

HARRIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY Committee Structure

STATEMENT OF MISSION: It is the mission of the Democratic Party of Harris County to achieve electoral victories for Democratic candidates for public office at all levels, to express clearly and effectively the principles for which the Democratic Party stands, and to influence public policy and opinion in ways, which result in those ideals being attained.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE TO ACHIEVE MISSION: To accomplish that Mission, the Democratic Party of Harris County will work co-operatively with the national (Democratic National Committee), state (Texas Democratic Party) and senate district (“SDEC”) structures and organizations, as well as with specific Democratic candidates for public office (where appropriate). Additionally, the HCDP will utilize the following committees to carry out work in the specific areas, as follows:

STANDING COMMITTEES: The By-Laws of the Harris County Democratic Executive Committee provide for five “standing committees” (Rules, Primary, Resolutions, Finance, and Audit) comprised (for the most part) of precinct chairs (who, collectively, constitute the Harris County Democratic Party Executive Committee). Those committees and their areas of responsibility are described in the By-Laws.

CHAIR’S COMMITTEES: In addition to the standing committees, the chair has constituted the following committees to assist in accomplishing the mission of the Harris County Democratic Party:

ELECTIONS

The mission of the Elections Committee is to provide investigation, oversight, and publicity to issues relating to voting systems, equipment, locations, and practices to the end of maximizing access to voting by all citizens, fair and accurate recording and reporting of all votes, and public confidence in the integrity of the voting process, to assist candidates in complying with legal requirements, and to counter efforts to intimidate or harass voters.

Sub-committees

- Legal Advisory and Response Team:
- General counsel to the Harris County Democratic Party
- Election Day Legal Committee:
 - a) Poll Watchers - recruitment and training
 - b) Election Day Legal Team
- Voter Intimidation Task Force
- Candidate Services:
 - a) Petitions
 - b) Reports and filings

GRASS ROOTS

The mission of the Grass Roots Committee is to increase Democratic voter turnout significantly by organizing, training, and motivating activities at the neighborhood level.

Sub-committees

- a) Voter Registration
- b) GOTV
- c) Precinct Year-Round Activities:
 - i) Voter identification
 - ii) Voter contact
 - iii) Meetings and functions
- d) Fund-raising
- e) Leadership Development:
 - i) Precinct chairs
 - ii) Precinct captains
 - iii) Election judges

FUNDRAISING

The mission of the Fund-raising Committee is to complement the Finance Committee by involving Democrats who are not precinct chairs in projects designed to raise sufficient funds for the Harris County Democratic Party to be able to perform its political, administrative, and other functions effectively.

Sub-Committees:

Johnson-Rayburn-Richards Dinner

Sustaining Memberships

Internet Fundraising

Large Donors

Telephonic Solicitations

Fundraising Events

New Sources of Funds (targeting Democratic clubs, past chairs of the HCDP, office holders, constituent groups, former candidates, and precinct level fundraising).

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The mission of the Clubs and Organizations Committee is to mobilize Democratic activists

based on common geographical, demographic, or issue-specific interests to the end of increasing involvement and participation in the political process by individuals throughout Harris County and supporting the activities of the Harris County Democratic Party.

YOUNG DEMOCRATS - FUTURE LEADERS DEVELOPMENT

The mission of the Young Democrats-Future Leaders Development Committee is to inspire active participation in Democratic Party affairs, and, ultimately, loyalty to the principles of the Democratic Party, by persons under 30 years of age, and to develop future leaders from among such individuals.

CAMPAIGNS AND CANDIDATES

The mission of the Campaigns and Candidates Committee is to recruit qualified Democratic candidates for public office and to assist those candidates in running for office effectively.

Sub-committees

Recruitment of Candidates
Information Resources and Services
Training
Co-coordinated Campaigns

COMMUNICATIONS AND MESSAGE

The mission of the Communications and Message Committee is to articulate clearly and effectively the position of the Democratic Party on issues and ideals and to spread the Democratic message pervasively and persuasively through all available media of communications.

Sub-committees

Spokesperson or Press Secretary
Message Development
Internet:
 a) Website
 b) Listserves or blogs
Newsletter
Publicity/Media (fora; voter education on issues)
Parades
Issues:

- a) Position research and formulation
- b) Truth Squad/Rapid Response Team

TEAM BUILDING

The mission of the Team Building Committee is to enhance the effectiveness of the party by bringing together various constituencies and resources to find ways for Democrats to work together more harmoniously and effectively, or to work with others to achieve mutual objectives, and to increase involvement and participation in, and support of, the HCDP by elected officials.

Sub-committees

Chair's Roundtable
Public Officials
Consultants
Past Chairs Council
Coalitions

VOLUNTEERS

The mission of the Volunteers Committee is to recruit and train individuals to contribute time and talents to the operations of the Harris County Democratic Party.

Sub-committees

Office Staff
Election Workers
Special Projects

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The mission of the Community Outreach Committee is to demonstrate, in practice, the commitment of Democrats to help those in need and to participate selflessly and substantially in community activities.

PARTY FUNCTIONS AND OPERATIONS

The mission of the Party Functions and Operations Committee is to assist the chair and the party

administrator in organizing various functions the party must perform.

Sub-committees

Finance, Accounting, and Reporting
Technology
Meetings and Gatherings

RELATIONSHIP TO STEERING COMMITTEE AND COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

It is intended that this committee structure will work in tandem with, on the advise of, and in active participation with the Steering Committee of the Harris County Democratic Executive Committee. In fact, it is anticipated that each committee will have a member of the Steering Committee assigned to it to serve as a liaison between the Steering Committee and the committee, and in some cases to chair the committee.

Further, the committees are intended to supplement and work in harmony with and support of, and not to replace, the work of precinct chairs individually and the County Executive Committee collectively, both in carrying out grass-roots organizing activities and establishing policy of the Harris County Democratic Party.

MAJOR OBJECTIVE FOR 2007: It is the specific objective of the HCDP to raise sufficient funds by May 31, 2007, to be able to hire a paid, professional political director to organize and implement a comprehensive neighborhood organizing plan designed to achieve a vote for the best performing Democratic candidate in the November 2008 general election of at least 350,000 votes in Harris County. The fund-raising for this project will be spearheaded by a paid fundraiser who will be employed by the party for at least three months (and thereafter if the efforts appear to justify an extension).

The second major objective of the HCDP will be to recruit young persons (that is, those under 30 years of age) to become actively involved in the political process as Democrats, or, at a minimum, to become registered voters and to vote. If sufficient funds are raised to do so, it would be the objective of the local party to hire a part-time director of youth development for the party.

Finally, the HCDP will find ways to increase its visibility and involvement in various communities of the county – including Hispanic, African-American, Muslim, and Asian – and in groups traditionally sharing Democratic values, such as labor, women's groups, and environmental organizations.