

La Crosse County Democratic Party



May 4, 2021

Dear Member of the La Crosse County Democratic Party,

The Executive Board of the La Crosse County Democratic Party (LCDP) has completed a review of the LCDP Constitution and By-Laws. A bi-annual ratification is required by our Constitution. Both revised documents passed the Executive Board with no dissenting votes.

Most of the changes involve moving and consolidating text from one document to another. This was done to put text where it should belong per definitions of constitutions and by-laws found on the internet. These definitions are as follows:

A **constitution** is the main document of an organization that determines the fundamental aspects of the said organization. The constitution should consist of fundamentals that are not going to be changed. These fundamentals are matters such as the organization name, purpose, membership, officers, meetings, rules of procedure, and amendments.

By-laws are based on the constitution of an organization. By-laws should be constructed with the ability to change them. By-laws determine the detailed guidelines of the organization and state the organization's daily work. This section consists of matters such as duties of officers, committees, impeachment, elections, finance, and amendments. The most important aspects of the duties of each officer as well as the way to remove officers are included in the by-laws. By-laws will contain detailed rules.

The proposed constitution and by-laws are at the following links:

Constitution: <https://laxdems.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/DraftCONSTITUTION2021.pdf>

By-Laws: <https://laxdems.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/DraftBYLAWS2021.pdf>

Deletions are crossed out and additions are underlined.

The below table summarizes proposed revisions.

Constitution changes - from 6 to 7 pages	By-Laws changes - from 8 to 6 pages
Article V- Election of Officers. Moved to By-Laws.	Article I – Executive Board. New Section 9 incorporated from Constitution.

Renumbered Article V- Open Participation. Moved from By-Laws to Constitution.	Article V – Amendments. Moved to end of By-Laws and boiled down to refer to the Constitution for same rules on amendments.
Article IV- County Organization, Section 5. Moved to By-Laws. Section 3. Insert “and endorsement” to candidate recruitment committee.	Renumbered Article V- Elections, Section 1. First two sentences moved from Constitution. Section 2. Deleted requirement that a person may be nominated for only one position on a ballot. Section 3. New 2nd sentence taken from the DPW By-Laws, Article VI-County, Section 5.
Article VI – Regular and Executive Board Meetings. Regular Meeting section in By-Laws (Article VII) consolidated here. Verbiage added to accommodate virtual meetings. By-Laws Article VII, Section 4 – on Robert’s Rules of Order, combined with Constitution Article 8 – Rules of Order.	Article VII – Regular Meetings. Consolidated with the Constitution counterpart Article.
Article VII – Special Meetings, Section 3. Quorum changed from 25 to 20 members, or 10% of membership whichever is less. Reason: Membership is down significantly from the end of 2019. 300+ to under 200.	Article X – Endorsement of Candidates. Deleted due to redundancy with Article X of the Constitution.
Article IX – Solicitation of Funds. The number “3 rd ” deleted as the Constitution is supposed to be more generic and unchanging vs. the By-Laws.	Article III – Finances. Added a provision to audit finances within 30 days in the event of a midterm treasurer resignation. Now requires one of three review team members to be a non-treasurer Executive Board member.
Article X – Endorsements of Candidates in Elections. Sentence added to Section 2 allowing LCDP endorsement of candidates in non-partisan general elections. New sections 4 and 5 incorporated from the By-Laws.	
Renumbered Article XII – National Convention Delegates. Incorporated from the By-Laws.	

The Constitution and By-laws will have two readings. The first reading will occur at the regular May 17th meeting. The second reading and ratification will be held at the regular June 21st meeting. A favorable vote of two-thirds of the members present is necessary for ratification.

In order for this process to move smoothly, we ask that you review the documents carefully. Should you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please contact Dave Wulf, davidpwulf@aol.com, Chair of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, prior to May 17, 2021.

Thank you for your past and continuing support of the La Crosse County Democratic Party. It is appreciated.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee