

## **ANSWERS FOR SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS**

[Prepared by Democratic National Committee Member David McDonald, Parliamentarian for the meeting]

### **1. Why is this meeting happening now?**

- a. The Executive Board (“Board”) of the King County Democratic Central Committee (“KCDCC”) received a petition signed by 60% of its voting members calling for a meeting of the elected and appointed precinct committee officers (“PCOs”) in King County to vote on the removal of the Chair of the Party who was elected by the PCOs in December of 2016. The petition did not specify any grounds for removal of the Chair but did indicate, by reference to the KCDCC Bylaws, that the notice of the meeting sent to PCOs would include a statement of the grounds for removal and a rebuttal statement from the Chair if he chose to provide one.
- b. Upon receipt of the petition the Board called this meeting. Among the factors considered by the Board in choosing the time and place of the meeting were: 1) the need to resolve the matter quickly; 2) the need to conduct the King County Democratic Convention on April 22 (in front of a different audience); 3) the availability of facilities and venue adequate for the meeting; 4) the need to complete preliminary proceedings required by Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 11th Edition (“Roberts”) which, pursuant to Article XV of the KCDCC Bylaws, governs all meetings of the KCDCC in respect to matters not expressly covered by the Bylaws or other relevant statutory or Party documents; and 5) allowing some time for the Chair to prepare his defense.

### **2. Why is someone other than the Chair I elected running this meeting?**

- a. On March 19 the Board requested the Chair to step aside until this meeting of the PCOs and designated Sharon Mast, a former legislative district chair and a current Member of the Democratic National Committee, to act as Chair of the King County Party pending the outcome of this meeting. At the same time the Board designated current 46th Legislative District Democrats Chair Julie Anne Kempf to be the Presiding Officer for this meeting.
- b. On March 27 Chair Stober voluntarily suspended himself from his non-statutory duties pending the outcome of this meeting, handing the gavel generally to Sharon Mast and, in connection with this meeting, to Julie Anne Kempf.

### **3. What is the Trial Committee and what are these Grounds and Specifications, and Rebuttal I was sent?**

- a. Chair Stober was elected in December 2016 to a two year term. Pursuant to Robert’s Rules, an officer who is elected to a fixed term of years, such as “for two years”, “can be removed from office only for cause--that is neglect of duty in office or misconduct...” (Robert’s, p 654)
- b. The KCDCC Bylaws require that notice for this meeting include a statement of the Grounds for removal of the Chair and, if he so desires, a written Rebuttal statement. Robert’s requires that Charges and

Specifications be provided to an accused officer and that the officer be given an opportunity to defend himself before removal can occur. In addition, Robert's requires that a trial be held to determine, to the extent reasonably possible, the facts related to the removal motion if those facts are disputed.

- c. The Charges you have received are the grounds (i.e., alleged 'cause') asserted for removal of the Chair from office. The Specifications are specific instances of conduct which, if true, amount to an instance of the Charge alleged.
- d. In preparation for this meeting, the Board created a Trial Committee (consisting of the voting members of the Board other than the Chair) which, prior to this meeting, will consider evidence presented by proponents for removal and proponents against removal and determine as best they can whether or not the facts in the Specifications are true. The Trial Committee will report to this body the results of the trial and its recommendations to this meeting for penalties, if any, that should be imposed by the KCDCC.

#### **4. What will happen at this meeting?**

- a. The Trial Committee's report will be presented to the KCDCC, including to the extent possible without disclosing confidential information, a summary of the basis for the Committee's findings. If the Chair desires he will make a statement of the case and if he does the Trial Committee will be given the opportunity to present a statement in rebuttal. The KCDCC, except for the Chair, will then take up and vote on the penalties proposed by the Trial Committee.
- b. "Under this procedure, the [KCDCC] can decline to impose any penalty, notwithstanding the trial committee's recommendation; or it can reduce the recommended penalty; but it cannot increase the penalty. The [KCDCC] cannot impose a penalty if the trial committee has found the accused not guilty." (Robert's p 669)

#### **5. If the Trial Committee will already finished its work by the time of this meeting, why do you need me to attend this meeting?**

- a. The Bylaws of KCDCC do not permit any group other than the KCDCC to remove an elected officer of the KCDCC from office.
- b. The Bylaws set a special quorum for a meeting such as this; attendance is necessary to assure the meeting can reach a decision one way or the other.
- c. Although the Board has authority to temporarily suspend an officer from duties pending resolution of charges that the Board has determined should be tried, it does not have authority to generally suspend an elected officer of the KCDCC.
- d. To the extent penalties are recommended by the Trial Committee and those penalties involve removal or suspension the KCDCC itself must vote to impose the penalty.