

Macomb County Democratic Committee

By-Laws *As Approved: November 15, 2015*

Article 1. NAME AND MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Macomb County Democratic Committee.

Section 2. The Macomb County Democratic Committee shall be a nonprofit organization and shall be the official parent body for Macomb County Democratic activities. The County Committee shall consist of the duly elected officers, the Macomb County Democratic Executive Committee, the Congressional Committees whose districts include part of Macomb County, properly affiliated local organizations, all Democratic officeholders whose districts include part of Macomb County, all dues-paying members of the Michigan Democratic Party residing in Macomb County and all duly elected Democratic precinct delegates in Macomb County.

Article 2. PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the County Committee is to promote the current philosophy of the Democratic Party at the national, state and local levels and to aid and coordinate this activity through united action within Macomb County. Three objectives are primary:

- A. Electing and appointing Democrats to public offices;
- B. Raising resources; and,
- C. Increasing membership.

Section 2. All candidates in Democratic primary elections shall be offered equal opportunity to appear before an official session of the County Committee. This section shall not be construed so as to inhibit any member of the County Committee from exercising his or her inherent right to participate in the primary elections according to the dictates of his or her conscience. The County Committee shall not make endorsements except:

- A. When only one candidate is listed on the Democratic primary ballot for a particular office, or
- B. When a candidate is seeking support in a contested primary, such candidate requires a positive recommendation by the officers of the MCDC, followed by an affirmative vote by 75 % of the Executive Committee present and voting.

Section 3. When a candidate is seeking support for a non-partisan elected office,

- A. The screening committee, composed of the officers of the Macomb County Democratic Committee, must approve the endorsement by a majority vote of at least 60% of those present and voting. If approved, the recommendation to endorse shall be forwarded to the Macomb County Executive Committee.
- B. The Macomb County Democratic Executive Committee must then, by a majority vote of at least 60% of those present and voting, approve the endorsement.

Article 3. ORGANIZATION

Section 1. This organization shall be affiliated with the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee.

Section 2. No local organization shall use the name of the Democratic Party until it has complied with all rules and policies of the County Committee and has received a certificate of affiliation. Local organizations shall take no action conflicting with the principles and policies of the County Committee. Further, local organizations shall provide membership lists with names, addresses and telephone numbers to the County Committee.

Section 3. Only one official Charter shall be issued to any township, city or village club both existing or to be established. Charters shall be recommended by the County Officers, subject to approval of the Executive Committee. If found to be proper, a Charter shall be issued to the Club. The Charter may be revised, suspended, or revoked at any time for just cause after proper hearings by the Officers of the County Committee, subject to approval of the Executive Committee.

Article 4. OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers shall consist of a Chairperson, an Executive Vice Chairperson of the opposite gender of the Chairperson (plus other Vice-Chairpersons as may be elected by the Executive Committee), a Secretary and a Treasurer duly elected by the Executive Committee at the fall Macomb County Democratic Convention every two years.

Section 2. The duties of the Officers shall be as follows:

- A. The Chairperson shall cause to be issued the call for all regular or special meetings of the County Committee and the Executive Committee and shall preside at such meetings
- B. The Executive Vice-Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson in his or her duties. In the event of the absence of the Chairperson, the Executive Vice-Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson.
- C. The Treasurer shall receive from every proper source all such monies or other assets duly creditable to this organization, make authorized disbursements, deposits or dispositions of said assets and keep an accurate, comprehensive account of all such transactions. The Treasurer shall submit a report at least quarterly to the Executive Committee and the County Committee, with copies furnished to the Secretary. The Treasurer shall prepare or oversee the preparation of and submit to the proper authorities all other reports as required by federal and state campaign law.

The Treasurer shall cause the books of the County Committee to be audited at least annually. The books shall consist of all accounts currently open and held in the name of the County Committee. The audit shall be conducted by three members of the Executive Committee who are not officers of the MCDC, appointed by the officers, who shall report back their findings at a meeting of the Executive Committee in the First Quarter of the year. Any group of members of the Macomb County Democratic Committee may appeal the results of the audit to the State Democratic Party by filing a petition containing the signatures of at least five (5) persons. The State Party Chair, following the rules, procedures, and timelines detailed for the MFP Appeals Committee, shall cause the books of the County Committee to be audited.

- D. The Secretary shall keep minutes of each meeting of the County Committee and of the Executive Committee properly dated and in

chronological order, and shall report to the County Committee and the Executive Committee all correspondence pertinent to this organization either received or sent, and when so directed, to note its disposition and keep on file.

Article 5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of all Democratic nominees in the most recent election for state and county offices, whose districts were located in part of Macomb County and twice the number of individuals elected and seated at the fall Macomb County Democratic Convention every two years.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall have all of the powers and perform all of the duties of the County Committee, including the filling of vacancies and nominations as prescribed by law. The Executive Committee may delegate any or all of its powers and duties as it deems proper.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall submit all actions to the County Committee at its next meeting for consideration. If the County Committee disapproves of an Executive Committee action by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at an official session, such action shall be reconsidered by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

Section 4. Any vacancy of an Executive Committee position can be filled by a vote of the Executive Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting

Article 6. COMMITTEES

Section 1. In order to guide the efforts of the County Committee toward the highest achievement of their intent and purpose the County Committee Chairperson may appoint and dissolve committees as needed with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Article 7. MEETINGS

Section 1. The County Committee and the Executive Committee shall meet not less than quarterly. The Chairperson may call special meetings of the County Committee and the Executive Committee at his or her discretion (proper notice time). The Executive Committee may call

special meetings of the County Committee as deemed necessary. Further, upon petition of twenty-five members of the Executive Committee, the County Chairperson shall call a meeting of the Executive Committee (within what time frame). Twenty-five persons shall constitute a quorum for conducting business by the Executive Committee and fifty persons a quorum by the County Committee.

Section 2. Committees shall meet at the discretion of the respective Chairperson or at the request of the County Chairperson or by direction in official session of the County Committee or the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The County Chairperson shall issue or cause to be issued over his or her name written notice by mail, telegram, fax or email of all meetings of the County Committee and the Executive Committee, stating matters of interest, designating time and place of said meetings, to each member of the organization not less than five days prior to such meetings.

Section 4. Meetings of the County Committee and the Executive Committee shall be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order consistent with the By-laws and Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Article 8. FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Section 1. Financial obligations must be discharged in accordance with the Budget adopted by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. All disbursements shall be paid by check, signed by any two of the following three Officers: Treasurer, Chairperson or Executive Vice-Chairperson. Further, each of the three named Officers shall be bonded for the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars per person.

Article 9. RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS

Section 1. These By-Laws shall be in full force and effect upon their adoption by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and seated at a meeting of the Executive Committee, and shall supersede all previous By-Laws.

Section 2. These By-Laws may be amended by presenting such proposal, in writing, at a meeting of the Executive Committee and referring the proposal to the By-Laws Committee. The By-Laws Committee shall present their recommendation, in writing, for action at the next meeting

of the Executive Committee. A two-thirds majority vote of members seated shall be necessary to adopt a change in the By-Laws.

Article 10. DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Upon dissolution of the Macomb County Democratic Committee, all assets and real and personal property shall revert to the parent organization.

Macomb County Democratic Committee - ByLaws Committee

Julie Matuzak, Chairperson

Carole Bannister

Nick Ciaramitaro

Warren Danford

Susan Doherty

Paul Kelliker

Joyce Lalonde

Judy Strong

Submitted:

Edward A. Bruley, Chairperson, November 15, 2015