Current Whatcom Democrats Bylaws

Article VI: Resolutions

Section 1: Purposes

Any member may bring resolutions to the Central Committee for adoption, for these and other reasons:

a) To adopt a position that is not covered in the current County Platform, or is in conflict with the current County Platform;

b) A member has proposed the resolution to the Executive Board and disagrees with their decision;

c) The Executive Board believes the issue is of sufficient importance as to warrant adoption by the membership; or,

d) The resolution relates to the powers of the Central Committee not delegated in these Bylaws to the Executive Board.

Section 2: Introduction of Resolutions

For resolutions involving public policy issues a resolution should be submitted by a member to the Issues and Resolutions Committee for first reading to the Central Committee. A member may introduce a resolution directly to the Central Committee if there is cause for urgent action on the issue.

Section 3: Voting on Resolutions

A resolution may be passed by a simple majority of those present and voting, at a subsequent meeting after the first reading. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present and voting is required to pass a resolution at the same meeting at which it is introduced.

PROPOSED Rules on the implementation of Bylaw VI:

The Issues and Resolutions Committee shall present a report to the Body, upon motion of first reading, that explains the reason for the resolution in regard to purposes listed in Bylaw VI sec 1.

If a resolution specifically criticizes a fellow Democrat, elected official or otherwise, the Issues and Resolutions Committee shall contact the person directly (or an official staff person) and make a good-faith effort to get their position statement on the issue. This statement shall be presented to the body at the same time as the resolution is submitted to the body for first reading. The individual or his/her representative will also be allowed time on the agenda to present their position, but this does not substitute for a Committee report.

The Issues and Resolutions Committee shall present to the body all resolutions brought to them for consideration, and are urged by the body to make recommendations on the worthiness and appropriateness of the resolution.

For a resolution to be accepted on first reading, it must be moved, seconded, and supported by an affirmative vote of 20% of voting members present.

Once a proposed resolution is accepted on First Reading, the text of the resolution shall be distributed internally within the organization, to leaders, PCOs, discussion groups, BUT NOT published publicly until adopted in final passage by the membership.

If there is no functioning Issues and Resolutions Committee, or the resolution is judged to be an emergency bypassing the I& R Cmte (Art VI sec 2):

Individuals may submit resolutions directly to the body, and will be accepted for first reading if:

1) 20% of members present support the resolution text or general topic that they feel it is worthy of consideration, and;

2) THREE members other than the mover(s) of the resolution volunteer to serve as an ad hoc Issues & Resolution Committee for this resolution only.

If both these these conditions are not met, the resolution dies.

Further, to be considered on Second (Final) Reading, the Ad Hoc Issues and Resolution Committee must present it's report on the same issues as if they where the standing committee, including the purpose, opposing position of criticized Democrat, and optional recommendation. If the Ad Hoc Committee does not or can not make their report, the Resolution dies.

For a resolution proposed as an emergency to be adopted at the same meeting it is proposed (Art VI sec 3):

It is the desire of the body that the movers of an emergency resolution attempt to make the same reports to the body as are required for non-emergencies. It is understood that these rules are "standing rules" of the body and the body may suspend or amend these rules at any meeting without notice, so "requiring" reports under these circumstances is unenforceable.

NOTE: These rules may be adopted as "Standing Rules" of the body, by majority vote, and may be amended at any membership meeting by majority vote. If we want more permanency, they would need to be adopted into the Bylaws, by the PCOs.