

Allegheny County Democratic Committee

Summary of Proposed By-Laws Changes

The ACDC By-Law Committee has prepared a proposed set of by-laws changes. The proposed changes reflect the responses from the By-Law Questionnaire that was circulated last year.

The following is a summary of the major proposed changes. A side-by-side comparison of the current and proposed by-laws can be found on the ACDC website.

1. Format Change: The formatting of the by-laws has been changed to provide more clarity. Paragraphs have been broken up and headings have been added to make the by-laws easier to read. Some rules have been combined to eliminate repetitive language and simplify the reading of the rule.
2. Endorsement-Rule XI Page 18:
 - a. The ACDC and local endorsements are changed from a plurality to a majority.
 - b. If a candidate fails to receive a majority then there is no endorsement.
 - c. There will be an option to vote for “no endorsement”.
 - d. The endorsement will be held the Sunday after nomination petitions are scheduled to be filed.
 - e. The endorsement will be a recommendation only and not be binding on committee members.
3. Committee Member Gender Identification- Rule III Page 1
 - a. Committee members will be identified as “male”, “female” or “non-binary” members.
 - b. The two candidates with the most votes and of different gender identification will be seated as the committee members in that precinct.
 - c. If a municipality reapportionments, committee members will retain their seat. Committee members moved from their seat due to the reapportionment may become an at-large member if there is not an open seat in the newly reapportioned precinct.
 - d. A new clause has been added that defines “Associate Members”.
 - e. A representative of the “Young Democrats of Allegheny County” is added as a committee seat.
4. Rules IV and V Combined Page 5
 - a. Rule VI , Ward and Municipal Officers and Rule V, Conduct of Election of Ward and Municipal Officers contained repetitive language and have been combined for clarity and efficiency.
5. Rule VIII Special Elections: NEW RULE Page 21
 - a. This rule details the procedure for filling vacancies of elected offices.
 - b. A majority is required and ranked choice voting will be used in the selection process.
 - c. This is different from Rule XII which covers vacancy after a candidate has won the nomination.
- 6.. Rule IV. Committee Vacancies & Succession
 - a. Committee vacancies are filled by the county chair with the chairs making recommendations.
 - b. A vacancy of a Ward or Municipality Chair is filled by the Vice-Chair. This is added for clarity.
 - c. The paragraph relating to a vacancy of the County Vice-Chair has been eliminated. This was a rule that was in effect when committee members were elected every two years.