**21st Legislative District Democratic Organization**

**Code of Conduct / Ethics**

These Code of Conduct / Ethics Guidelines (Guidelines) may be revised from time to

time at the discretion of the 21st Legislative District Democratic Organization (21st LD)

with the assistance of the Rules Committee.

The 21st LD is a diverse group of volunteers (Community

Members) who work together to promote a truly

representative Democratic Party open to all who support its principles. The 21st LD

pledges to make every effort to encourage maximum participation in the political

process. Community Members fulfill many roles, including mentoring, teaching and

connecting with other members of the community. Diversity is one of our biggest

strengths, but it can also bring increased communication challenges at times*.*

The 21st LD convenes in many physical and virtual spaces. These Guidelines may be

used in any physical or virtual location where members of the 21st LD have gathered

and/or are collaborating when conducting the 21st LD business. However, events and meetings that

take place in public spaces will generally have their own code of conduct and/or similar community Guidelines. As such, the

Guidelines for a specific event should also be followed.

**Guidelines**

The guidelines below apply to all members of the 21st LD.

In the interest of fostering an open and welcoming environment, all members are

expected to make participation in Democratic organizations a harassment-free

experience for everyone, regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity and

expression, level of experience, ability, socioeconomic status, nationality, personal

and/or physical appearance, race, religion or lack thereof, or sexual identity and

orientation.

The 21st LD is committed to these guidelines and when

appropriate will exercise it’s inherent right as a deliberative

 assembly to punish members for serious or repeated violation of these guidelines.

**A member who violates these principles at a 21st LD event and/or meeting**

**may be asked to leave the event. A member who continues to violate these principles**

**or whose violation is especially severe in nature may be asked to leave the**

**organization.**

The following list is not exhaustive, but it is intended to help all of us communicate well

and avoid unnecessary friction so that the 21st LD community can collaborate better

together. Specifically,:

**Members should keep in mind that:**

● Their work will be used by other people, and they in turn, will depend on the

work of others.

● Decisions they make will often affect others in the community.

● Disagreements happen, but should not be an excuse for poor behavior and bad

manners. When disagreements do happen, work together to solve them

effectively and in a way that ensures that everyone has a reasonable opportunity

to be heard and understood.

● People may not understand jokes, sarcasm and oblique references in the same

way that you do. If you think your conversation is making another community

member uncomfortable, try to make amends and move forward.

**Members should promote a culture of respect, inclusion and equity by:**

● Always remembering to use welcoming and inclusive language and be

welcoming, inclusive, friendly and patient.

● Assuming good intent on the part of other speakers and participants.

● Being kind, considerate, respectful and professional by treating all individuals

with a sense of dignity, respect and worth.

● Making a personal commitment to be nonjudgmental about cultural differences,

living conditions and the lifestyles of people with whom I interact.

● Avoiding profane, racist, other prejudicial, exclusionary, abusive or aggressively sexualized

language.

● Avoiding disruptive or threatening behavior.

● Do not publish Photos, videos, and audio of others if they object or ask to be

excluded. Steps should be taken to accommodate live streaming (if the body votes to allow it) by announcing

to members that live streaming will begin or take place

(The previous list applies to all forms of communication, including committee

meetings, whether in person, by telephone or any other forum; and other

communication media, such as Facebook, Slack, mailing lists, etc..)

**Members should ensure their own safety and promote a safe environment for others**

**by:**

● Respecting others’ personal space and making physical contact with others only

after receiving their consent.

● Recognizing that a person under the influence is unlikely able to provide reasonable

consent. Always act with extreme caution when accepting consent as you are highly likely to be ruled against in the event of a complaint.

● Understanding that physical contact (sexual or otherwise) is not appropriate

without clearly articulated consent. Consent can be instantly revoked whether it is prior

consent or in the moment.

● Respecting others’ property, and property of the organization to which the

member belongs.

● Immediately ceasing any behavior that is reasonably perceived as harassing,

abusive or violent, and respecting others’ feelings for what behavior qualifies as

such.

● As political leaders in their communities, members are expected to make

themselves aware of and reasonably anticipate the sensitivities of others.

● Administrators and contributors to online spaces, such as webpages and

Facebook groups, should respect the reasonably assumed communal nature of

such spaces.

Finally, if any member experiences or witnesses behaviors that violate these principles,

they are asked to take appropriate and fair corrective action.