

## County Committee Meeting

August 19th, 2021

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5:30 presentation on Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call of Officers
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of July Minutes
5. Communications:
  - a. Introduction of Elected Officials
  - b. Elected Official Reports
  - c. Report of the Chair
  - d. Report of the Treasurer
  - e. Remaining Officer Reports
6. Committee Chair Reports
  - a. Candidate Recruitment & Campaigns: [manager@kzoodems.com](mailto:manager@kzoodems.com)
  - b. Communications & Education: [communications@kzoodems.com](mailto:communications@kzoodems.com)
  - c. Finance & Fundraising: [finance@kzoodems.com](mailto:finance@kzoodems.com)
  - d. Membership: [membership@kzoodems.com](mailto:membership@kzoodems.com)
  - e. Rules & Bylaws: [mark.edward.miller55@gmail.com](mailto:mark.edward.miller55@gmail.com)
  - f. Volunteer Coordination: [volunteer@kzoodems.com](mailto:volunteer@kzoodems.com)
  - g. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion: [diversity@kzoodems.com](mailto:diversity@kzoodems.com)
  - h. Facilities: [facilities@kzoodems.com](mailto:facilities@kzoodems.com)
  - i. Strategic Planning: [planning@kzoodems.com](mailto:planning@kzoodems.com)
  - j. Student Progressives: [students@kzoodems.com](mailto:students@kzoodems.com)
7. Unfinished business:
  - a. Election of vacant officer positions: Second Vice-Chair
8. New business:
  - a. Recommendation: KCCC Affiliate Status (Attached)
  - b. Recommendation: Hispanic Heritage Month Resolution (Attached)
  - c. Bylaws Review/Update (Attached)
9. Candidate/Candidate Committee Reports
10. Announcements
11. Adjournment

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**PRINCIPLES OF AFFILIATION**

**Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition**

**Mission:**

The Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition mobilizes collective action to achieve immediate and drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and rapid adoption of renewable energy through a transition grounded in social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.

KCCC directs collective efforts to build campaigns; educate the public; and influence educational and other institutions, governments, businesses, community groups to take urgent action.

KCCC establishes affiliations with local groups interested in climate action in order to share information and other resources and to sustain high levels of citizen mobilization.

KCCC recognizes that each affiliate has a unique and valuable approach to addressing the climate crisis and that affiliates engage in diverse strategies. While affiliates share the goal of maintaining a livable planet, Coalition affiliation does not imply agreement on means to achieve that goal or tactics used by each affiliate.

KCCC will, on behalf of affiliates, sign letters and petitions for initiatives that align with our mission (e.g. fracking bans, Line 5 shut down, etc.), providing that consensus has been reached among members of the Coordinating & Communications Committee (KCCC CCC). Every attempt will be made to inform affiliates of proposed actions by email in a timely manner. Given the rapid, urgent pace of climate-related initiatives, this may not always be possible.

**Affiliate organizations:**

are encouraged to support KCCC campaigns and events through advertising and promotion, funding, expertise, volunteers, and other resources;

agree to allow KCCC to use logos in social media campaigns to promote events that align with our shared missions;

benefit from shared resources, including dissemination of information;

support fellow affiliates by encouraging (or at least not publicly discouraging or disparaging) their mission and actions;

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are responsible for their own actions and shall not attempt to control the actions of another affiliate;

reserve the right to decline participation in actions inconsistent with their principles and/or legal status. KCCC, affiliate organizations, and their fiduciaries reject liability for legal or financial consequences of actions undertaken by other affiliate organizations;

commit to no acts of civil disobedience at the same time and place as KCCC events.

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**Resolution Recognizing September 15 through October 15 2021 as Hispanic Heritage Month**

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Week was approved by President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period from September 15 to October 15, and enacted into law on August 17, 1988; and

WHEREAS, each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15 by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America; and

WHEREAS, there has been a long and important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans in North America and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, time and again throughout our nation's history, Hispanic-Americans have faithfully defended the principles of freedom and a representative government; and

WHEREAS, Kalamazoo County is fortunate to count among its population a large concentration persons of Spanish and Latin American descent, who contribute to our economy and society through their commitment to professions, commerce, family, and the arts; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that we recognize and celebrate the contributions, service, and cultures of Americans whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party recognizes the economic, cultural, and social contributions that Spanish-speaking peoples have brought to our nation, including the gifts of law, religion, agriculture, art, music, education, technology, architecture, cuisine, theater, and exploration.

Respectfully submitted,

Kalamazoo County Democratic Party  
[Date]

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### Bylaws Review/Update

Dear KCDP County Committee:

About every two years enough issues have accumulated that we need to revise our Bylaws. Our current Bylaws were adopted in 2019. Your Bylaws Committee has reviewed our Bylaws and is recommending the following amendments. Language proposed to be removed is shown in ~~strike through~~; to be added is underlined.

#### SPECIAL MEETINGS

5.4 Special meetings of the County Committee may be called by the Chair, or by ~~a majority at least one-third~~ of the members of the County Committee, by means of a signed petition.

*(We have never needed to exercise this provision, but in case it were needed, a majority seems too high a bar to reach.)*

#### EXPANSION OF COUNTY COMMITTEE

~~6.5 The County Committee may vote to expand the membership of the Committee.~~ These rules encourage the expansion of the Committee for the purpose of achieving more participation and representation. A nomination must be made at a meeting of the County Committee and will be voted on at the following meeting. Candidates for membership on the Committee must be present either when they are nominated or when their nomination is voted on.

*(We previously required candidates to be present, and then removed the provision. However, some members have been added when they did not wish to be.)*

#### DUTIES OF THE CHAIR

6.13 The Chair:

...

~~(f) shall not be a signatory on any KCDP checking account(s).~~

(f) shall be the countersignature on KCDP two signature checks. In the event that the Chair is unavailable, the 1st Vice-Chair shall be the countersignature.

...

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DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

6.18 The Treasurer:

(a) shall have custody and control of all KCDP accounts and funds, and will be the initial signer on KCDP two signature checks.

...

~~(b) shall not authorize, keep or use credit cards, debit cards, ATM cards or other electronic forms of payment linked to any KCDP accounts, nor make cash withdrawals nor checks made out to 'cash' from KCDP accounts. All payments out of KCDP accounts will be made using paper checks;~~

(b) shall authorize a credit card, up to a \$500.00 limit, for use by the Chair for recurring payments and/or office use purchases. The Treasurer, with approval from the Finance Committee Chair, can set up automatic payments and/or ACH payments for recurring bills.

...

(h) shall not pay any unbudgeted KCDP obligations over \$200 without Executive Committee approval;

...

~~(m) shall perform all other functions required by law to fulfill the Duties of a Treasurer of a County Political Party.~~

~~(n) shall have such other powers and duties which are required by law or may be granted from time to time by the County Committee, including membership on the Finance & Fundraising Committee.~~

(m) shall be a member of the Finance and Fundraising Committee

(n) shall have such other powers and duties which are required by law to fulfill the duties of a Treasurer of a county political party or may be granted from time to time by the County Committee.

*(The above changes (6.13 to here) are recommended by our Chair and Treasurer, and better reflect our recent practice and the needs of the KCDP.)*

...

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

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7.11 The committee will focus on long-term culture change in our Party including, but not limited to: (1) establishing a Code of Conduct process and procedures, (2) expanding our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Program to inform and educate Party leaders and Delegates, and (3) implementing our steps on anti-racism and racial justice to ensure full, fair, and equitable access to our Party for every Democrat.

*(This creates the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee as a standing committee.)*

...

### RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

7.12 A proposed resolution must be forwarded to the Resolutions Committee. The Resolutions Committee shall receive and consider resolutions, edit them as necessary and forward them to the next meeting of the County Committee. It may attach a recommendation to the resolution at its discretion. It may also research, write, and propose resolutions on its own initiative.

*(From time to time we have adopted resolutions that are unclear or ill-considered. This committee provides an opportunity to improve our resolutions, and perhaps to bring forward resolutions that have been passed by other party units.)*

### ENDORSEMENTS

8.2 A motion to endorse a ballot proposal ~~or pass a resolution~~ may be adopted by a majority of the County Committee members present and voting without prior notice.

...

8.3 A vote to endorse a partisan candidate for any office will not be in order in an opposed Primary until the Primary Election has determined a nominee for that office. A vote to endorse a non-partisan candidate for any office will not be in order prior to the filing deadline for that office.

~~8.3(4)~~ A motion to endorse a candidate must be made at a meeting of the County Committee. ~~A motion to endorse a candidate for any office will not be in order prior to the filing deadline for that office.~~ At the following meeting of the Executive Committee, they may, at their discretion, attach a recommendation to the motion to endorse. The motion shall be forwarded to the County Committee membership along with the notice of the next meeting (5.5), at which the vote will be taken. Three-quarters of the members present and voting are required to endorse a candidate.

*(This amendment would end the practice of endorsing before a Primary. Members will have their own opinions, but many of us see this as a creating more dissension than unity.)*

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