

MDP Anishinaabek Caucus Bylaws

ARTICLE I. NAME AND MEMBERSHIP

This organization shall be known as the Anishinaabek Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party. Its membership shall consist of Native American citizens, tribal leaders, allies and supporters of Native American rights, sovereignty, and interests, who satisfy the membership requirements outlined in *Article 3* of the MDP Rules.

The Anishinaabek Caucus shall be a non-profit organization and upon its dissolution, all assets and real or personal property of the Anishinaabek Caucus and its committees and work groups shall revert to the benefit of the Michigan Democratic Party. No part of the income or assets of the Anishinaabek shall transfer to any of its members or non-members, except for the reimbursement of actual expenses or reasonable compensation for services as approved by at least two of the Officers or 10 of the Executive Committee members pursuant to *Article IV, Section 7*.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purposes of the Anishinaabek Caucus are to promote the interests and concerns of the Anishinaabek people within the Democratic Party and to elect Anishinaabek Democrats.

We will support and encourage Anishinaabek candidates at all levels of government; to recruit, train, support and elect Anishinaabek Democrats.

ARTICLE III. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Section 1. All public meetings of the Anishinaabek Caucus shall be open to attendance by 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 Anishinaabek Caucus shall be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current Anishinaabek Caucus members to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the grounds of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance or disability.

Section 3. The time and place for all public meetings of the Anishinaabek Caucus 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 Anishinaabek Caucus members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons, meetings can be held over internet conferencing ie: Skype.

Section 4. The Anishinaabek Caucus 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 Anishinaabek Caucus officers and representatives. Publication of these procedures shall be done in such a fashion that all prospective and current members of the Anishinaabek Caucus will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedure in time to participate in each selection procedure of the Anishinaabek Caucus.

Section 5. The Anishinaabek Caucus shall announce in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a description of the legal and practical qualifications for all officers and representatives of the Anishinaabek Caucus. The announcement shall be done in a timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within Anishinaabek Caucus will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.

Section 6. Proportional voting shall be used in the election of the Officers and Executive Committee of the Anishinaabek Caucus

Section 7. All rules and bylaws of the Anishinaabek Caucus shall be consistent with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and shall be available on request in writing to any member of the Anishinaabek Caucus

Section 8. Proportional voting shall be used in the election of the Officers and Executive Committee of the Anishinaabek Caucus.

Section 9. No rule shall be adopted at any level of the Anishinaabek Caucus which would require a person to cast a vote or be recorded voting contrary to that person's judgment.

Section 10. All rules and bylaws of the Anishinaabek Caucus shall be consistent with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and shall be available on request electronically or in writing to any member of the Anishinaabek Caucus.

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. Votes shall not be taken by secret ballot at any meeting of the Anishinaabek Caucus at any level. Voter intimidation or coercion will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Officers shall be a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson of the opposite

sex of the Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. They shall be enrolled citizens of Michigan Federally Recognized tribes and shall have 2 year terms and each will be elected by a majority vote at a full membership meeting of the Anishinaabek Caucus at the Michigan Democratic Party's Spring Convention in odd years.

Vacancies among the Officers shall be filled by appointment of the Officers.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the 4 Officers, of differing genders for each of the congressional districts, they shall be enrolled citizens of Michigan Federally Recognized tribes and the chairs of our Committees as approved by the Executive Committee. The congressional districts present at the Spring State Convention Anishinaabek Caucus meeting shall elect their Coordinators of differing genders by majority vote for each Coordinator. For districts without representation at the Spring Convention, party officers and Regional Coordinators will help convene a special election within their district as soon as possible.

Vacancies among the Officers and the Executive Committee shall be appointed temporarily by a vote of the Officers, and elected by majority vote at the next statewide meeting of the Caucus members or in the congressional district with the vacancy. Caucus members statewide are welcome to attend Executive Committee meetings, but cannot vote unless the Executive Committee opens the meeting for members to vote.

Section 3. The Chairperson shall preside at all Executive Committee meetings and Conventions, have such other duties as are usual to the office of Chairperson, or that may be required by this organization. The Chairperson in cooperation with the Vice Chairperson and the Treasurer will create and present an annual budget to the Executive Committee for approval, including fundraising plans, goals and expenditure purposes, and expected amounts. Brief quarterly budget updates will be created and presented to the Executive Committee.

Section 4. The Vice-Chairperson shall be a member of the opposite sex from the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson in the discharge of their duties and shall temporarily assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chairperson in their absence.

Section 5. The Secretary of this organization shall keep an accurate record and minutes of the proceedings of all meetings. The Secretary shall keep and preserve all the books, documents, correspondence, records, minutes, effects, and any other property of this organization, and when a new secretary is elected the past secretary shall deliver to the newly elected secretary all the aforesaid items kept and preserved during the tenure of office within 30 days of the election. The Secretary shall see that proper notification is given of Caucus meetings.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial receipts and disbursements of this organization subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

The funds of this organization shall be deposited in credit unions and shall be drawn upon only by checks signed by any two of the following officers: Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer, or by debit card transactions agreed to via email (with subject “Financial transaction of the Anishinaabek Caucus”) by two of said officers in the TO: of the email, the other 2 officers must be cc’d on the email. The Treasurer shall make financial reports to the Executive Committee and the Caucus. 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 within 15 days.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1. The regular meetings of the Anishinaabek Caucus Executive Committee shall be on the date and at the location and time set forth in the meeting notice. At least five (5) days notice shall be given of the date, time and place of the meeting. Notice may be given by mail, phone, text message, Social Media or email. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. At least once per calendar year there shall be a full membership meeting of the Anishinaabek Caucus where the Officers and Executive Committee shall report on Caucus activities. At least fourteen (14) days’ notice and a reminder at seven (7) days shall be given of the date, place and time of the meeting. Notice may be given by mail, phone, text message, social media or email.

Section 3. Special meetings of the Executive Committee or full membership may be called by a majority of the Executive Committee or full membership, respectively. 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 mail, phone, text message, social media or email.

Section 4. The full Caucus shall meet in conjunction with County, Congressional District, State Central Committee, and State Convention at the date, time and place established by the Executive Committee. Anishinaabek Caucus committees and/or chapters that are active at the congressional district or county also can meet at the date, time and place of their choosing so long as proper advanced notice of at least seven (7) days is provided to their members and the public.

Section 5. 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. ORDER OF BUSINESS for EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and STATEWIDE MEETINGS

Section 1. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall appoint the committees and committee chairpersons necessary for the work of the organization.

Section 2. Standing Committees can include the following:

1. Finance Committee
2. Candidate Recruitment Committee
3. Political Organizing Committee
4. Communications Committee
5. Policy and Resolutions Committee
6. Campaign Committee
7. Rules and Bylaws Committee

These committees shall include the appropriate subcommittees. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Caucus shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees.

ARTICLE VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

1. Call to order (time)
2. Call of officers
3. Approval of Proposed Agenda
4. Minutes of the previous meeting
5. Reports of officers
 - Chair
 - Vice Chair
 - Secretary (correspondence)
 - Treasurer (financial report)
6. Reports of committees
7. Regional Directors
8. Chairs of Committees
9. Chairs of Work Groups
10. Other Officers
11. Unfinished business
12. New Business
13. Schedule Next meeting date and time
14. Public Speaking – Each guest may speak for 3 minutes
15. Adjournment

ARTICLE VIII. 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 Caucus meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.

Section 2. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of

the members of Anishinaabek Caucus present at a meeting, provided that notice setting forth the proposed amendment(s) has been sent by mail, email, and/or Social Media to all Caucus 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 the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Section 4. These bylaws were approved by the statewide meeting of the Anishinaabe Caucus on 12/15/18

We, the Officers of the Anishinaabek Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party, verify by our signatures that these Bylaws are now in effect as of December 2018.

Andrea Pierce, Chair

Desmond Berry, Vice Chair

Julie Dye, Secretary

Tom Shomin, Treasurer