

**9<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC PARTY**  
**BY-LAWS**  
**2019-2020**

**ARTICLE I. NAME**

This organization shall be known as the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party. It shall consist of the District Committee all members of the Michigan Democratic Party, and all duly elected Democratic precinct delegates residing in the 9th Congressional District.

**ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party is to promote the philosophy of the Democratic Party and to elect Democrats who support this philosophy; and further, to unite and to aid in the activities of all Party members, precinct delegates, committees, officeholders, candidates and all other Democrats working to promote wide and active participation in the Democratic Party.

**ARTICLE III. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES**

Section 1. All public meetings of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party at all levels shall be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance or disability.

Section 2. No tests for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party shall be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the grounds of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance or disability.

Section 3. The time and place for all public meetings of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party on all levels shall be publicized fully and in such a manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings must be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.

Section 4. The 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party, on all levels, shall support the broadest possible participation without discrimination on grounds of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance or disability.

Section 5. The 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of those procedures shall be done in such a fashion that

all prospective and current members of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedure in time to participate in each selection procedures at all levels of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party organization.

Section 6. The 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications for all officers and representatives of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party. Such publication shall be done in a timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.

Section 7. Proportional voting shall be used in the election of delegates and alternates to any Convention, delegates and alternates of the Democratic State Central Committee, and members of the District Committee.

Section 8. All rules and bylaws of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party at all levels shall be consistent with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and shall be available on request in writing to any member of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party.

Section 9. The unit rule is prohibited at all levels of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party.

Section 10. No rule shall be adopted at any level of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party which would require a person to cast a vote or be recorded a voting contrary to that person's judgment.

Section 11. On all questions of procedure not resolved by the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party or these Bylaws, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used.

Section 12. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of any unit, Committee, Caucus or Convention of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party shall be of the opposite sex.

Section 13. Votes shall not be taken by secret ballot at any meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party at any level.

#### **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party shall consist of all duly elected Democratic precinct delegates and members of the Michigan Democratic Party residing in the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Committee, and Officers, all of whom must be members of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Section 2. Precinct delegates shall be apportioned and selected in accordance with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Section 3. The Officers and District Committee shall be selected in accordance with the

Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.

## **ARTICLE V. MEETINGS**

Section 1. The regular meetings of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Committee shall be held at least six times per year on the second Saturday of a month at the location and time designated in the meeting notice. At least seven (7) days notice shall be given of the date, time and place of the meeting. A quorum shall exist at a District Committee meeting when 11 members of the District Committee and Officers who were elected at the District Caucus at the State Convention held in January or February of the odd-numbered year are present.

Section 2. Special meetings of the District Committee may be called by a majority of the members of the District Committee, or by the Chair of the 9<sup>th</sup> District Democratic Party. At least five (5) days' notice shall be given of the date, place, time and purpose of the special meeting. Notice may be given by telephone, mail, or email.

Section 3. The regular Membership meetings of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Party shall be held at least 6 times per year on the second Saturday of a month at the location and time designated in the meeting notice.

Section 4. Subject to the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and these Bylaws, all meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order (latest edition).

## **ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

Section 1. During January or February of each odd-numbered year a District Caucus or Convention will be held on the date set by the State Central Committee to elect District Officers, State Central Delegates and Alternates, and the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Committee.

### Officers

The Officers of the 9<sup>th</sup> District Democratic Party shall consist of:

District Chairperson,  
Vice Chairperson of the opposite sex and a different county from the Chairperson,  
Treasurer,  
Corresponding Secretary,  
and Recording Secretary

### District Committee

The District Committee shall consist of the elected Officers of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party and a minimum of 15 members from the District elected by the Caucus or Convention.

The District Committee may elect additional members as allowed by the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party. At the first meeting following the initial election of the Committee in the odd-numbered year, Committee members shall consider expanding the membership of the District Committee to ensure that all municipalities in the 9<sup>th</sup> District are represented. In addition, to encourage collaboration with local Democratic clubs, the chairs or designees of each Democratic club within the 9<sup>th</sup> District shall be invited to serve as members of the District Committee if the Committee members have approved the expansion of the Committee. If a vacancy occurs on the District Committee or among the Officers, the District Committee has the authority to fill it by a majority vote of Committee members present at a District Committee meeting

Section 2. Within thirty (30) days following the election of the District Committee, the District Committee shall meet to adopt, review, and change bylaws, and affirm its acceptance of the rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Section 3. The Chairperson shall preside at all District Committee meetings, and have such other duties as are usual to the office of District Chairperson, or that may be required by this organization.

Section 4. The Vice-Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson in the discharge of his/her duties, and shall temporarily assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chairperson in his/her absence.

Section 5. The Recording Secretary of this organization, or in their absence a designee of the Chair, shall keep an accurate record and minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the District Committee. They shall keep and preserve all the books, documents, records, minutes, effects, and any other property of this organization, and when a new secretary is elected the past secretary shall forthwith deliver to the newly elected secretary all the aforesaid items kept and preserved during his/her tenure of office.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial receipts and disbursements of this organization subject to the approval of the District Committee. The District Committee may designate three of its members to function as an audit committee to assist the Treasurer in preparation of reports to the District Committee regarding operational and administrative expenditures or campaign budget expenditures. The funds of this organization shall be deposited in banks and shall be drawn upon only by checks signed by the Chairperson or by the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall make financial reports to the District Committee as that Committee so directs. When a new Treasurer is elected, the past Treasurer shall forthwith deliver to the new Treasurer the funds and all the books and records kept during his/her tenure in office.

## **ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES**

Section 1. The Chairperson, subject to the approval of the majority of the District Committee, shall appoint the committees and committee chairpersons necessary for the work of the organization.

Section 2. Standing Committees shall include the following:

1. Rules and Bylaws Committee
6. Policy and Resolutions Committee

. Each committee will have a chair designated by the Chairperson of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party, and a minimum of two additional members. The Chairperson of the District Party shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees.

#### **ARTICLE VIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

At meetings the business of the organization shall proceed in the following order:

1. Roll call of officers and committee members
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Reports of Officers
4. Reports of committees
5. Old business
7. New business
8. Adjournment

#### **ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Proposals for changes or amendments to these bylaws shall first be referred to the Rules and Bylaws Committee which shall report its recommendations to the next regular District Committee meeting.

Section 2. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members of the District Committee present at a meeting, provided that written notice setting forth the proposed amendment has been given to all Party members at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 3. These bylaws shall be in full force and effect upon their adoption and shall supersede all bylaws, rules, motions and policies of a contrary nature with the exception of the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.

#### **ARTICLE X. ENDORSEMENTS**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party shall *not* endorse any candidate in a primary.

Endorsements in general elections may be made by a 2/3 vote of those present and voting at a District Committee meeting.