

CONSTITUTION OF THE DEARBORN DEMOCRATIC CLUB

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Dearborn Democratic Club, under the Constitution and by-laws of 1978, do establish this 1993 Constitution, superseding that of 1978, in order to maximize the fair and efficient operation of the Club and promote its purposes.

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

ARTICLE 1

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the Dearborn Democratic Club (The Club).

Section 2. The purpose of the Club is to support the election and re-election of Democratic candidates and those non-partisan candidates who reflect the principles and ideals of the Democratic Party, to establish and advance the Club's position concerning ballot or legislative issues, to encourage participation in the political process by the citizens of the City of Dearborn, to promote understanding and public acceptance of the principles of the Democratic Party and the Club.

Section 3. The Club shall be composed of all members in good standing admitted under the 1978 Constitution and all persons admitted under this Constitution.

Section 4. The requirements for membership in the Club shall be as follows:

1. Commitment to support the purpose of the Dearborn Democratic Club and the Democratic Party.
2. Residents of the City of Dearborn can vote; non-residents of the City of Dearborn can participate as non-voting members.
3. Signing an application for membership.
4. Payment of the established dues of the Club.
5. All Members of the Dearborn Democratic Club must be an active member of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Section 5. Only members who are current with payment of dues and are active members of the Michigan Democratic Party shall have voting rights at any meeting. For the purpose of elections, a member shall be considered current with payment of dues if dues shall have been paid by the last membership meeting prior to the election, or if the individual was a member in good standing the previous calendar year.

Section 6. All public meetings of the Dearborn Democratic Club 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.

CONSTITUTION OF THE DEARBORN DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Section 7. No tests for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Dearborn Democratic Club shall be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current member of the Club 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 8. The Dearborn Democratic Club 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 9. For each calendar year, any applicable Club dues shall be due by the January general membership meeting. Any changes to Club dues deemed appropriate by the Executive Board shall be affirmed by a majority vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled membership meeting. Notice of a proposed change in the annual Club dues must be given to the membership by the general membership meeting immediately preceding the date the change is to take effect. The amount of Club dues shall be included on membership applications.

ARTICLE 2

Section 1. The elected officers of the Club shall be as follows: President, First Vice-president, Second Vice-president, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, two (2) Sergeants-at-arms, Parliamentarian, and three (3) Trustees. The President and First Vice-president shall be of a different gender¹. Past Presidents who live in Dearborn and are dues paying members in good standing may be non-voting Executive Board members.

Section 2. The President shall be Chairperson and principal officer of the Club. The President shall enforce adherence to the Constitution of the Club; appoint all standing and special committee chairs; call Executive Board meetings, and whenever necessary, call special membership meetings; preside at all meetings and supervise all other officers in the performance of duties; mediate all disputes that may arise within the Club; and perform all other acts as are required, by virtue of this office, this Constitution, decisions of the Club and the customs of parliamentary bodies.

Section 3. The Vice-presidents shall act for the President in the event of absence. The Vice-presidents shall perform such duties as the President delegates to them, and shall serve as the President's Chief Administrators and representatives.

Section 4. The Recording Secretary shall read the roll call of the Executive Board, record attendance at each meeting, and take the minutes of the general membership, Executive Board and any special meetings.

Section 5. The Corresponding Secretary shall establish the mailing address for the Club; notify the membership of the time and place of any membership meeting, and Executive Board members of each meeting of that body. The Corresponding Secretary shall read all correspondence referred by the President.

¹ Per Michigan Democratic Party 2018 By-laws "2.13 The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of any unit, Committee, Caucus or Convention of the MDP, shall be of a different gender."

CONSTITUTION OF THE DEARBORN DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Section 6. The Treasurer shall report the condition of the Club's finances at all Executive Board and General Membership meetings, and receive all membership dues. The Treasurer shall maintain a current roster of dues paying members which shall be available at all membership meetings. All bills shall be paid by Club checks signed by the Treasurer and/or countersigned by the President, unless ordered otherwise by the President. All monies received by the club shall be deposited by the Treasurer in a depository designated by the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall cooperate with the Trustees whenever an audit is conducted and shall surrender the books and records at the end of the term, or when so ordered by the President.

Section 7. Sergeants-at-Arms will be responsible for maintaining order at all general membership and Executive Board meetings.

Section 8. The Parliamentarian shall enforce the adherence of the rules of order.

Section 9. The Trustees shall constitute the Board of Trustees and shall audit the financial records of the Club, reporting to the membership at least once per calendar year.

Section 10. Officers of the Club, shall, unless excused, attend all general membership and Executive Board meetings.

Section 11. In addition to the duties specifically enumerated, the officers shall perform such duties as customarily accrue to their offices.

ARTICLE 3

Section 1. Officers shall be elected in February of odd numbered years.

Section 2. Nominations may be made either by the Nominating/Elections Committee or by Club members from the floor. All nominations for office shall take place at the January meeting in odd numbered years.

Section 3. Officers shall assume office following the February meeting and hold office for a period of two years.

Section 4. All elections shall be by open ballot². If there is no opposition for a position, there will be no election for that position. In such case the nominee shall be considered elected at the February meeting. The results of all elections shall be published at the next general membership meeting.

Section 6. Upon a permanent vacancy of the President, the First Vice-President shall serve as President. Should the First Vice-President not become President, the Second Vice-President shall serve as President. Should both Vice Presidents be unable to take office as President, a special election, to fill the vacant positions shall be conducted at the next membership meeting. Nominations for candidates at the special elections may be made from the floor at the membership meeting. A Nominating/Elections Committee may be appointed for the special election. The officers elected at the special election shall assume office immediately and serve until the next regular election of officers.

² Per Michigan Democratic Party 2018 By-Laws, "2.17 Votes shall not be taken by secret ballot at any meeting of any MDP unit."

CONSTITUTION OF THE DEARBORN DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Section 7. Any elected member of the Executive Board who shall have three (3) consecutive un-excused absences from general membership and Executive Board meetings shall be deemed to have resigned the elected position. The Recording Secretary shall immediately report such occurrences to the Executive Board. The President shall have the power to appoint a member to fill the vacant position, except as provided in Section 4 above.

ARTICLE 4

Section 1. A quorum of the Executive Board shall be a majority of the current elected Club Officers.

Section 2. Actions of the Club may be initiated either by the general membership or by the Executive Board. No action of either body concerning candidate endorsements or expenditures of funds shall be final unless there is concurrence by the other body except as provided in Article 7, Section 3.

Section 3. The Club, only upon the recommendation of the Political Action Committee, may endorse Democratic candidates, ballot or legislative issues that advance the Club's position, or those non-partisan candidates who reflect the principles and ideas of the Democratic Party in local, county, state and national elections provided the electoral district of the office/issue for which the endorsement is made lies at least partially in the City of Dearborn, except that any procedure adopted by the Club for endorsement of candidates/issues shall be in accordance with the procedures and rules of the District Democratic Organization(s) representing the City of Dearborn and the State Democratic Party.

Section 4. The President or 25% of the members of the Executive Board may schedule a special or emergency Executive Board meeting when necessary. Notice of the Executive Board meeting shall be distributed by both e-mailed and phone call at least three (3) days prior to such meeting. If all Executive Board members have been notified and agree, the Executive Board may waive the three (3) day time frame

Section 5. The Executive Board meeting may be closed only by a two-thirds vote of Executive Board members present in which a quorum has been established.

ARTICLE 5

Section 1. The general membership shall meet at least once each month on a regularly established day. The meeting schedule for the year, including time, place, important political deadlines, and the specific deadline for the general membership to contribute suggested questions or concerns to the PAC related to endorsement screenings. The schedule shall be presented by the Corresponding Secretary at the January general membership meeting, shall be approved by majority vote of the general membership, and shall be altered only on recommendation of the Executive Board and approved by majority vote of the general membership.

Section 2. Such meetings must be held in places accessible to all Club members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.

Section 3. A quorum for the general membership meetings shall consist of those members present so long as notice requirements have been observed.

CONSTITUTION OF THE DEARBORN DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Section 4. The President or 25% of the members of the Executive Board may schedule a special or emergency general membership meeting when necessary. Notice of the special meeting shall be distributed by e-mail at least five (5) days prior to such a meeting. . Quorum requirements shall be the same as for regular membership meetings.

ARTICLE 6

Section 1. The following standing committees are established by the Constitution:

- Constitution Committee
- Communication, Policy and Resolutions Committee
- Activist Committee
- Membership Committee
- Fundraising and Events Committee
- Precinct Organizing Committee

Section 2. The President may appoint such special committees as are considered necessary and approved by the Executive Board.

Section 3. The President shall appoint the Chairperson of all standing and special committees. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all standing and special committees with full voting rights.

Section 4. All standing and special committees shall report to the Executive Board quarterly or as directed by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE 7

Section 1. The Club shall have a Political Action Committee (PAC). The PAC shall operate consistent with applicable state and federal statutes in addition to the provisions of this Constitution. The PAC shall consist of the club president, the club treasurer, the club recording secretary and four (4) additional voting members nominated by the club President and affirmed by majority vote of the Executive Board. The PAC shall maintain a separate checking account requiring the signatures of either the President (or their designee) or Treasurer.

Section 2. The PAC shall make recommendations to the Executive Board and the general membership endorsing in local, state and national elections the election and re-election of Democratic candidates, ballot or legislative issues that advance the Club's position and those non-partisan candidates who reflect the principles and ideals of the Democratic Party. The endorsement process shall be initiated only by written request of the candidate.

Section 3. The PAC shall maintain a record of all meetings, including special endorsement meetings, and shall have sole responsibility for the expenditure of funds on behalf of the Club for political purposes as determined by the PAC. The PAC shall make a complete report of its activities at the next Executive Board and next membership meeting.

CONSTITUTION OF THE DEARBORN DEMOCRATIC CLUB

ARTICLE 8

Section 1. Unless otherwise required by the Constitution, the business of the Club shall be conducted by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order on all questions of procedure not resolved by the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party. It is the responsibility of the Parliamentarian to have said rules at all meetings.

Section 2. All rules and Constitution of the Dearborn Democratic Club at all levels shall be consistent with the rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and shall be available upon request in writing to any members of the Dearborn Democratic Club.

Section 3. No rule shall be adopted by any MDP unit that would require any person to cast a vote or be recorded as voting contrary to that person's judgment. The Unit Rule (the practice of a unit reporting a unanimous vote when the vote within that unit was not unanimous) shall be prohibited in all units.³

ARTICLE 9

Section 1. This Constitution shall be submitted to the membership for two readings at consecutive regular meetings. The notice for both meetings shall notify the membership that this Constitution shall be considered adopted if approved by the membership by a two-thirds affirmative vote.

Section 2. Amendments to this Constitution shall be initiated by the general membership at a regular meeting. The amendatory matter shall be referred to the Executive Board which shall consider the proposed amendment at a meeting called by the President prior to the next membership meeting. The Executive Board's recommendation shall be reported at the next regular membership meeting. The notice for the regular membership meeting after the Executive Board's action shall contain the proposed amendment. The amendment shall be adopted if two thirds of the membership present at the second membership meeting vote in the affirmative on the amendment.

Section 3. The Executive Board may enact policies to guide the day-to-day activities of the Club. The policies shall not be in conflict with the Constitution.

ARTICLE 10

Section 1. The membership of the Club may dissolve this Club by a two-thirds affirmative vote.

Section 2. Failure of the Club to have a general membership meeting, Article 5, Section 1 notwithstanding, for five (5) consecutive months shall constitute dissolution.

Section 3. Failure to adhere to the fundamental principles of the Michigan Democratic Party shall have its charter revoked by the Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party or his/her designee and shall be ineligible for charter status until the conditions are met. Before the charter is revoked, the 12th Congressional District Democratic Organization must revoke its written recommendation endorsing charter club status by providing in writing to the Chair the reasons why charter club status should be revoked.

³Per Michigan Democratic Party 2018 By-laws section 2.18.

CONSTITUTION OF THE DEARBORN DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Section 4. Notwithstanding charter club status, the Dearborn Democratic Club shall not be an agent of the Michigan Democratic Party or any purpose whatsoever, nor shall the Dearborn Democratic Club have the authority to act on behalf of or bind the Michigan Democratic Party financially, contractually or otherwise.

ARTICLE 11

This Constitution was originally adopted by the membership and became effective immediately after approval by the 16th District Democratic Organization in October 1993. This amended Constitution was approved by majority vote of the Dearborn Democratic Club after the following two readings:

First reading: May 29, 2019

Second reading: June 26, 2019

This amended Constitution was then approved by the Michigan Democratic Party on:

[_____]

Sami Khaldi, Club President, [_____]