

## GLADWIN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY BYLAWS

Approved at the February 27, 2018 meeting

### Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Gladwin County Democratic Party, hereinafter call the Party.

### Article II – Purpose

The purpose of the 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; and further, to develop issues and programs related to city, township and/or County government, to supply financial support for the Party and its candidates, to recruit and promote candidates and campaign for their election; and further, to assist in the development of the party platforms of Gladwin County, the State of Michigan, and the United States.

### Article III – Fundamental Principles

Section 1. All public meetings of the Party 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 party shall be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the 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 Party shall be publicized fully and in such 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 Party shall support the broadest possible participation without discrimination of 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 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 Party officers and representative on all levels. Publication of those procedures shall be done in such a fashion that all prospective and current members of the Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedure in time to participate in each selection procedures at all levels of the Party organization.

Section 6. The 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 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 Party will have fully and adequate opportunity to compete for office.

Section 7. All rules and bylaws of the 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 Party within a reasonable time of such written request.

Section 8. On all questions or procedure not resolved by these bylaws, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used.

Section 9. The Chairperson, 1st Vice-Chairperson and 2nd Vice-Chairperson of the Party shall be of the opposite sex.

Section 10. Votes shall not be taken by secret ballot at any meeting of the Party at any level.

#### Article IV – Membership

Section 1. Membership of the Party shall consist of (a) all duly elected and accredited Democratic precinct delegates of Gladwin County, (b) current members of the Party residing in Gladwin County and (c) the Gladwin County Democratic Committee, Executive Committee and Officers, as well as, those MDP members who reside in Gladwin County or within counties that share Gladwin County's State House and Senate Districts and U.S. Congressional District. All of the aforementioned except for (b) must be members of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Section 2. A member in good standing with the party is one whose dues are current, has attended at least (7) regularly scheduled meetings as a dues paying member in the past 12 months, and who actively participates and/or supports Party functions. All others shall be regular voting members as long as dues are current.

Section 3. A waiver of the attendance rule may be awarded by a simple majority vote of the Gladwin County Democratic Party Executive Committee and ratified by a simple majority vote of members in good standing at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 4. The Party Secretary shall have responsibility for maintaining the list of



Party members to be notified of Party meetings.

Section 5. Members maintain good standing by doing the following: 1.) Attend 7 of 12 meetings within the last twelve (12) months. 2.) Dues must be paid current prior to the vote.

Section 6. Dues are calendar year, non-prorated, and are payable Jan. 1st .

#### Article V – Meetings

Section 1. The regular meeting of the Party shall be on the day of 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 meeting. Notice may be given by mail, telegram, fax, e-mail to its active membership list and/or publication in the local newspaper.

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

Section 3. 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, Executive Committee and County Committee

Section 1. The officers of the Party shall be the officers of the Executive and the County Committees, one and the same, and consist of a Chairperson, 1st Vice- Chairperson, 2nd Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. They shall have two (2) year terms and be elected by a simple majority of the Party’s active membership list, provided the member is current in their dues, has been a member of the Party for at least sixty (60) consecutive days and is present for the election at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Party. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner and as soon as possible when they occur. The election of officers shall be held within forty-five (45) days of January 1 of each odd-numbered year.

Section 2. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings and have such other duties as are usual to the Office of Chairperson, or that may be required by this organization.

Section 3. The 1st 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 4. The 2nd 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 and the absence of the 1st Vice-Chairperson.

Section 5. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record and minutes of the proceedings of all meetings. 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 the aforesaid items kept and preserved during his/her tenure of office. He/She shall see that proper notification is given of all meetings.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial receipts and disbursements of the Gladwin County Democratic Party. The funds of the Party shall be deposited in a local bank or credit union in separate accounts denoting general operating funds and political action funds as per legal campaign finance rules. Funds from these accounts may be drawn upon by checks signed by any two of the following officers: Chairperson, Secretary and/or Treasurer. Amounts under \$100 to pay for supplies, dues, etc., may be drawn under his/her own signature no more than once monthly and duly reported at the regular monthly membership meeting. The treasurer is elected, and shall comply with all campaign finance reporting requirements of the State of Michigan and the Federal Election Commission. Copies of all submissions shall be given to the local party for review. Immediately following the election or appointment of the new treasurer the former treasurer shall forthwith deliver to the new treasurer all documents relating to the function of the treasurer. The newly elected/appointed treasurer must also update the tax identification number with the State of Michigan to reflect the social security number of the new treasurer by January 1 of the New Year. There shall also be appointed by the executive board a deputy treasurer. The treasurer shall report the status of the Party's funds at each general membership meeting. An audit of the Party's funds shall be conducted annually by a quorum of the executive board.

#### Article VII – Committees

Section 1. The Chairperson, subject to the approval of the Party's active membership list and presence at a regularly scheduled meeting shall appoint committees and committee chairpersons necessary for the work of the organization.

Section 2. Standing committees shall include the following: (a) Rules and Bylaws Committee, (b) Finance Committee, (c) Candidate Recruitment Committee, (d) Political Organizing Committee, (e) Communications Committee, (f) Policy and Resolutions, (g) Campaign Committee, (h) Fundraising Committee. The Chairperson of the 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:

Pledge of Allegiance 1. Roll call of officers 2. Minutes of the previous meeting



### 3. Reports of officers

a. Chairperson and correspondence b. Treasurer c. Secretary 4. Reports of committees 5. Unfinished business 6. Postponed business 7. New business 8. Adjournment

### Article IX – Endorsements

Section 1. The endorsement of any candidate is to be made at a regularly scheduled meeting. Endorsement requests must be made by the candidate to the Chairperson at a regular meeting, and recorded in the minutes.

Section 2. Endorsements of candidates by the Party shall be made exclusively of those candidates who support the philosophy of the Democratic Party, and in no way in return for financial or material considerations.

Section 3. Advertising by the Party for the purpose of promoting candidates or propositions shall be considered an endorsement, and therefore shall not require financial or material contributions of said candidates or proponents of said propositions.

Section 4. Endorsements by the Party of candidates for Gladwin County, City, Township and/or County offices shall be for candidates in good standing with the Party. The proposed nomination must be approved by a simple majority of the Executive Committee in a regularly scheduled meeting of members. The approved nomination must then be ratified by a simple majority of members in good standing at a regularly scheduled meeting. Endorsement by members of a non-member candidate in or outside Gladwin County must be approved by a simple majority of the Executive Committee and ratified by 100% of members in good standing at such meeting.

Section 5. Endorsements by the Party, complete with candidate's name, office sought, address and contact information, shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting in which they occurred.

### Article X – Amendments

Section 1. Proposals for changes or amendments to these bylaws shall first be referred to the Rule and Bylaws Committee which shall report its recommendations to the next regular 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 Party, 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 XI – Ratification

These Bylaws shall be ratified by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present at a regularly scheduled Party meeting and shall become effective upon such ratification.

Article XII – Termination

If this organization declares its termination, all existing assets and funds shall revert to the Michigan Democratic Party.

Dated: February 27, 2018