



THE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY
of Miami-Dade County

To: Prospective Member
From: The Miami-Dade Democratic Party
Re: DEC Membership Application

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Miami-Dade County Democratic Executive Committee ("D.E.C."). We look forward to your participation in strengthening the Democratic Party in our community.

Please complete the application process as follows:

- 1. Fully complete the attached application.**
- 2. Read the attached membership manual and sign the certification on the application where indicated.**
- 3. Make a photocopy of your voter registration card and attach it to the application.**
- 4. Sign the attached loyalty oath and include it with your application.**
- 5. Send the application, copy of registration card, and signed loyalty oath to:**

The Miami-Dade Democratic Executive Committee
1200 NW 78th Avenue
Suite 214
Doral, Florida 33126

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments – you may reach the DEC office at 305-477-4994 or dadedec@bellsouth.net. Again, thank you for your interest in joining the Miami-Dade Democratic Executive Committee.

Miami-Dade County Democratic Executive Committee

www.miamidadedemocrats.com

1200 NW 78th Avenue, Suite 214 Doral, Florida 33126
305.477.4994 305.477.4995 dadedec@bellsouth.net



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Application for DEC Membership 2009/w Loyalty Oath on Back

Full Name: _____ Date _____

Home Address: _____ Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

Fax: _____ BEST Number to Call _____

E-Mail (please print clearly): _____

Voting Precinct (required): _____

Type of Membership Seeking:

To Fill Vacant Elected Seat _____ If so, Male _____ or Female _____
Or if Precinct Seat is full as Credentials Committee assigns
At-Large Membership _____
Associate Membership _____ (non County resident)
Other (specify) _____

Clubs / Organizations:

Club / Organization Name: _____

Length of Membership: _____

Office Held: _____

(Optional) Please provide relevant information about any past or present community or political involvement (Or attach biographical information if you wish):

Please attach a legible photocopy of your voter registration card and either notarize or have two witnesses sign the Loyalty Oath.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

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FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY LOYALTY OATH

County of Miami-Dade, Florida

I, _____, having been duly sworn, say that I am a member of the Democratic Party, that I am a qualified elector of Miami-Dade County, Florida; that during my term of office, I will not support the election of the opponent of any Democratic nominee, I will not oppose the election of any Democratic nominee, nor will I support any non-Democrat against a Democrat in any election other than in judicial races; that I am qualified under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Florida and the Charter and Bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party to hold the office I am seeking, or to which I have been elected; that I have not violated any of the laws of the State of Florida relating to election or the Charter and Bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party.

Print Name

Signature

(Use either Option 1 OR Option 2)

**(OPTION 1)
SIGNED BY A NOTARY PUBLIC.**

State of Florida, County of _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____,

20____ by _____.

Signature of Notary Public- State of Florida

Personally Known ____ -OR- Produced Identification ____

Type of Identification Produced _____

**(OPTION 2)
SIGNED BY TWO WITNESSES**

Date: _____

Witness #1 Name (PRINT): _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

County: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witness #1 Name (PRINT): _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

County: _____ Signature: _____



THE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY
of Miami-Dade County

Members Information

To: All DEC Members and Potential Members

From: The Steering Committee

Re: DEC Information

Welcome to the Miami-Dade County Democratic Executive Committee! Whether you are a longtime member, new member or just want to get involved, the DEC is an organization that will allow you to play an important role in building the Democratic Party in Miami-Dade County. The purpose of this memorandum is to tell you about the DEC – what it does, who belongs and how it operates. It also tells you how you can contribute to building the DEC and the Democratic Party.

The DEC Helps People by helping Democrats!

The DEC is the governing body of the Democratic Party in Miami-Dade County. Its purpose is to build a strong Democratic Party in our County, for the purpose of electing Democratic candidates to all elected offices. Here are some of the many activities the DEC engages in:

- We assist in campaigns for Democratic candidates
- We are a forum for the exchange of ideas among Democrats
- We follow and support political issues of importance to Democrats
- We take initiatives to convince every citizen to support Democratic principles and become a Democrat
- We register voters, to increase the number of Democrats in our County
- We raise money for the Party and for Democratic candidates
- We identify and support new Democratic leadership
- We recruit and train Party volunteers at the grassroots level
- We set policy for the Democratic Party in our County
- We represent local Democrats in the Party at the State and National Level
- We supervise all Democratic Party matters throughout the County;

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THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY *of Miami-Dade County*

Who belongs to the DEC?

The DEC is a diverse organization, with members representing all sections of our community. There are many ways to become a member – the many categories of DEC membership ensure that almost everyone who wants to help can become a participant.

Here are the various categories of DEC Membership:

Members Who Are Elected or Appointed from Their Precincts: The core of the DEC membership consists of ordinary citizens who care about Democratic ideals and the Democratic Party. In July 2001, the DEC converted its system of membership to one in which each of the approximately 951 voting precincts in Miami-Dade County shall elect a male and female representative to the DEC. This election occurs during the primary in each Presidential election year. Newly created seats are to be filled by applications which are voted on by the existing, elected membership. *See the section, “How You Can Become a Member” below.*

Members Who Are Appointed: These are “At-large members” the DEC Chair has the right to appoint up to approximately 150 members subject to approval by the existing elected DEC membership. The goal is to ensure that there is accurate political, minority, and economic representation within the county. At-large terms are for one year only, and expire immediately prior to the organizational meeting every four years.

Democratic Elected Officials: All Democrats who are elected officials (other than judges) and who are elected countywide are automatic members. Also, Democratic elected officials from the municipalities may become members if they request that status, are nominated by the Chair and are approved by the DEC membership.

Presidents of Democratic Clubs: These presidents of duly chartered Democratic clubs are automatic members of the DEC. The same is true for the presidents of the county’s Democratic Black Caucus, Hispanic Caucus and the Young Democrats.

Democratic Party Officers: The officers of the Democratic Party at the county, state and national levels are “Special At-large members” of the DEC if they request, at anytime after their election, to be granted this status.

Volunteers and Contributors: Anyone who is appointed by the DEC as a volunteer organizer or worker, who contributes more than \$10 per year, or who is a member of any organization affiliated with the Florida Democratic Party can become an “Associate Member” of the DEC. These are non-voting members who are invited by the DEC membership. Associate members who are active in working to build the Party and who regularly attend meetings may be given priority to fill vacant DEC seats.

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How You Can Become a Member

Because of the ongoing expansion of the DEC, the best way to become a DEC member is to fill one of the empty precinct seats. Inform the Chair, the Credentials Committee, or a member of the DEC of your interest, and you will be provided an application for membership. Simply fill out the application and return it along with a photocopy of your voter registration card. At the earliest DEC meeting your application will be voted on by the existing members. Upon their approval, you will become a DEC member.

During the Primary Election in Fall 2008, you may run for DEC elected membership in your precinct. As this date approaches, the DEC officers will explain how the procedure works.

Who Runs the DEC?

The DEC is managed by its members and through its elected officials. Every four years, immediately following the U.S. Presidential Election, the DEC elects its officers at its organizational meeting: *a Chair, a First Vice Chair (who is of the opposite sex as the Chair), a Program Vice Chair, and Outreach Vice Chair, a State Committeewoman, a State Committeeman, a Secretary and a Treasurer.* The Chair may also appoint paid staff members, including an Executive Director.

Many decisions of the DEC are delegated to *the Steering Committee*, which is composed of the officers (listed above), plus the Parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-Arms, General Counsel, Interclub Council Chair, the Chair of each Division, and the Chairs of the Standing Committees.

Standing Committees include the Finance Committee; the Credentials Committee; the Rules and Bylaws Committee; the Affirmative Action Committee; the Voter Registration Committee; the Issues Committee; the Campaign Committee; the Special Projects Committee; the Legislative Liaison Committee; the Interclub Council; the Young Democrats Committee; the Labor Committee; the Newsletter Committee; the Democratic Black Caucus Committee; and the Democratic Women's Club Committee.

Many activities may be conducted on a local level. The elected membership of the DEC is divided into 16 geographic *Areas*. The purpose is to ensure that DEC members are in touch with their local political scene. Each *Area* has its own Chair and other officers, and are to hold meetings at least every three months.

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Eight Ways You Can Help Build the Party

The strength of the DEC depends on the loyalty, dedication and hard work of its members. Here are important ways you can contribute to the DEC and help build our Party.

1. ***Attend DEC meetings.*** This is one of the most basic duties of DEC members. At meetings you will learn everything that is going on in the Democratic Party in Miami-Dade. You will meet other DEC members. You will have the opportunity to participate in the direction of the Party. You will learn about issues of importance to our community. The DEC schedules quarterly mandatory meetings. **Missing more than three (3) mandatory meetings during a calendar year, if not excused (Please call the DEC Office at 305-477-4994 prior to the meeting to be excused) may result in the seat being declared vacant.** The Credentials Committee determines if a reason for absence is sufficient.
2. ***Serve on Committees.*** Much of our work is performed by our committees, which convenes between DEC meetings to work on various projects and conduct business. The Executive Director has a list of Committees. **Each DEC member should serve on at least one DEC Committee, and more if time permits.** Tell the Chair of your interest in a particular committee, and you will likely be appointed as a member. Most committees may include up to 25% non-DEC members.
3. ***Participate in Campaign Activities.*** Successful campaigns are the key to electing Democrats. Members can help the Party and gain valuable experience by helping in campaigns for Democrats, even when they are not in the district in which you live. **The bylaws provide that each DEC member shall devote at least 52 hours per year (i.e. an average of one hour per week) to activities sponsored by the DEC to further campaign support.**
4. ***Help Raise Funds.*** Fundraising is an important part of a successful campaign, and helping to raise money for the DEC can provide valuable experience as well as help build the party. **The bylaws provide that each Elected and Appointed DEC Member shall raise funds for the DEC in the amount of \$50 per year.** Fundraisers may be held separately or in conjunction with other DEC members.
5. ***Join or Start a Democratic Club.*** Clubs enable Democrats to help further the goals of the Party on a local level. There are numerous clubs in the County, organized by geographic area and affinity groups. The Inter-club Council Chair can provide a list of them with contact information.
6. ***Get to Know Your Fellow DEC Members.*** People are the backbone of the Democratic Party. We will work together more effectively if we know each other well. **Make a concerted, continuing effort to get to know other members of the DEC by coming early to meetings, communicating by e-mail and phone, and by attending DEC functions and other events.**
7. ***Participate in Other Political Activities in our Community.*** Get on e-mail and fax lists to learn more about ongoing and special issues and community projects in our County. Get involved in different political areas, and bring the knowledge you gain to the DEC.
8. ***Read and Know the Bylaws.*** These are the governing rules of the DEC, some of which are summarized in this memo. You should obtain a copy, if you do not already have one. **Every member should be familiar with the Bylaws.**

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Going Forward

Have questions? Need additional information? Please feel free to contact the Chair, the Executive Director or any of the DEC officers or Committee Chairs.

It can be a great honor and fulfilling experience to serve as a member of the DEC. Your work and support will ensure that we have a strong Democratic Party in Miami-Dade County and that we elect as many local, state and federal Democratic candidates as possible.

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