

# **LIVINGSTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY BYLAWS**

## **ARTICLE I. NAME**

This organization shall be known as the Livingston County Democratic Party (LCDP). 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 Livingston County.

## **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

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

The Livingston County Democratic Party shall be a non-profit organization and upon its dissolution, all assets and real and 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 Livingston County 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 Livingston County Democratic Party shall be required or used which have 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 Livingston 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.

Section 4. The Livingston County 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 Livingston County 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 Livingston County 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 Livingston County Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedure in time to participate in such selection procedures at all levels of the Livingston County Democratic Party organization.

Section 6. The Livingston County 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 Livingston County 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 Livingston County 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, and members of the County Executive Committee.

Section 8. All rules and bylaws of the Livingston 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 Livingston County Democratic Party.

Section 9. The unit rule is prohibited at all levels of the Livingston County Democratic Party.

Section 10. No rule shall be adopted at any level of the Livingston County Democratic Party which would require a person to cast a vote or be recorded as 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 Livingston County Democratic Party shall be of the opposite sex.

Section 13. Votes shall not be taken by secret ballot at any meeting of the Livingston County Democratic Party at any level.

## **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership of the Livingston County Democratic Party shall consist of all duly elected Democratic precinct delegates of this county, members of the Michigan Democratic Party residing in this county and the Livingston Democratic Committee, Executive 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, Executive Committee and County Committees of the Livingston County Democratic Party shall be selected in accordance with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Section 4. All members shall be entitled to participate in the activities of this organization. All rights not reserved or given to the precinct delegates and the officers and board members by law and by these By-Laws shall be vested in regular membership.

Section 5. Any member who conducts himself or herself as to bring discredit on the Livingston County Democratic Committee may be asked to show cause why his or her membership should not be terminated. Any officer or member of the Executive Committee who shall absent himself or herself from three (3) or more consecutive meetings of the Officers Committee, or Executive Committee without requesting to be excused, may be asked to show cause why his or her membership should not be terminated. Three (3) consecutive meetings refer to three (3) consecutive meetings of the same name. Executive Committee members, other than officers, are not required to attend Officers Committee meetings.

Such inquiries, hearings or other actions pertinent to this section shall be conducted by the Officers Committee, with an appeal to the Executive Committee where a decision shall be final. A hearing, if requested, shall be held in a timely manner with at least seven (7) days notice provided to all parties involved. A majority of the Officers Committee members present and voting shall be required for action to be taken at a hearing or inquiry conducted by the Committee.

This action shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Executive Committee members present and voting to be upheld.

## **ARTICLE V. MEETINGS**

Section 1. The regular meetings of the Livingston County Executive Committee shall be on the day of each month at the location and time designated in the meeting notice and shall be open to all. At least three (3) days' notice shall be given of the date, time and place of the meeting. Notice may be given by mail, fax, hand-delivery, or email. A quorum shall exist at an Executive Committee meeting when 50% of the officers are present.

Section 2. The full Livingston County Committee shall meet quarterly to

review the activities of the Executive Committee. At least three (3) days' notice shall be given of the date, time and place of the meeting. Notice may be given by mail, fax, hand-delivery, or email. At these meetings, enrolled members of the party who have been members for at least 60 days shall be eligible to vote on resolutions, county platforms and county fund-raising programs.

Section 3. Special meetings of the Executive or County Committee may be called by a majority of the members of the Executive Committee or County Committee, respectively, or by a majority of the officers. At least three (3) days' notice shall be given of the date, place, time and purpose of the special meeting.

Section 4. Notice shall be given to all party members of meetings and events in the form of a quarterly calendar. Notice may be given by mail, fax, hand-delivery, or email. An exception may be made when the rules of the Michigan Democratic Party state otherwise.

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), which shall be Parliamentarian's guide for all matters not covered in the By-laws of the organization.

## **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 nominees for countywide office and the county commission, and State House, State Senate and U.S. House whose districts include all or part of the county. The County Convention shall elect the balance of the Executive Committee which shall consist of twice the number of automatic members. Each even-numbered year within twenty (20) days following 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. If a vacancy occurs in the position of delegate-elected member of the Executive Committee, the remaining delegate-elected members fill the vacancy. The Executive Committee may fill a vacancy in any of its offices. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly at a regularly scheduled meeting and shall keep minutes of all meetings which shall be available to all Party members at quarterly County Committee meetings.

Section 2. Officers shall be selected 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.

Section 3. Within forty-five (45) days of January 1 of each odd-numbered year the Executive Committee determines the membership of the County Committee. The County Committee can elect additional officers who in its judgment are proper to carry out the purposes of the County Committee, and can 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 4. 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 5. 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 6. 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 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 7. 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 one 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 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. All expenditures in excess of \$300 shall be approved by votes of the Executive Committee.

Section 8. The Executive Committee shall review all requests for endorsement by the party for candidates or those seeking appointments. There shall be no endorsements during the primary election cycle, when more than (1) candidate is running. The Executive Committee may endorse candidates nominated during the State Party Fall Convention, by a simple majority vote of those present.

## **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. Such chairpersons may be deemed as Vice-Chairs of the Executive Committee by a majority vote and may participate in Officers' Meetings.

Section 2. Standing Committees shall include the following:

1. Rules, and Bylaws, and Resolutions Committee
2. Finance/Fund-raising Committee
3. Strategy and Candidate Recruitment Committee
4. Communications Committee
5. Membership Committee

These committees shall include the appropriate subcommittees. The Chairperson of the County Party shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees.

Section 3. Proposed resolutions shall require a motion and a second to be referred to the Rules, Bylaws, and Resolutions Committee. The committee shall have up to 30 days to review the proposal(s) and report its recommendation(s) to the next Executive Committee meeting following its completed review.

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

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

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests
4. Minutes of Past Meeting
5. Financial Report
6. Committee Reports
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Next Meeting Date
10. Good and Welfare
11. Adjournment

### **ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Proposals for changes or amendments to these bylaws shall be presented in writing to the Officers Committee by an officer or a member of the Executive Committee. The proposed amendments shall first be referred to the Rules, Bylaws, and Resolutions Committee at the next regular Executive Committee meeting or special meeting called for that purpose. The Rules, Bylaws, and Resolutions Committee shall report its recommendations to the next regular Executive 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 Livingston County Democratic Committee, present and seated, provided that written notice by e-mail, fax, mail, or hand delivery 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 or the appropriate laws of the State of Michigan.

Adopted this date: Oct. 22, 2015\_\_\_\_\_

Attested to by:\_\_\_\_\_ Chair, Livingston County Democratic Party