the HCDEC at least quarterly.
- 6.6 *Young Democratic Committee:* This committee shall work with the Florida Young Democrats to further their goals and purposes towards increasing Democratic Participation of young voters. The president of the Young Democrats shall be the Chairperson of this committee.
- 6.7 *Membership.* The Membership Committee shall;
- 6.7.1 Actively recruit new members, accept applications for membership in the HCDEC, and investigate and verify the qualifications of applicants for HCDEC membership.
  - 6.7.2 Prepare and deliver applications for HCDEC membership to the Steering Committee with recommendations and present applicants to the HCDEC Membership.
  - 6.7.3 Report to the HCDEC on Precinct vacancies at least bi-annually.
- 6.8 *Special Committees:*
- 6.8.1 Such other committees shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the HCDEC as the HCDEC or the Steering Committee shall from time to time deem necessary.
  - 6.8.2 Upon completion of its final report a Special Committee automatically ceases to exist.
  - 6.8.3 A special committee shall not be appointed to perform task that falls within the assigned function of an existing standing committee, as delineated by these Bylaws.

## SECTION SEVEN

### 7 PARLIMENTARIAN AND PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

- 7.1 The Chairperson shall appoint one (1) member of the HCDEC to serve as Parliamentarian of the HCDEC. The Parliamentarian shall serve at the discretion of the Chairperson.
- 7.2 *Parliamentary Authority:* The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the HCDEC in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Charter and Bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party and the Bylaws of the HCDEC.

## SECTION EIGHT

### 8 VOTING

- 8.1 The Chairperson shall declare all votes and may call for a vote on any question by voice vote, by a raising vote, or by a call of the roll.
- 8.2 Upon request of any HCDEC member, a rising vote shall be called, or upon the showing of hands of fifteen (15) or more HCDEC members, the Chairperson shall take a roll call vote.

## SECTION NINE

### 9 PENALTIES:

- 9.1 The State Chairperson, at the direction of the Central Committee, shall be responsible for the imposition of penalties which shall be set forth herein:
- 9.2 *Compliance:* Should the HCDEC be found in noncompliance with the Charter or Bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party or Florida Statutes, the State Chairperson may notify the HCDEC of such noncompliance by certified mail. The HCDEC shall have thirty (30) days to comply.
- 9.3 *Suspension and Removal:* The HCDEC or any of its officers may be suspended by the State Chairperson for failure to comply within thirty (30) days. The Central Committee shall review the actions of the State Chairperson at the next meeting of the Central Committee and either affirm the suspension and remove the officer (s) or the HCDEC upon two thirds (2/3) vote of the entire membership of the Central Committee, or in the alternative, reinstate said official (s) or HCDEC. A HCDEC officer who has been removed from office shall not be eligible to hold an HCDEC office for the remainder of his or her term.

## SECTION TEN

### 10 ENDORSEMENT POLICY:

- 10.1 *Purpose:* To recommend a candidate to fill a vacancy in an elected or appointed office.
- 101a An endorsement may be provided by the HCDEC for any elected or appointed office where a Democrat is eligible and qualified to hold office. No endorsement may be made in Judiciary races. In a non-partisan election, no endorsement shall be made without an eligible member of the Democratic Party vying for such vacancy.

- 10.1.1 No endorsement shall be made prior to the close of the period of candidate qualifying.
- 10.1.2 Primary race endorsements shall be undertaken as per Section 3 of the Florida Democratic Party Bylaws.
- 10.1.3 Non-partisan and appointed vacancies shall be endorsed by a simple majority of those present and voting.
- 10.1.4 Nominations shall be taken from the floor, and second, followed by a written and signed ballot. Upon endorsement, that person shall be recommended to the appropriate individual (s) or legislative body within forty eight (48) hours of the vote, or as appropriate.
- 10.1.5 The Secretary shall be responsible for the preparation and delivery of said communications.

## **SECTION ELEVEN**

### **11 AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS:**

- 11.1 The Bylaws of the HCDEC may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting, providing no amendment may be voted upon without ten (10)s day written notice of the proposed amendment and meeting. A copy of the amendment Bylaws shall be filed with the Florida Democratic Party within Thirty (30) days after approval by the HCDEC.

