

April 6, 1984

BY-LAWS  
OF  
THE COHASSET DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

ARTICLE I. Name, purpose, dues

1. The name of this organization shall be the Cohasset Democratic Town Committee.

2. The purposes of this Committee shall be to advance the interests of the Democratic Party. Activities of the Committee may include, but not be limited to: the endorsement of enrolled Democratic candidates, the raising and disbursement of funds for political purposes, voter registration campaigns, and the calling of caucuses for the purposes of selecting Delegates to state conventions, endorsing candidates, adopting resolutions, or conducting other Party business.

3. This Committee will also, as provided by the Massachusetts General Laws, recommend lists of election workers to the Selectmen no later than June 1 of each year, and will make recommendations at the appropriate time regarding the Democratic seat(s) on the Board of Registrars.

4. Each member shall be responsible for the payment of annual dues to the Committee, to be collected by the Treasurer. The amount of dues for Members, including Associate Members, shall be set from time to time by a majority vote of Committee members present and voting.

5. The fiscal year of the Committee shall be from April 1 to March 31.

ARTICLE II. Membership

1. All members of the Committee shall be enrolled Democrats residing in the Town of Cohasset.

2. The Committee shall consist of Elected, Regular, and Associate Members.

3. The total number of Elected and Regular Members shall be no less than 3 and no more than 35. The total number of such members shall be determined by vote of a majority of Elected and Regular Members, present and voting, every four years prior to the Massachusetts Presidential Preference Primary, in the manner set by state law.

4. Elected Members shall be those persons elected to the office of Democratic Town Committee Member at the Presidential Preference Primary. Their term of office shall be four years, until the next following Presidential Preference Primary.

ARTICLE II. Membership, cont.

5. Regular Members shall be those persons elected to the office of Democratic Town Committee Member by a majority of Elected and Regular Members present and voting at a meeting of the Committee to fill vacancies among the Elected and Regular Members. Their term of office shall expire at the next following Massachusetts Presidential Preference Primary. A Regular Member shall serve a term of no less than three (3) months as an Associate Member before being considered as a candidate for Regular Member.

6. Associate Members shall be those persons elected as such by a majority of Elected and Regular Members voting and present at a meeting of the Committee. Associate Members shall have all the rights and privileges of membership of membership on the Committee excepting the right to vote on any Committee business. Associate Member(s) shall be the candidates for filling any Committee vacancies. The term of office of Associate Members shall expire at the next following Massachusetts Presidential Primary.

7. Any member may resign at any time by submitting a written resignation to the Secretary. Such resignation shall be effective upon report of the Secretary at the next meeting of the Committee.

ARTICLE III. Officers

1. Officers of the Committee shall be elected every two years at the Committee's organizational meeting, which shall be held no later than April 15 in even-numbered years.

2. The term of office of each officer shall be for two years, or until the next organizational meeting.

3. The officers of the Committee shall be: a chairperson or two co-chairpersons (if the committee so decides) and a vice-chairperson, not all of the same sex; a treasurer; and a secretary; and such other officers as the Committee shall elect. All officers shall be Elected or Regular Members.

4. At each organizational meeting, before nominating begins for electing new officers of the Committee, the Committee shall determine by majority vote of Members present and voting, whether there will be one chairperson of the Committee, or two co-chairpersons of the Committee.

5. The chairperson, or co-chairpersons, shall be the principal executive officer(s) of the Committee, with primary responsibility for enforcement of the provisions of these local by-laws and the Charter of the Massachusetts Democratic Party and for communications between the Committee and the State Committee. The chairperson(s) shall preside at all meetings of the Committee and at caucuses, as defined in Article I of the state Charter, called by it, and shall have such powers

ARTICLE III. Officers, cont.

and duties as the Committee may decide. The Chairperson(s) shall have the ability to expend up to fifty dollars (\$50) for the accomplishment of purposes of the Committee. For expenditures of more than fifty dollars, a vote of the Committee at a meeting or a majority of members agreeing to the expenditure in a poll by telephone is required.

6. The Vice-Chairperson shall have such powers and duties, and shall perform such duties, as may be assigned by the Chairperson(s) or the Committee. In the absence or inability to act of the Chairperson(s), the Vice-Chairperson shall exercise the powers of the Chairperson.

7. The Secretary shall record the proceedings at all meetings of the Committee, and shall present such records to the Committee for their approval. The Secretary shall notify the Members of all meetings. If the Secretary is absent from any meeting of the Committee, a Temporary Secretary shall be chosen to exercise the duties of the Secretary at such meeting.

8. The Treasurer shall keep full and accurate records of the financial affairs of the Committee, and shall at the regular meetings of the Committee or whenever the Chairperson(s) may require it, render a statement of the accounts of the transactions made and of the financial condition of the Committee. The Treasurer shall collect the dues assessed upon the members of the Committee. The Treasurer shall pay the expenses of the Committee as directed by the Committee or the Chairperson(s).

9. Any officer may be removed by a two-thirds vote of all the Elected and Regular Members, at a meeting duly called for that purpose, or at a regular meeting with at least one week's notice of the proposed action.

10. Any officer may resign at any time by submitting a written resignation to the Secretary or to the Chairperson(s). Such resignation shall be effective upon report of the officer receiving such resignation at the next meeting of the Committee.

11. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the Elected and Regular Members by the election of a successor to hold office for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE IV. Meetings

1. The Committee shall meet at least four times a year, at least once each quarter, at the call of the Chairperson(s). Special meetings may be called by the Secretary on receipt of signed petition from no fewer than twenty percent (20%) of the membership of the Committee.

ARTICLE IV. Meetings, cont.

2. A quorum shall consist of one quarter of all Members then holding such office. No action of the Committee can be taken unless at least a quorum is present.

3. Meetings of the Committee shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order and these by-laws.

4. Each Member entitled to vote shall have one vote to be exercised in person. When a quorum exists at a meeting, the vote of a majority of the Members present and entitled to vote shall decide on any matter brought before the meeting, except when a larger vote is required by law of these by-laws.

5. Each vote taken shall be by voice vote or by a show of hands - except for votes taken for election of officers, which shall be by written, signed, and public ballots as required by the state Charter. Votes taken for possible removal of officers shall also be held in a manner consistent with the requirements of the state Charter.

6. The organizational meeting of the Committee shall be held no later than April 15 in even-numbered years, and shall be held according to provisions of these by-laws and rules provided by the State Committee.

ARTICLE V. Amendments

These by-laws may be amended or revoked by the vote of a majority of the Elected and Regular Members then holding such office. A copy of proposed amendments to these by-laws must be provided to each Elected and Regular Member not less than seven (7) days before the meeting held to consider such amendments.

ARTICLE VI. Removal of members.

Members and officer pledge themselves by accepting office to perform diligently and honorably their duties or resign. Members of the Committee may be removed by procedures guaranteeing adequate notice and due process and by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the Committee for:

- a. failure to attend at least half of the regularly scheduled committee meetings during any calendar year, unless absence is due to justifiable reason;
- b. public support for or financial contribution to an opponent of a nominee of the Democratic Party which nominee publicly supports the platform of the Democratic Party as adopted at the most recent state and national Democratic conventions;

ARTICLE VI. Removal of members, cont.

- c. unauthorized use of the Party name or resources;
- d. conviction after appeals are exhausted of a criminal offense other than a misdemeanor.

A member must be given an opportunity to resign before notice of the hearing on the question of removal is given to the membership of the Committee.

A member removed under this Article shall have 30 days to appeal to the Judicial Council, and the vacancy may not be filled in such case until the final decision of the Judicial Council is made.