

1 **By-Laws**

2  
3 **Fortieth Legislative District**

4  
5 **Revised January 4, 2003**

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7  
8 **Article I – Name**

9  
10 The name of this organization shall be The Fortieth Legislative District Democratic  
11 Organization of the State of Washington.

12  
13 **Article II – Purpose**

14  
15 Section 1: It shall be the objective of this organization to encourage the growth and  
16 influence of the Democratic Party within the Fortieth Legislative District of Washington  
17 State, through the avenues of leadership, participation, party responsibility, and to create  
18 an esprit de corps which will maintain harmony within the party ranks. The Fortieth  
19 District shall debate, establish and then promote the Democratic platform and philosophy.  
20 And finally, the Fortieth District shall seek out and work to elect Democratic candidates  
21 on all levels who support and reflect that philosophy.

22  
23 Section 2: It shall be the policy of this organization to comply with and operate within  
24 the state statutes and according to the Democratic Party State Charter and By-Laws.

25  
26 **Article III – Membership**

27  
28 Section 1: Active membership in the Fortieth Legislative District Democrats  
29 Organization shall be open to all persons professing Democratic status who are registered  
30 voters residing within the Fortieth Legislative District.

31  
32 Section 2: Associate membership is open to all registered voters who reside outside the  
33 Fortieth Legislative District. Associate members shall have all the rights and privileges  
34 of regular members except voting and holding office.

35  
36 Section 3: All elected Fortieth District PCOs are members.

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38 **Article IV – Dues**

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40 Section 1: Upon payment of dues, any registered voter residing in the Fortieth  
41 Legislative District, professing Democratic status becomes an active member in good  
42 standing.

43  
44 Section 2: Each active member in good standing may vote on all matters other than those  
45 exempt by state statute and the State Democratic Party By-Laws.

1  
2 Section 3: Active and associate membership dues shall be established at the biennial  
3 organization meeting for payment each calendar year and no individual who is suffering  
4 economic hardship shall be denied active membership.  
5

## 6 **Article V – Government**

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8 Section 1: The Fortieth Legislative District shall be presided over by the Fortieth  
9 Legislative District Executive Committee. It shall be governed by a representative form  
10 of government. Members are entitled to attend meetings to discuss policy or hear and  
11 present resolutions. The Executive Committee may transact such business as may be  
12 brought before the Executive Committee if unable to present it to the body in a timely  
13 manner.  
14

15 Section 2: By State statutes, only elected Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) are  
16 entitled to elect officers at the reorganization meetings held every two (2) years,  
17 following the election of new PCOs.  
18

19 Section 3: All members shall be the voice of the Fortieth Legislative District on issues  
20 brought before the organization at its regular meetings.  
21

## 22 **Article VI – Meetings**

23

24 Section 1: Regular meetings of the Fortieth Legislative District shall be held quarterly,  
25 the first within 45 days after the reorganization meeting. Additional meetings may be  
26 called at the discretion of the District Chair.  
27

28 Section 2: Notice of all organization meetings shall be given not less than ten (10) days  
29 in writing, or five (5) days by telephone before the meeting.  
30

31 Section 3: Regular meetings may be alternated among San Juan, Skagit and Whatcom  
32 Counties. Exception to this policy must be by mutual agreement.  
33

34 Section 4: A quorum shall consist of ten percent (10%) of the members in good standing  
35 but not less than ten (10) people. Quorum will be based on members present at the  
36 beginning of the meeting.  
37

## 38 **Article VII – Executive Board and Duties of Officers**

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40 Section 1: The Executive Board shall consist of the District Chair, three (3) vice-chairs  
41 (elected from separate counties), Secretary, Treasurer, State Committeeman and State  
42 Committeewoman who are duly elected at the reorganization meeting. Standing  
43 Committee Chairs shall be members of the Executive Committee.  
44

1 Section 2: Each Executive Board Officer shall hold office for two (2) years, or if filling  
2 out an unexpired term, until the next reorganizational meeting. Each officer shall have  
3 one (1) vote.  
4

5 Section 3: The Executive Board shall formulate and adopt the budget, recommend  
6 policies and activities to the District Organization, approve bills and payment of those  
7 within the budget, and preside over the organization.  
8

9 Section 4: The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the Chair, or a majority of the  
10 Board.  
11

12 Section 5: A majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the Executive  
13 meetings.  
14

15 Section 6: Duties of Officers: Each Officer shall keep all pertinent records and  
16 correspondence received. They will surrender all records to their successor, along with  
17 the duties of the office, following the reorganization meeting.  
18

19 **Legislative District Chair:** All meetings of the Fortieth Legislative District shall be  
20 called and presided over by the District Chair, or in the absence of the Chair, a Vice-  
21 chair. If none of these are present, the Secretary shall preside.  
22

23 The Chair shall, as soon as possible after the reorganization meeting, appoint the various  
24 committee chairpersons and solicit volunteers for committees.  
25

26 The Chair shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the nominating  
27 committee, and shall have the power and the duty to appoint such additional committees  
28 as are deemed necessary for the effective operation of the Fortieth District Organization.  
29

30 The Chair shall arrange the order of the reorganization meeting and preside over the  
31 election of new officers and shall perform such other duties as normally pertain to the  
32 office of the District Chair.  
33

34 The Chair shall have the power to appoint an assistant to any officer whenever, in his or  
35 her opinion, such an assistant is necessary.  
36

37 The Chair shall be the chairperson of the Executive Board.  
38

39 The Chair shall be the Public Relations officer of the Fortieth District Organization.  
40

41 **Vice-chairs:** The Vice-chairs shall aid the Chair of the District Organization and shall,  
42 in the absence of the Chair, preside over meetings as stated in the aforementioned section.  
43 Vice-chairs shall serve as liaisons to their respective counties.  
44

45 At least one Vice-chair will be a different gender from the Chair.  
46

1 **Secretary:** The Secretary shall record the minutes of the Executive Board meetings, the  
2 reorganization meeting and all regular and quarterly meetings of the Fortieth District  
3 Organization. The Secretary shall transmit copies of the minutes of these meetings to the  
4 Executive Board members. There shall also be a copy sent to PCOs and general  
5 membership as requested. This shall be executed promptly. The minutes of all meetings  
6 shall be dated and signed by the Secretary.

7  
8 **Treasurer:** It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to supervise the financial affairs of the  
9 organization. The Treasurer shall prepare and file all needed State Public Disclosure  
10 reports as required by law. The Treasurer shall collect and disburse all funds, keep all  
11 financial records and give a financial accounting at all quarterly meetings.

12  
13 The Treasurer shall disburse all moneys by check, signed by the Treasurer and District  
14 Chair, except that expenditures in amounts less than \$50.00 may be made by a check  
15 signed by the Treasurer or the District Chair.

16  
17 The Treasurer shall be a member of the finance committee and chair of the budget  
18 committee.

19  
20 **State Committeeman and Committeewoman:** The State Committeeman and  
21 Committeewoman shall represent the Fortieth Legislative District to all Washington State  
22 Democratic Central Committee meetings and report to the membership at the regular and  
23 quarterly meetings.

24  
25 Section 7: Vacancies in any office shall be filled by special election.

## 26 27 **Article VIII – Nominations and Elections**

28  
29 Section 1: Formal nomination of officers shall be made and seconded from the floor.  
30 Vice-chairs will be nominated from a caucus of each of the three counties and elected by  
31 the PCOs from that county.

32  
33 Section 2: Voting shall be by secret ballot, signed by qualified electors. Only elected  
34 PCOs are qualified electors.

35  
36 Section 3: Nomination and election of each office shall be held one at a time. The Chair  
37 will determine time limits for nominating and candidate speeches.

38  
39 Section 5: Elections shall be decided by a majority of those eligible to vote, who are  
40 present and voting. If no candidate has a majority of the first ballot, the candidate with  
41 the least votes will be dropped. The same rule applies on each succeeding ballot.

42  
43 Section 6: Proxy voting shall not be allowed.

1 **Article IX – Committees**

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3 At the next regular meeting after the Chair is elected, he/she shall appoint finance,  
4 campaign, publicity, issues and affirmative action committees of not less than three (3)  
5 members to hold office until the next reorganizational meeting. Such special committees  
6 as are deemed necessary for effective operation of the organization may be appointed by  
7 the Chair. All members of the committees serve at the pleasure of the Chair.  
8

9 **Article X – Parliamentary Authority**

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11 Rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority  
12 for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by these By-laws or State statutes.  
13

14 **Article XI – Amendments**

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16 These By-laws may be amended only by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of a quorum of  
17 members in good standing present and voting at any regular meeting providing that  
18 notice of amendment is given in writing to the Executive Board thirty (30) days prior to  
19 the next regular meeting. The Executive Board shall instruct the Secretary to mail out the  
20 proposed amendment to all members ten (10) days prior to the next regular meeting.  
21

22 These By-laws shall continue until amended or revised.