

# Clinton County Democratic Party Bylaws

Adopted January 5, 2012



## ARTICLE I. NAME

This organization shall be known as the Clinton County Democratic Party. It shall consist of the County Executive Committee, the County Committee, and all members of the Michigan Democratic Party and all duly elected Democratic precinct delegates residing in the Clinton County.

## ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of Clinton County 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, committee, officeholders, candidates and all other Democrats working to promote wide and active participation in the Democratic Party.

The Clinton County Democratic Party shall be a non-profit organization and upon its dissolution, all assets and real personal property of the Party and its committees shall revert to the benefit of the Michigan Democratic Party. No part of the income or assets of the Party shall inure to any of its members except for the reimbursement of actual expenses, reasonable compensation for services if the Party approves, or a contribution for electing a member to office if the Party so approves.

## ARTICLE III. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Section 1. All public meetings of Clinton County Democratic Party at all levels shall be open to all members of the Democratic Party residing in Clinton County 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. (MDP-IIA1i)

Section 2. The time and place for all public meetings of the Clinton County 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. (MDP-IIA3)

Section 3. The Clinton Country 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. (MDP-IIA4)

Section 4. The Clinton County Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of qualifications for all officers and practical procedures of selecting the Clinton County Democratic Party officers. Publication of those procedures shall be done in such a fashion that all prospective and current members of the Clinton County Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedure in time to compete for office and/or participate in each selection procedure at all levels of the Clinton County Democratic Party organization. (MDP-IIA5&6)

Section 5. Proportional voting shall be used in the election of delegates and alternates to any Convention, and members of the County Executive Committee. (MDP-IIA8)

Section 6. All rules and bylaws of the Clinton County 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 Clinton County Democratic Party.

Section 7. The unit rule is prohibited at all levels of the Clinton County Democratic Party. (MDP-IIB7)

Section 8. No rule shall be adopted at any level of the Clinton County Democratic Party which would require a person to cast a vote or be recorded a voting contrary to that person's judgment. (MDP-IIB8)

Section 9. On all questions of procedure not resolved by the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party of these Bylaws, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used. (MDP-IIB5)

Section 10. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of any Committee, Caucus, of Convention of the Clinton County Democratic Party shall be of the opposite sex. (MDP-IIB6)

Section 11. Votes shall not be taken by secret ballot at any meeting of the Clinton County Democratic Party at any level. (MDP-IIA9)

## Article IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The voting members of the Clinton County Democratic Party/Clinton Democratic County Committee shall consist of: all duly elected Democratic precinct delegates of this county; Executive Committee members and Officers of the County Party, all of whom must be members of the Michigan Democratic Party; and members of the Michigan Democratic Party residing in this county who were members of the MDP for at least 30 days prior to the County Committee meeting.

Section 2. On or before April 1 in even-numbered years, the chairperson of the Clinton County Democratic Party shall forward by mail or deliver to the Clinton County Board of Election Commissioners a certificate showing the number of delegates to the Clinton County Democratic Convention to which each precinct of the county is entitled, in accordance with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party. (MDP-IIIA)

Section 3. The Officers, Executive Committee, and County Committees of the Clinton County Democratic Party shall be selected in accordance with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.

## ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1. The Clinton County Executive Committee shall meet within 30 days following the convening of the Fall County Convention, and as provided in section 2. The Clinton County Committee shall meet regularly each month at the location and time designated 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, telegram, fax or email. A quorum shall exist at an Executive Committee meeting when a majority of the Executive Committee members are present.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the chairperson of the Clinton County Democratic Party or by a majority of the members of the Executive Committee. At least five (5) days' notice shall be given of the date, place, time and purpose of the special meeting.

Section 3. Subject to all 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, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COUNTY COMMITTEE

Section 1. One third (1/3) of the Executive Committee shall automatically consist of the most recent candidates for countywide office and the county board of Commissioners, and State House, State Senate, and U.S. House whose districts include all or part of the of the county. Each even-numbered year within twenty (20) days followed the November election the delegates to the County Convention \*shall convene at the call of the county chairperson for the purpose of electing part of the Executive Committee which shall consist of twice the number of automatic members. If a vacancy occurs in the position of delegate-elected members fill the vacancy. (MDP-VA) The Executive Committee may fill a vacancy in any of its offices. The members of the Executive Committee may vote to expand the membership of the Committee. (MDP-VD) The Executive Committee and County Committee shall keep minutes of all meetings which shall be available to all Party members.

Section 2. Officers shall be selected by the Executive Committee in accordance with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party within thirty (30) days of the election of the Executive Committee. The officers are a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson of the opposite sex of the Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall serve as officers of both the Executive Committee and County Committee. (MDP-VC)

Section 4. Membership of the County Committee is defined in Article IV Section 1. above. The County Committee may elect additional officers which in its judgment are proper to carry out the purposes of the County Committee, and may fill a vacancy which may occur in the membership of the County Committee or in any of its additional offices. Between meetings of the County Committee the Executive Committee has all the powers and performs all the duties of the County Committee, including the filling of vacancies in nominations as prescribed by law.

Section 5. The Chairperson shall preside at all Executive and County Committee meetings, and have such other duties as are usual to the office of County Chairperson, or that may be required by this organization.

Section 6. 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 his/her duties, and shall temporarily assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chairperson in his/her absence.

Section 7. The Secretary of this organization shall keep an accurate record and minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Executive Committee and County Committee. He/She 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 forthwith deliver to the newly elected secretary all of the aforesaid items kept and preserved during his/her tenure of office.

He/She shall see that proper notification is given to the Executive Committee and County Committee of their meetings.

Section 8. 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 banks and shall be drawn upon only by checks signed by any two of the following officers: Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. The treasurer shall make financial reports to the Executive Committee as that Committee so directs and shall make them available to all County Committee meetings. 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 Executive 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
2. Finance and Fundraising Committee
3. Candidate Recruitment Committee
4. Political Organizing and Party Development Committee
5. Communications and Public Outreach Committee
6. Policy, Resolutions, and Endorsement Committee
7. Campaign Committee
8. Membership Committee

These committees shall include the appropriate subcommittees. The Chairperson of the County Party shall be 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
2. Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Report of officers
  - a. Chair
  - b. Vice Chair
  - c. Treasurer (financial report)
  - d. Secretary (correspondence)
4. Report of Elected Officials
5. Reports of committees
6. Unfinished business
7. Postponed business
8. New business
9. Announcements/Good and Welfare
10. Adjournment

## ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposals for changes and amendments to these bylaws shall first be referred to the Rules and Bylaws Committee which shall report its recommendations to the next regular Executive Board meeting or County Committee 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 the Clinton County Democratic Committee, present at the 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

Section 1. All requests for general election endorsements shall be referred to the Policy, Resolutions, and Endorsements Committee. The committee shall meet not less than two months before a general election and shall report their recommendations for endorsement or non-endorsement to the County Committee. In the event the Policy, Resolutions, and Endorsements Committee fails to do so, a motion to endorse may be made at a County Committee meeting. The County Committee shall not make an endorsement unless the meeting agenda contains notice of the offices for which endorsements may be made. Endorsements will not be made prior to completion of primary elections.

Section 2. Only those candidates who are members of the Michigan Democratic Party shall be eligible to receive election assistance of any kind, including endorsement, from the Clinton County Democratic Party. Candidates for judicial offices are exempt from this requirement.