



# DEMOCRATS ABROAD ITALY

## BYLAWS

Adopted March 17, 2012, as amended May 27, 2013 and January 16, 2015

### Proposed amendments to the Bylaws to incorporate the concept of Precincts and the bylaw amendment procedure

#### ARTICLE VI – CHAPTERS AND PRECINCTS

**Section 6.1** Additional chapters may be duly recognized from time to time by the Board of DA Italy. To qualify as a Chapter, a group must have at least twenty (20) members, all of whom shall be resident within the boundaries of the relevant geographical area listed in annex A. Chapters may be recognized or dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the Board present and voting.

**Section 6.1 bis** On application of the Chair of a Chapter located in the same geographical area the Board may recognize a Precinct sponsored by such Chapter. The Precinct recognized by the Board shall have the right to elect a Chair and Secretary and its members may also cast votes for the officers of the sponsoring Chapter. The Precinct Chair shall participate as a non-voting member in scheduled Board meetings and may call upon the Officers and other resources available to Chapters for purposes of member outreach, event promotion, GOTV activities, and publicity. In the application for Precinct recognition the Chapter Chair of the sponsoring Chapter shall confirm its responsibility to provide reasonable organizational support and mentoring for the development of the new Precinct. Precincts shall have a minimum of fifteen (15) members with a residence address within the vicinity of the Precinct. The Chair of the Chapter sponsoring a Precinct may determine that the activity or membership of a Precinct is insufficient to support continuation of the Precinct as a subdivision of such Chapter. The Board may dissolve any dormant Precinct upon recommendation of the sponsoring Chapter or of the Country Chair.

**Section 6.2** From time to time the Board shall adopt Standing Resolutions for the governance of the Chapters and Precincts.

**Section 6.3** Each Chapter shall be headed by a Chapter Chair elected from among its membership at a meeting. The initial election of the Chair for any new Chapter shall be held within 30 days of its recognition by the Board of DA Italy. Thereafter, the Chapter Chair shall be elected from among its membership at a meeting to be held within 30 days after the General Membership Meeting that has elected the Officers of DA Italy. The Chapter may elect such officers as it deems necessary from its membership. All Chapter chairs are members of the DA Italy Board. The chapter chairs shall have, among others, the duty to assist in the organization of DA Italy matters in their area, especially facilitating communications between members in the area and the Board and assisting Precincts and any smaller local groups.

**Section 6.3 bis** Each Precinct shall elect a Chair and Secretary and as many additional officers as the Precinct deems necessary. Elections of Precinct officers shall be held promptly following its recognition and thereafter at a meeting to be held within 30 days after the General Membership Meeting that has elected the Officers of DA Italy. Precinct elections shall be conducted and held pursuant to the Chapter Rules (if any) and otherwise consistent with the procedures for elections of DA Italy officers. The Board may review the conduct of Precinct nominations and elections if issues are raised by members.

**Section 6.4** Chapters and Precincts shall be recognized only for the internal purposes of DA Italy and shall be an integral part of DA Italy. They shall be subject to and operate solely in accordance with these Bylaws and such Standing Resolutions as the Board shall from time to time adopt, as well as the Charter of Democrats Abroad and its Standing Resolutions. They shall have no Bylaws of their own. They shall not operate any separate bank accounts unless approved by the Country Chair and Country Treasurer. All funds raised by a Chapter or a Precinct, after payment of expenses related to the event at which such funds were raised, shall be the property of DA Italy and upon request of the Country Chair or Country Treasurer shall be transferred to such Democrats Abroad Italy account as may be indicated.

**Section 6.5** Each Chapter Treasurer shall be subject to the supervision of the Country Treasurer and the Chapter Chair and shall at all times abide by these Bylaws, the Charter of Democrats Abroad, and those of the Democratic Party and all applicable US federal laws governing campaign finance. Each Chapter Treasurer shall oversee the finances of any Precincts sponsored by its Chapter.

**Section 6.6** A quorum for a Chapter meeting shall be ten (10) members, present in person, or by electronic means, except for election meetings, where a quorum shall consist of the lesser of twenty (20) members or one-half of the members, present in person or by electronic means.

**Section 6.6 bis** A quorum for a Precinct meeting shall be five (5) members, present in person, or by electronic means, except for election meetings, where a quorum shall consist of the lesser of ten (10) members or one-half of the members, present in person or by electronic means.

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## ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

~~**Section 12.1** These Bylaws may be amended (i) by the general membership of DA Italy by a majority of two-thirds of those voting or (ii) by a three-fourths vote of the entire Board of DA Italy.~~

**Section 12.1** These Bylaws may be amended by the general membership of DA Italy by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those voting at a regularly constituted meeting called in accordance with the procedure set out in Section 7.5. Written text of any proposed Amendments shall be distributed with the advance notice of the general meeting where such amendments will be discussed or voted upon.

