# BY-LAWS OF THE NAPERVILLE TOWNSHIP DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION

#### **PREAMBLE**

"The purpose of this organization is to be a free association of Democrats and democrats -- people working for the organizational success of the Democratic Party, and people who want more justice and equity in American society. Its members recognize political action as the most hopeful political instrument to bring integrity, good government, compassion, liberty, and fairness to our country."

-- Truman Kirkpatrick

#### ARTICLE I - Name

This organization shall be known as The Naperville Township Democratic Organization. Alternatively, the name Naperville Township Democrats may be used to describe the organization for practical marketing/branding purposes.

#### ARTICLE II - Purpose

The Naperville Township Democratic Organization exists to bring about the election of Democratic candidates, and to promote active participation in the communities served by Naperville Township.

# **ARTICLE III - Membership**

All elected Naperville Township Precinct Captains (PCs) will have automatic full voting membership rights in the organization. Any registered voter, who is also a Democrat, within Naperville Township or an adjacent Township, shall have full voting membership rights in the organization upon payment of the annual dues and after attending at least 2 meetings during the previous 12 months.

Annual non-refundable membership dues cover the period from April 1 through March 31 of the following year. The amount of dues for a given year shall be established by the Officers and announced at the March meeting.

# **ARTICLE IV - Meetings**

Regular, monthly public meetings of the organization, as well as any special meetings, shall be held as called by the Chair or by a majority of the organization's officers, and shall be open without discrimination to all interested persons.

All meetings of the organization shall be made known to the general public, with information including time, place, date, and other pertinent facts. All meetings shall be announced to members at least 30 days in advance. The agenda shall be fixed by the Secretary and publicized to members at least 5 days prior to the meeting. Each meeting shall include a reporting of the prior month's activities.

All meetings and official business shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

A quorum for the transaction of business shall be defined as 25 percent of the voting members of the organization, except where otherwise specified in these By-Laws. Decisions put before the membership must be approved by a majority of those voting in order to take effect.

Any individual expenditure in excess of either (a) \$500 or (b) 20 percent of the current account balance (whichever is greater) shall be subject to the approval of the membership.

Official organizational endorsement motions must be approved by 2/3 of the members present and voting, at a meeting subsequent to the one at which the motion was introduced, and ratified by a majority of the Officers. The quorum required for all endorsements shall be a simple majority of all voting members. Members must be provided notice of the vote in writing or by electronic mail at least 20 days prior to the meeting at which it will be voted upon.

# ARTICLE V - Election of Officers and Delegates

Election of all Officers shall be held at the second Township meeting following each odd-year consolidated (municipal) general election.

The elected Officers of this organization shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Precinct Director. All elected officers must have and maintain full voting membership. All Officers shall be elected for a two-year term or until their successors are duly elected.

Should an office become vacant mid-term, the Chair shall appoint a replacement to finish the term. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall succeed to the office of Chair for the duration of the term. All appointed officers must have and maintain full voting membership.

The Naperville Township Democratic Organization shall elect its Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Executive Committee of the DuPage County Democratic Central Committee (DCDCC) in even numbered years in accordance with the DCDCC By-Laws. All Delegates must maintain the eligibility requirements and perform the duties laid out in the DCDCC By-Laws, and the DCDCC By-laws shall supersede the Naperville Township Democratic Organization By-Laws should any conflict pertaining to the election of delegates arise.

# ARTICLE VI - Duties of Officers

The Officers are expected to pursue the success of the organization, consistent with the Organization's purpose and subject to these By Laws. The Officers shall draft, and the Treasurer shall submit for the membership's approval at the first meeting of the year, a budget of anticipated expenditures and revenues for the upcoming calendar year. Decisions made by the Officers shall be governed by a majority vote. Officers must conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the organization. Should an Officer fail to uphold their responsibilities or engage in conduct unbecoming an officer, they may be removed from office. Any Member may submit a motion to remove an Officer. Removal of an Officer must be approved by 75% of those voting, and ratified by 75% of the Officers. In addition, an appointed Officer may be removed by a 2/3 vote of the Officers.

The Chair is responsible for the fulfillment of the group's purpose (as stated in Article II). The Chair shall preside at all meetings, fill vacancies in offices of the organization, create special committees as needed, and be an ex officio member of all committees of the organization.

The Vice Chair is responsible for assisting the Chair to fulfill his/her duties and shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair.

The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings, keep official records and other documents for the organization, correspond on behalf of the organization, maintain the membership list for the organization, maintain a list of all committees and their members, and send advance notice of all meetings to the members.

The Treasurer shall be custodian of all monies of the organization, maintain accurate books and accounts of receipts and expenditures of bank and credit balances, be responsible for all disbursements of organization funds, present a report at every meeting, submit a written report annually to the membership, file the required timely financial statements, and make all books available to voting members for review upon request.

The Precinct Director shall nominate precinct committee captains when vacancies exist, maintain accurate lists of all current precinct captains (elected and appointed), publish information about becoming a precinct captain, and ensure the timely distribution of election materials to precinct captains for dissemination to voters.

#### **ARTICLE VII -Amendments**

Amendments to the By-Laws can be initiated by the Chair or by a petition signed by at least 5 voting members. Amendments must be approved by 2/3 of the members present and voting, at a meeting subsequent to the one at which they were introduced. The quorum required for all By-Law amendments shall be a simple majority of all voting members. Members must be provided written notice of the vote in writing or by electronic mail at least 20 days prior to the meeting at which it will be voted upon.

These By-Laws shall be posted on the website at all times, and copies shall be available to any member upon request.