

Making Our Message Clear: A Resolution to Use Plain Language in 37th LD Communications

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Why This Matters

Our democracy is being taken apart. Across the country, we see efforts to limit who can take part, who has a voice and who feels welcome in civic life.

In this moment, our work matters even more. We need more people to take part, stay informed and help lead. People are more likely to join us when they understand how we work, how we make decisions, and how they can get involved.

Our bylaws, endorsement materials, and official communications guide everything we do. They shape how we organize, how we build trust, and how we show up for our community. They should be easy to read and easy to use.

Right now, some of our materials are hard to understand. They use long sentences, formal vocabulary, and legal terms that many people do not use in daily life. This creates barriers at a time when we need to bring more people in.

Plain language makes our writing clear and direct. It respects people's time and helps them find what they need, understand it, and act. Clear communication strengthens our ability to protect our community, defend our democracy, and build a future where everyone can take part.

Plain language helps everyone. It especially helps people who:

- have limited English proficiency
- use screen readers or other assistive technology
- are new to the Democratic Party
- need quick, clear information when volunteering

Clear writing supports our equity goals. It removes barriers and invites more people into our work.

What We Will Do

The 37th Legislative District Democrats will use plain language in:

- our bylaws and standing rules
- our endorsement materials

- our website and official publications
- our communications with members, the media and the general public

What We Mean by Plain Language

Plain language means writing that:

- states the purpose clearly
- centers the reader and their needs
- uses everyday words
- uses short sentences and paragraphs
- uses strong verbs in the active voice and personal pronouns
- uses headings and lists to guide the reader
- follows accepted plain language writing practices

How We Will Make This Happen

The Executive Board will:

1. direct the Bylaws and Rules Committee to review our bylaws and draft clearer wording
2. set a timeline to update key documents
3. instruct all committees to use plain language in new materials
4. share simple guidance or training for members who write on behalf of the organization

We will keep the meaning of our rules the same. We will only change how we write them so more people can understand them.

Our Commitment

Clear writing is a form of access. When people understand our work, they are more likely to take part, stay involved and lead.

By using plain language, we open the door wider to our community.