

**BLACK AUSTIN DEMOCRATS
BY-LAWS**

MISSION STATEMENT

To Promote participation in the political process by Black Democrats throughout the Greater Austin Area.

**ARTICLE I
NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The name of this organization shall be the Black Austin Democrats, ["BAD"] A Chapter of the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The goals of this organization shall be:

- a) To stimulate in Blacks an active interest in government affairs;
- b) To facilitate the Black participation in the Democratic Party;
- c) To perpetuate the ideas and principles of the Democratic Party;
- d) To attract new members to the BAD;
- e) To help acquaint voters and potential voters with issues and candidates;
- f) To promote by our efforts the highest degree of government response to public needs;
- g) And to promote economic development as it impacts and interfaces with political participation in the Black community in greater Austin area.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Any Person who is a Democrat is eligible for membership

Section 2.

- a) Regular memberships are open to Democrats
- b) Student memberships are open to any Democrat who is a full-time student enrolled in an educational program and not over the age of 22.

Section 3. Membership is established upon receipt of dues or as otherwise provided. Dues paid after November 1 of any year will cover the balance of that year and all of the subsequent year.

**ARTICLE IV
OFFICERS and EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Section 1. The officers of the organization shall consist of:
President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer.

Section 2. The four (4) officers and three (3) Members At Large shall comprise the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Duties of the officers:

President: The President shall preside at all regular meetings. The President shall exercise general supervision over the interest and affairs of BAD and shall appoint committees as outlined in these by-laws.

Vice-President: The Vice-President in the event of the absence, inability or refusal of the President to perform the duties, shall for the duration of such absences, inability or refusal, assume the prerogative and powers of the President for all purposes. The Vice-President shall be responsible for maintaining an accurate list of members as well as conducting a systematic campaign for increasing the number of members. The Vice-President shall perform additional duties as may be assigned by the President or Executive Committee.

Secretary: The Secretary shall keep all records of BAD and minutes of regular and special meetings and of the meetings of the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall keep in permanent form the minutes of all regular, special and Executive Committee meetings. Copies of such minutes should be made available to all members upon request. The Secretary shall keep a permanent file of all correspondence received, which shall be submitted to the President and Executive Committee upon request and made available for inspection upon request by any member.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall receive or collect all fees, dues and other monies constituting the revenue of BAD, which shall be, deposited into an established BAD account at a local financial institution whose funds are federally insured by a vote of the membership. The Treasurer shall disburse these funds in the manner authorized by the Executive Committee subject to the Constitution and By-Laws. The accounts and books shall at all times be open for inspection by the Executive Committee and any auditor authorized by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall make a quarterly report to the membership of all funds received and disbursed and at such other times as the Executive Committee may require.

Parliamentarian: The Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the President and serve the same term as the appointing President. The Parliamentarian is responsible for recommending revisions to the BAD by-laws as necessary, to advise the President or chair of the meeting on questions of order and to make sure applicable procedures are followed during any and all meetings; to advise on any violations of parliamentary procedure, to be responsible for parliamentary procedure education for the benefit of BAD members and to ensure that parliamentary procedure is governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Members at Large: The Members at Large shall be elected by the membership and serve for a one (1) year term.

Section 4. The Executive Committee and/or officers shall have no authority to make a public statement on any issue except when so delegated by the membership at a regular or special called meeting.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be one regular scheduled meeting per month, on the third (3rd) Thursday of each month except during the month of December when the regular meeting shall take place on the second (2nd) Thursday of the month.

Section 2. Executive Committee meetings may be called by the President or by 2 or more of the Executive Committee with notice to all members of the Committee.

Section 3. All announcements of meetings shall be mailed or electronically transmitted at least 5 days in advance of the meeting

Section 4. 9 members or more of the membership will constitute a quorum of the organization and a majority of the Executive Committee constitutes a quorum.

Section 6. Regular business meetings of the Executive Committee shall proceed as outlined on the agenda prepared before each meeting as adopted by the Executive Committee. The meeting shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VI. DUES

Dues shall be determined upon the vote of a majority of members, at any regular meeting. There shall be no more than one increase in dues in any given calendar year.

ARTICLE VII VOTING

Section 1. Only members who are current in their dues shall be eligible to vote.

Section 2. A majority vote of members present is required to adopt any measure put before the body, except as otherwise provided by the By-Laws.

Section 3. All voting shall be secret balloting upon request by any member, otherwise voting shall be as directed by the Parliamentarian.

Section 4. Only members who are current in their dues 60 days prior to the election or members the prior year shall be eligible to vote in any election of officers/members at large or on candidate/issue endorsements.

ARTICLE VIII ENDORSEMENT MEETING

Section 1. BAD reserves the right to not endorse in any race.

Section 2. Any member serving in a paid capacity for a candidate/issue being considered in a contested endorsement shall disclose such involvement prior to speaking on behalf of or in opposition of the candidate/issue at endorsement meeting.

ARTICLE IX ELECTION

Section 1. The month of December will be established as the month for elections, the Executive Committee shall set such date and membership shall be informed as stated herein. Newly elected officers shall take office at the next regular meeting in January of the following year.

Section 2. No person who has been a member for less than six (6) months shall be eligible to hold office.

Section 3. Elections shall be held every year.

Section 4. Each officer can serve no more than two (02) consecutive terms.

ARTICLE X COMMITTEES

Section 1. The following shall be standing committees of the chapter.
Fundraising Committee
Nominating Committee
Political Action Committee
Executive Committee

Section 2. Appointment of the committee chairs shall be made by the President except as otherwise provided herein.

Section 3. The Nominating Committee shall consist of 5 members elected by the membership. The Chair of the Committee shall be selected by a majority of the members of the Committee.

Section 4. The Nominating Committee shall monitor the election with the assistance of the Parliamentarian.

ARTICLE XI
ABSENCES, VACANCIES, RESIGNATIONS AND REMOVALS

Section 1. Four (4) absences within a year, the office shall be declared vacant, except in cases of illness or other emergency situations. The executive Committee may choose to hold a special election or appoint a person to the office.

Section 2. Any officer must notify an Executive Committee member of his/her absence 24 hours prior to the meeting or as soon as practicable.

Section 3. Any officer may resign by submitting a written resignation. The resignation should be delivered or mailed to the President, Secretary or Treasurer and effective as stated in the letter or upon acceptance by the body, whichever is earlier.

Section 4. All records must be submitted to the President immediately upon resignation of the office.

ARTICLE XI.
AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

Provisions of these by-laws may be amended in the following manner:

Any member desiring to so amend must propose the amendment or amendments at a regular meeting. Proposed amendments must be in writing and no action may be taken on any proposed amendment until the following regular meeting. The membership shall be notified of the proposed amendment and the date of the meeting at which the proposed amendment will be acted upon. Any amendment will require an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the membership present.