

Resolution on Democratization of District Leadership (Draft)

WHEREAS, our District is growing dramatically, and we need to emphasize formal democratic methods so that this growth can be matched with correct leadership. As Mao said, “Both inside and outside the Party there must be a full democratic life, which means conscientiously putting democratic centralism into effect.”¹

WHEREAS, the District Committee is currently a federation of Unit leaders and District level officers, with additional cadre co-opted at its discretion, but not elected by the membership of the District. The District Organizer is also un-elected.

WHEREAS, rule 3.7 of our rules describe four characteristics of a district committee:

- a. A certain minimum size, to be able to have ties among different sectors of the people, to carry out a minimal division of labor, and act as somewhat of a social force.
- b. Internal unity, marked by the ability to sum up and function together, a group spirit, and a positive attitude toward local work.
- c. A capable leading core able to analyze situations, mobilize the membership to formulate plans and to sum up, and actually lead the section or district. This core must develop the ability to work together, given the understanding that it will inevitably make mistakes and that its composition will change over time.
- d. An analysis of the local area, its economy, its oppressed nationalities movements, its labor movement, the forces on the Left and the local political situation.

WHEREAS, it is standard practice in other communist organizations, like the Communist Party of the Philippines², Communist Party of India (Marxist)³, Communist Party of Kenya⁴, and the CPUSA as explained in J. Peters’ Manual on Organization, to have regular mechanisms for democratic functioning, including regular systematic reporting and yearly local conferences where resolutions pertaining to local issues are passed and the local leadership committee is elected.

WHEREAS, J. Peters’ Manual on Organization states: “The Party committees elected at the Conventions are composed of the best, most developed comrades in the given organization. Representation to the Section Committee is not on the basis of representation from each Unit.”⁵ Note that in this context, a “Section Committee” is analogous to our District Committee and a “Convention” is analogous to a District Conference. This is also the case in the aforementioned communist organizations.

WHEREAS, rule 2.2 of our rules states: “The organization recognizes the value of conserving experienced leadership; it should also attempt to rotate executive positions, for the good of leading members as well as the organization as a whole”.

WHEREAS, rule 3.5 of our rules states: “Where necessary, leading committees may establish commissions, fractions, or other working bodies to assist leadership in a particular area of work. These commissions or working bodies are subordinate to the

¹ https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-8/mswv8_62.htm

² <https://philippinerevolution.nu/2016/11/07/constitution-of-the-communist-party-of-the-philippines/>

³ <https://cpim.org/party-constitution/>

⁴ <https://communistpartyofkenya.org/documents/CPMK-Constitution.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.marxists.org/history/usa/parties/cpusa/1935/07/organisers-manual/ch03.htm>

leading committee". For some examples, we already have the seeds of a few commissions - a General Membership Commission, Recruitment Commission, and Finances Commission. Some additional commissions could be a Red Events Commission, Education Commission, and Propaganda Commission.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The District Committee will become a fully elected body of five cadre - this number can be re-evaluated as the district grows - which will meet weekly, whose purpose is to:

1. Pay close attention to the reports and views of Units, constantly study concrete experiences, and render prompt assistance in solving problems.
2. Provide day-to-day guidance and directives to Units, in close connection with the leadership of the Unit.
3. Lead the work of the whole District between District Conferences and carry out directives of the District Conference.
4. Approve the membership of new cadre to the organization at the recommendation of the Units.
5. Mobilize the membership to formulate plans and sum up.
6. Create commissions to aid in the development of the District, fulfill the District Committee's responsibilities, and carry out District level projects.
7. Handle disciplinary cases.
8. Give quarterly and special reports of the District's work to the Center, written and approved by the District Committee. The reports will be presented at District Meetings, with opportunity for amendments to be proposed and voted on before the District Organizer submits the report to the Center.
9. Provide monthly written reports to the membership of the District which summarize the District Committee's work, report progress on projects of the District Committee that have been democratically decided on by the District, and contain detailed criticism and self-criticism.
10. Make the meeting minutes of each District Committee meeting available to the District.

BE FURTHER RESOLVED: Units will submit monthly written reports to the District Committee so that it is well informed of the internal life of Units and is able to be proactive in providing guidance and solutions to problems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The District Committee will establish guidelines for writing reports in a security conscious manner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Starting in 2026, the District will have a yearly District Conference every March. The highest body in the District is the District Conference, the next highest body is the District Committee. All members of the District are invited to participate. The District Conference will:

1. Receive, discuss, and endorse reports made by Units.
2. Adopt resolutions on organizational and political questions.
3. Elect the District Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Nominees to the District Committee from the floor of the District Conference will be taken, and the election will be done through a ranked choice vote which is a secret ballot vote as per rule 2.2 of our rules. The ranked choice vote will use the “Borda count” method, where the voter will list the candidates in order of most preferred to least preferred, each candidate will receive points based on their positioning and the number of candidates. For example if there were 8 candidates, the first candidate the voter lists would receive 8 points, the next would receive 7, etc. Candidates not listed receive 0 points. Each candidate’s points will be totaled and the candidates with the highest points win.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: After being elected, the District Committee will appoint one of its members to be the District Organizer through a secret ballot ranked choice vote.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: In the absence of a 2025 District Conference, the 2025 District Committee election will be held by special election at the next possible District Meeting.