

## **EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSES**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the "Eighth Congressional District Democratic Committee."

Section 2. The intent and purpose of this Committee shall be to elect a Democratic Representative to the United States Congress; publicize and promote policies and platforms of the Democratic Party; and cooperate with County Democratic Committees in the District to elect Democrats to public office.

Section 3. The Eighth Congressional District Democratic Committee, in the exercise of its constitutional rights of association and speech, reserves the right to accept or decline the application of Michigan statutory provisions which are alleged to govern its affairs. The incorporation of statutory provisions in these rules is voluntary and subject to the foregoing reservation.

### **ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. All members of the Michigan Democratic Party residing in the Eighth Congressional District, all elected Democratic Precinct Delegates in the Eighth Congressional District, and all Democratic members of the State Legislature and Chairpersons of the County Democratic Committees whose districts or counties lie wholly or in part within the Eighth Congressional District, together with such other worthy Democrats who may be accepted for membership by the District Committee shall make up the membership of the Eighth Congressional District Democratic Committee.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the members to attend the meetings of the District Committee and to the best of their ability participate in its activities.

Section 3. Any member who conducts himself or herself as to bring discredit on the Michigan Democratic Party or the Eighth Congressional District Democratic Committee may be asked to show cause why his or her membership should not be terminated. Any officer or member of the Executive Committee who shall absent himself or herself from three (3) or more consecutive meetings of the Officers Committee, or Executive Committee without requesting to be excused, may be asked to show cause why his or her membership should not be terminated. Three (3) consecutive meetings refer to three (3) consecutive meetings of the same name. Executive Committee members, other than officers, are not required to attend Officers Committee meetings.

Such inquiries, hearings or other actions pertinent to this section shall be conducted by the Officers Committee, with an appeal to the Executive Committee where a decision shall be final. A hearing, if requested, shall be held in a timely manner with at least seven (7) days notice provided to all parties involved. A majority of the Officers Committee members present and voting shall be required for action to be taken at a hearing or inquiry conducted by the Committee.

This action shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee to be upheld.

### **ARTICLE III - MEETINGS**

Section 1. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern all proceedings at regular and special meetings except when inconsistent with the bylaws of this organization.

Section 2. The Executive Committee, along with the general membership shall meet at a date and time set by the District Chairperson, not less than four (4) times annually. Not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for conducting business. An Executive Committee meeting may also be called by a majority of its members.

Section 3. A Special Membership meeting called for a specific purpose may be held when the District Chairperson or a majority of the Officers Committee determine it is necessary, providing the membership

is notified at least three (3) days in advance of the meeting and such notice must state the purpose of the meeting. A quorum shall be twenty-five percent (25%) of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. The Officers Committee shall meet as needed throughout the year. A quorum shall be twenty-five percent (25%) of the members of the Committee. The District Chairperson shall call these meetings and set the agenda. An Officers Committee may also be called by a majority of the officers. When necessary, officers may be polled by phone or mail to vote on an issue.

#### ARTICLE IV - QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Officers and members of the Executive Committee must be members of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Section 2. The Statutory Vice-Chairperson shall be of the opposite gender from the Chairperson.

#### ARTICLE V - POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The District Chairperson shall serve as the chief executive officer of the District Committee; shall issue the call for all regular or special meetings of the Executive Committee and general membership and shall preside at such meetings whenever possible. The Chairperson shall appoint Chairpersons or Co-chairpersons and members of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees. The Chairperson shall transact such other duties as are usual to the office of District Chairperson, or that may be required by this organization. In between meetings of the Officers Committee and Executive Committee, the Chairperson shall authorize the expenditure of funds to conduct the business of the District.

Section 2. The Statutory Vice-Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson in the discharge of his or her duties, and shall assume the responsibilities of the Chairperson in his or her absence.

Section 3. The Vice-Chairpersons from Ingham, Livingston, and Oakland Counties shall assist the Chairperson in assigned duties.

Section 4. The Executive Vice Chair shall be the current candidate who ran for 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District seat in Congress.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial receipts and disbursements of this organization pursuant to state and federal laws. The funds of this organization shall be deposited in a bank and shall be drawn upon by either the Chairperson or Treasurer. The Treasurer shall make financial reports to the Officers Committee, as directed, and shall make them to all Executive Committee and General Membership meetings. The Treasurer shall prepare and submit to the proper authorities all reports required by the federal and state campaign laws. When a new Treasurer is elected, the past Treasurer shall forthwith deliver to the new Treasurer the funds of the District kept during his or her tenure in office. The Chairperson and Treasurer shall be bonded to the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per person.

Section 6. The Secretary shall keep and preserve the minutes of the Officers Committee, Executive Committee and General Membership meetings. and shall report correspondence pertinent to this organization, either received or sent, note its disposition, and keep it on file. When a new Secretary is elected, the past Secretary shall forthwith deliver to the newly elected Secretary all items kept and preserved during his or her tenure in office.

Section 7. The Corresponding Secretary shall send out notices of all meetings either by mail or email to the executive committee, state central delegates, the county chairs within the 8<sup>th</sup> District and all interest democrats in the 8th Congressional District. Shall also report correspondence pertinent to this organization, either received or sent, note its disposition, and keep it on file. When a new Corresponding Secretary is elected, the past Secretary shall forthwith deliver to the newly elected Secretary all items kept and preserved during his or her tenure in office.

Section 8. The Officers Committee shall consist of the District Chairperson, Statutory Vice Chairperson, Executive Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and the Vice Chairpersons from Ingham, Livingston, and North Oakland. The chairpersons of the County Democratic Committees whose counties lie wholly or in part with in the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District shall serve as non voting ex officio members unless they other wise hold a voting position. The Officers Committee shall be responsible for/ the management of the Eighth Congressional District Democratic Committee; shall formulate and recommend a two-year election cycle budget, fund raising and action plans to the Executive Committee; shall carry out the policies established by the Executive Committee and general membership; shall report its transactions to the Executive Committee and membership; and shall suggest policies for consideration by the Executive Committee and members.

#### ARTICLE VI - POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall be the governing body of the organization and shall consist of Officers, Executive Board, State Central Delegates and Alternates elected at the Eighth Congressional District Caucus held at the Spring State Convention in every odd numbered year. The chairpersons of the County Democratic Committees whose counties lie wholly or in part with in the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District shall be non voting ex officio members unless they other wise hold a voting position.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for approving the District's budget and action plan, providing the District Committee with input and representation from throughout the District, and suggesting policies for consideration by the membership.

Section 3. All requests for payment, reimbursement or other requests for monies, including requests for contributions to political and independent committees, or other properties or assets of the District Committee not otherwise authorized in the budget shall be brought to the Treasurer of the District Committee in writing, who shall submit the same to the District Chairperson, who shall in turn present it to the Executive Committee for discussion and disposition at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. The Executive Committee shall fill any vacancies among the officers or its membership that may occur by an election at a meeting at which such intention is expressed in the notice of the call of that meeting.

Section 5. Endorsements in the primary election are discouraged, but when deemed desirable or necessary, may be made by not less than a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Committee membership, provided, however, all candidates in the Democratic primary elections shall be offered equal opportunities to appear before the Executive Committee.

#### ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES

Section 1. Members of Standing Committees shall be selected from the general membership, and serve at the pleasure of the District Chairperson. Members will be notified of committee formation in order that they may indicate an interest in serving.

Section 2. Standing Committee Chairpersons shall report to the District Chairperson, the Executive Committee and the general membership periodically.

Section 3. The District Chairperson may appoint additional Ad Hoc Committees as needed by the District with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. The Standing Committees and their duties shall be:

A. The Finance Committee shall consider and make recommendations on ways and means of raising funds. Upon adoption of a budget by the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee shall develop a fund raising plan and direct such activities necessary to implement it.

B. The Membership Committee shall develop and implement a comprehensive precinct delegate program, consider and make recommendations on matters pertaining to membership in the District Committee, promote and extend membership opportunities to all who wish to join, and assist in organizing Democratic groups, like youth, students, senior citizens, professionals, small business owners, etc. throughout the District.

C. The Program Committee shall develop ideas for interesting speakers, educational programs and other activities to enhance the profile of the Eighth District Committee in the community at large and promote participation at the Committee's general membership meetings.

D. The Communications Committee shall work to communicate the Eighth District Democratic Committee's message to both the District membership and the general public, and shall supervise the publishing and distribution of a periodic newsletter for the membership.

E. The Bylaws Committee shall consider all proposed amendments, revisions, deletions or revocations of these bylaws.

F. The Screening Committee shall screen candidates for public office who request the endorsement of the Eighth Congressional District Democratic Committee, and make recommendations for possible endorsement action to the membership. Endorsements in a primary election are the responsibility of the Executive Committee.

G. The Technical Committee shall give due consideration to past election statistics, voter and population trends and such other matters, so as to enable it to give guidance and assistance in activities like voter registration, getting out the vote, and all other actions necessary to promote the largest possible Democratic vote at all elections in the District.

H. The Coordinated Campaign Committee shall work with the Michigan Democratic Party, County Democratic Committees, interest groups, and the campaign managers of Democratic nominees in the District to coordinate activities to give maximum exposure to each Democratic nominee in his or her respective district along with the most beneficial exposure of the District's Congressional nominee.

I. The Issues and Resolutions Committee shall keep the membership abreast of issues of importance in the District, and shall prepare recommended positions on issues and resolutions for consideration by the membership.

## ARTICLE VIII - RATIFICATION

Section 1. These bylaws shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption by a majority vote of the Executive Committee present and voting at a meeting called for this purpose with at least seven (7) days notice.

## ARTICLE IX- AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to these bylaws shall be presented in writing to the Officers Committee by an officer, a member of the Executive Committee, or by a petition signed by at least ten (10) members of the organization. The amendments shall be referred to the Bylaws Committee.

Section 2. The Bylaws Committee shall study the proposal(s), draft such text necessary to implement the desired change, and submit its recommendation to the Officers Committee for consideration at the next Executive Committee meeting. A copy of the proposal(s) must be made available for each member of the Executive Committee at least ten (10) days prior to its meeting.

Section 3. If such change is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee, it shall take immediate effect.

## ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Upon reorganization of the Eighth Congressional District Democratic Committee, all assets and real and personal property shall go to the Democratic Congressional District(s) that succeed the Eighth, and shall be allocated proportionally by the Democratic vote in those communities. Upon dissolution of the 8<sup>th</sup> District Democratic Committee all assets remaining after the satisfaction of all debts shall be distributed to the Michigan Democratic Party.

Kathleen M. Carney  
Chairperson  
8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Committee

***Reviewed March 26, 2003 at the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District meeting. Corrections made to reflect new district lines.***

***Reviewed by 8<sup>th</sup> District Congressional Committee on March 19, 2005.***

***Reviewed by the 8<sup>th</sup> District Congressional Committee on March 17, 2007***

***Reviewed by the 8<sup>th</sup> District Congressional Committee March 2009***

***Reviewed by the 8<sup>th</sup> District Congressional Committee February 26, 2011***

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***Reviewed by 8<sup>th</sup> District Congressional Committee March 11, 2017***

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