Proposed Constitutional Changes
2017 Democratic Party of Wisconsin State Convention

The following are three changes to be voted on by State Convention Delegates at the June 2-3, 2017 DPW State Convention in Madison.

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Proposed Amendment #1-2017

DPW Constitution, Article VII – Youth Caucus

The Constitution & Bylaws committee recommends the following changes:

Remove the current Article VII-Youth Caucus in its entirety

Rename Article VII and insert new language:

Article VII-Other Organizations
(passed CBL committee 5-1, 2 absent)

The Administrative Committee shall have the authority to examine various entities to determine whether such entities qualify as a caucus, a nationally-recognized independent group, an allied organization, or an arm of the DNC. And as such, are recognized as part of DPW and administered as determined by the DPW bylaws.

Action: Replace all existing language with that shown above

Rationale:

The Constitution & Bylaws Committee feel that the existing youth caucus language is too prescriptive and doesn’t adequately reflect the requirements and intentions of a caucus as defined in the current bylaws. The committee feels that the organization and acceptance of any caucus as well as other possible organizations, groups, or councils should be dealt with in the bylaws. The Constitution & Bylaws committee will propose bylaw language to clarify guidance for recognition and operation of caucuses and the delineation between said caucuses and other groups the administrative committee may find necessary or beneficial to include under the umbrella of the DPW organization, should this change be adopted at the 2017 State Convention. Articles impacted are highlighted in YELLOW and proposed language is in BOLD PRINT.
Proposed Amendment #2-2017

DPW Constitution, Article III – State Organization

Amend Article III, Section 3 to read:

Article III, Section 3  
(passed CBL committee 4-2, 2 absent)

The governing body of the state party shall be the administrative committee, which shall be composed of the above-named officers, the chairperson of each congressional district; one additional representative, of a different gender than the chairperson to be elected from each congressional district for a two-year term each odd-numbered year; the chairperson of a county whose population is greater than any congressional district; the elected or appointed members of the Democratic National Committee from Wisconsin; the Chair of the College Democrats or their representative; the Chair of the Young Democrats or their representative; and the chair of the County Chairs’ Association.

Action: Add Young Democrats as a voting member of Administrative Committee

Rationale:

The Constitution & Bylaws Committee feel that because of recognition by the national party, the Young Democrats of Wisconsin should be allowed a voting position on the state administrative committee alongside the College Democrats of Wisconsin so as to maintain the elevated status of arms of the national party. Articles impacted are highlighted in YELLOW and proposed language is in BOLD PRINT.
Proposed amendment #3-2017

DPW Constitution, Article VIII – Endorsement of Candidates in Primary Elections

Amend Article VIII to read:

**Article VIII – Endorsement of Candidates in Primary Elections**  
(passed CBL committee 8-0)

The state organization, congressional district organizations, county organizations, the College Democrats of Wisconsin, the Young Democrats of Wisconsin, and all other subdivisions at any level of the state organization are prohibited from endorsing or supporting any candidate in a Democratic presidential preference election or any partisan primary election which will determine the candidate of the Democratic Party for the ensuing election to office unless the county or local Democratic group or congressional district recommends a certain candidate (or candidates) be endorsed or supported due to unusual circumstances and these circumstances be submitted in writing to the state Administrative Committee in a timely manner for approval of an endorsement and support of a specific candidate (or candidates) for a specific reason and the Administrative Committee approves said recommendation by a two thirds majority.

Action: Replace “youth caucus” with “Young Democrats of Wisconsin”

Rationale:

The Constitution & Bylaws Committee clarifies the wording to specifically enumerate those national groups and party subsets who are prohibited from endorsing in partisan elections without approval from the administrative committee. This proposed amendment is only effective if Proposed Amendment #1-2017 is adopted at the 2017 State Convention. Articles impacted are highlighted in **YELLOW** and proposed language is in **BOLD PRINT**.