

WimDems Bylaws

Adopted by WimDems Board 7/28/25

General Membership approval 9/17/25

Revision General Membership approval 4/15/26

Article I. Name and Affiliation

The name of this club shall be Wimberley Democrats; hereinafter known as the WimDems.

WimDems is a recognized club of the Hays County Democratic Party (HCDP), which is a county affiliate of the Texas Democratic Party.

Article II. Purpose

WimDems shall be dedicated to promoting the ideals and tenets of the Democratic Party. We shall promote Democratic Party candidates and WimDems-endorsed candidates and assist in their campaigns. WimDems shall promote strong voter registration and encourage improved voter turnout in all elections. WimDems shall strive to build a thriving Democratic community in the Wimberley area and Hays County at large.

Article III. Organizational Structure

As a recognized club of the HCDP (Article I, b.), WimDems shall also organize itself as a General Purpose Political Action Committee (a "PAC") as defined by the Texas Ethics Commission, and shall adhere to the regulations and rules set forth by the Texas Ethics Commission applicable to PACs.

Article IV. Membership

Membership is open to all Democrats who support the purpose of the organization. Members shall pay dues annually in an amount as proposed by the Executive Board and approved by a majority vote of members in good standing who are present and voting. A "member in good standing" or "General Member" is one who meets the qualifications of membership and has paid their annual dues – and is therefore part of the "General Membership."

WimDems member contact information will be used solely for WimDems business and volunteer activities and will not be made available to independent persons or outside organizations.

Article V. Meetings – General Membership

General Membership meetings shall be called on at least an annual basis. There shall be a January meeting in odd years for the selection of Executive Board Members as set forth below. There shall also be an Annual Meeting on the 2nd Wednesday in April of each year or on any other date in April as properly noticed by the Executive Board.

The Executive Board shall set all meetings and give written notice at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting to the membership. Notice shall be given by email or by WimDems social media.

Article VI. Executive Board Members and Duties

Eligibility to Serve on the Executive Board

To be eligible to serve on the Executive Board of WimDems, a person must:

- Be an adult 18 years of age or older,
- Live in Hays County, Texas, and
- Be a member in good standing.

Term Length and Eligibility for Re-Election

Terms for Executive Board Members (“Board Members”) shall be for approximately two (2) years, beginning on the date of election and continuing until election of the following odd numbered calendar year. Providing that the Board Member continues to meet eligibility criteria, each officer can stand for re-election and may serve multiple terms without limit.

Executive Board Member Selection

The election of Board Members shall be held at a regular meeting in January of odd numbered years, by simple majority vote of the members in good standing present and voting.

The Executive Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) General Members in good standing who are not on the Executive Board. This committee is responsible for preparing a slate of Officer candidates for consideration by the membership. Nominations must be received 30 days prior to the January meeting in odd numbered years. Nominations are to be verified by Nominating Committee and publicized to the Membership at least ten (10) days prior to January meeting in odd numbered years.

At the regular meeting in January of each odd numbered year, the Nominating Committee shall present its slate of proposed Board Members for consideration by the membership. The membership may, by majority vote of General Members in good standing present, approve the slate as a whole. If the slate is not approved as a whole by the membership, the membership shall hold separate elections for each individual office.

Activities of the Board as a Whole

Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held as needed and called by the Chair or at the request of three (3) Board Members.

The Executive Board may appoint an audit committee to review all club financial transactions. The Executive Board may take actions that are not enumerated by these bylaws upon a majority vote of the Executive Board.

Board Makeup and Office Descriptions

The Executive Board shall consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and at least three (3) Board Members elected at-Large.

The Chair shall call Executive Board or special meetings of the membership in accordance with need. The Chair shall preside at all meetings. With Executive Board approval, the Chair may also appoint committees, sub-committees or task forces as needed. For each committee the Chair appoints, the Chair shall appoint a committee chair. The Chair is an authorized signatory to WimDem's bank account.

The Vice Chair shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair, perform the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair, will perform other duties as assigned by the Chair, and shall succeed to the office of the Chair at any time the office becomes vacant during an unexpired term. The Vice Chair is a signatory to WimDem's bank account.

The Secretary shall record and maintain the minutes of all meetings. The Secretary shall send all meeting notices as necessary. The minutes of the meetings shall be submitted in writing to the Chair within five (5) days of the meeting.

The Treasurer shall collect all dues and/ or PAC contributions, disburse the organization's funds, keep updated records of all monies received and spent, and act as the agent and record keeper for fundraising activities. The Treasurer is an authorized signatory to WimDems bank account. The Treasurer shall present a written report on the finances at all meetings or when requested by the Chair. The Treasurer shall timely file all financial reports required by the Texas Ethics Commission and any other entity requiring reporting, and shall ensure that WimDems is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

The Directors at-Large shall attend meetings of the Executive Board, vote on proposals during meetings of the Executive Board, and perform other duties as assigned by the Chair.

Article VII. Vacancies on the Executive Board

An Executive Board position may be considered abandoned and vacant if the elected officer misses three consecutive Executive Board meetings.

Upon recommendation of a majority of the Executive Board, an Executive Board Member may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the members in good standing present and voting at a General meeting or specially called meeting.

A vacancy on the Executive Board caused by death, resignation, failure to fill a vacancy at a regular election, removal, abandonment or otherwise, shall be proposed for the unexpired term by the Chair and approved by majority vote of the Executive Board. If there is no existing Chair, the vacancy shall be filled by the remaining elected board members by a majority vote.

A vacancy on the Executive Board shall be filled by the elected Executive Board members at a meeting held within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs unless the bi-annual election falls within the period of thirty (30) days.

Article VIII. Expenditures & Budget

The Executive Board will submit and approve a budget at or before its Board meeting in March of each year. The budget will be on a fiscal basis – beginning April 1 of each year.

The General Membership shall approve or ratify the budget at its Annual Meeting on the 2nd Wednesday in April of each year or on any other date in April as properly noticed by the Executive Board.

The Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer have the authority to independently approve expenditures less than \$200. An email/electronic message shall provide acceptable written approval. These expenditures shall be reported to the Treasurer within 30 days. Any expenditure greater than \$200, that is not in the approved budget, shall require the approval of the majority of the Executive Board. An email/electronic message shall provide acceptable written approval.

All reported expenditures will be included in the Treasurer's regular financial reports to the membership at the next duly called meeting of the membership after the expenditure was reported to the Treasurer.

Article IX. Amendments

All proposed bylaw amendments, along with a plain-language summary of the proposed changes, must be submitted to the Chair in writing. If approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board, the proposed amendment will be presented for a vote by the General Membership. Proposed amendments, accompanied by the plain language summary, must be published by a member of the Executive Board on the WimDems website or to the membership via email at least seven (7) days prior to their presentation for discussion at a regular meeting, and may be voted on following their presentation. Amendments shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the members in good standing who are present and voting.

Article X. Robert's Rules of Order

WimDems shall conduct all meetings pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order and shall adhere to strict time limitations as determined by the Chair.

Article XI. Committees

With Executive Board approval, the Chair may form and appoint committees as the Chair deems necessary to execute specific tasks or provide advice on a specific topic. The Chair may give the committee decision-making authority or require Executive Board approval before any action is taken.

All chairs of a committee formed under this Article must be members in good standing.

All activity taken by the committee must be within the scope of the Chair's direction.

Each committee shall have a chair who is appointed by the Chair and their term shall last until the next Executive Board election. Committee Chairs may serve multiple terms. Committee chairs serve at the pleasure of the Chair and may be replaced by the Chair at any time.

Committee meetings shall be held as needed and called by the Committee Chair.

The committee may be disbanded by the Chair or the committee chair at any time.

Article XII. Primary Election Endorsements

WimDems may endorse political candidates in primary elections.

The club may also endorse candidates in non-partisan elections and/or specific propositions on the ballot.

Endorsing candidates at this level serves as a vetting mechanism with the objective of having the strongest Democratic candidate competing in the general election.

The process for endorsements of democratic primary candidates may include a written questionnaire to be completed by each candidate and a forum for candidates (live or virtual) to answer direct questions extemporaneously about their experience and positions on issues. The candidates will then be put to a recorded vote of current dues-paying club members via email or in person.

To receive the endorsement, the candidate must receive 60 percent of the vote. If this threshold is not reached, no endorsement will be made. The same process applies to candidates for non-partisan office who seek the club's endorsement.

To endorse a ballot proposition, a committee of three members, agreed-upon by the board by a majority vote of the Executive Board, will gather information on the proposition and evaluate it based on its alignment with club values and community factors. As with candidates, the proposition will then be voted on by dues-paying club members (the "General Membership") and will be granted with 60 percent of the vote.