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| **Proposed Amendments to Our Constitution & Bylaws** |

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| **The Democratic Women of North Carolina Constitution and Bylaws Committee put forth the following amendments:****1. Amendment to Transition the Treasurer role from elected to appointed, with a focus on defining and enhancing its responsibilities.*****Rationale:***The role of Treasurer is difficult to fill due to the time commitment required, the complexity of SBOE regulations, and the associated political scrutiny. Transitioning the role from elected to appointed will allow us to choose a treasurer based on merit and qualifications, rather than an electoral process that may prioritize popularity over competence in financial matters.***Summary of Changes:**** The Treasurer's role would be appointed by the President.

**2. Amendment to introduce the position of Assistant Treasurer among our appointed officers and to clarify its responsibilities.*Rationale:***The introduction of an Assistant Treasurer is a strategic investment in fostering continuity, strengthening our reporting capabilities, and enhancing accountability within our organization. It underscores DWNC's dedication to prudent financial stewardship and positions us well for continued success.***Summary of Changes:**** The Assistant Treasurer position is added & appointed by our President.
* Assistant Treasurer serves on the Credentials Committee
* Assistant Treasurer, like the Treasurer, shall be able to continue holding office longer than two consecutive terms
* Treasurer duties updated to include working with Assistant Treasurer

**3. Amendment to clarify the composition of our Executive Committee.*****Rationale:***The current size of our Executive Committee, comprising 22-24 members, including elected officers and appointed committee chairs, presents logistical challenges that hinder effective governance and participation. Removing the appointed chairs of our various standing committees is essential for quicker decision-making processesand more efficient meetings. Decisions of the Executive Committee will remain subject to review and approval by the full DWNC Board.***Summary of Changes:**** The Executive Committee would be composed of the elected officers, the Regional Directors, the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, and the Parliamentarian.

**4. Amendment to add conduct language to our Standing Rules.*****Rationale:***The proposal to include conduct and etiquette language in our bylaws aims to strengthen the standards of professionalism and respect within our organization. This addition is necessary to clearly define expected behavior, promote respectful discourse, and uphold high ethical standards. It ensures that all members conduct themselves in a manner that reflects our organizational values and fosters a positive and inclusive environment for collaboration and growth.***Summary of Changes:**** Addition of language: "2. Etiquette. "All members of DWNC shall conduct themselves in ways that are respectful, lawful, and courteous. Civil discourse shall guide all interactions."

**5. Amendment to clarify that no state officers, elected or appointed, may endorse in a contested election with multiple Democratic candidates.*Rationale:***Our present bylaws make it clear that elected officers may not endorse in a contested election. This clarification ensures that all officers, elected and appointed, are held to the same standard.***Summary of Changes:**** We would add language naming the appointed Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer positions as state officers. (Presently, state officers are all elected, and if we move the Treasurer positions to appointment we will need to clarify that they're still officers.)
* We would strike the word "elected" from Article 1, Section 1, number 5 of the Bylaws which means that NONE of our officers may endorse in contested elections.

**6. Amendment to clarify the time frame for transferring records, including digital work and passwords, from outgoing to incoming officers.*Rationale:***Past record transfers between outgoing and incoming officers have unfortunately resulted in lost materials. By clarifying the time frame for transfer, we aim to prevent delays that hinder our new officers from beginning their duties. Additionally, in today's digital age, our definition of records must evolve beyond paper copies to encompass digital work, emails, passwords, and social media accounts--integral components of DWNC's intellectual property. The assets must be maintained and transferred promptly to ensure continuity and safeguard our organizational integrity.***Summary of Changes:**** Adding this language: "Transmit all appropriate records & intellectual property pertaining to the office, including usernames & passwords, to her successor within ten (10) days of vacating her office.

**7. Amendment to rectify a 2020 Scrivener's error and confirm that regional appointments to the Legislative Committee and the Resolution Committee shall occur exclusively in even-numbered years.*****Rationale:***In 2020, the DWNC membership voted to change our elections and appointments of officers from the even year to the odd year. A few clerical errors were made when we edited the bylaws. In summary, we forgot to switch some of the odd's to the even's. This amendment will rectify the error and standardize the language used in Article V: Committees where the appointment process is outlined.***Summary of Changes:**** Switching Odds to Evens
* Standardizing language in Article V: Committees

You may track all of [these proposed changes here beginning July 17.](https://democraticwomenofnc.us21.list-manage.com/track/click?u=428aa49a65d0c554c59ff4aaa&id=106ccec0c9&e=b00c0170ee)Please note that editorial changes have been **made in blue** and do not require approval of the general membership. Proposed **amendment changes are noted with a strike-through** of the current language, and the **replacement language is in red.** |

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