

MANISTEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME AND COMPONENTS

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Manistee County Democratic Party. It shall consist of any member who is enrolled as a member and any member of the Michigan Democratic Party residing in or representing Manistee County. This group shall also be known as the General Membership.

Section 2. The Manistee County Democratic Party shall organize various types of meetings to carry out its duties on its own behalf and as the local branch of the Michigan Democratic Party.

- A. The Manistee County Democratic Party shall organize county conventions on behalf of the Michigan Democratic Party. Such conventions shall be called in accordance with the requests and requirements of the Michigan Democratic Party. Voting at county conventions shall be limited to those deemed eligible by the Michigan Democratic Party.
- B. Members of the **County Committee** of the Manistee County Democratic Party shall be elected at a County Convention.
- C. The County Committee of the Manistee County Democratic Party shall consist of the most recent Democratic nominees for countywide office and the most recent Democratic nominees for Manistee County Board of Commissioners, State House, State Senate and the US. Congress. These shall be called the mandatory members. The County Committee shall also have twice the number of mandatory members selected from members of the Michigan Democratic Party.
- D. The primary purpose of the County Committee shall be to elect the officers of the Manistee County Democratic Party.
- E. The Executive Board of the Manistee County Democratic Party shall consist of the Chair, Past Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Additionally other members shall include chairs of committees as appointed by the chair with consent of a majority of the other officers. The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the chair or on the request of at least three other members of the Executive Board. The Executive Board has the authority to carry out the business and duties of the Manistee County Democratic Party between meetings of the General Membership.
- F. The General Membership shall meet at least quarterly as determined by the General Membership or at the call of the Chair. The General Membership shall be the governing body of the Manistee Democratic Party.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of Manistee 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 Manistee County Democratic Party shall be a non-profit organization and upon its dissolution, all assets and real and personal property of the Party 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 Manistee 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, gender identity, physical appearance or disability.

Section 2. No tests for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Manistee County Democratic Party shall be required or used which has 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, gender identity, physical appearance or disability.

Section 3. The time and place for all public meetings of the Manistee 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 Manistee 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, gender identity, physical appearance or disability.

Section 5. The Manistee 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 Manistee 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 Manistee County Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedure in time to

participate in each selection procedures at all levels of the Manistee County Democratic Party organization.

Section 6. The Manistee 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 Manistee 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 Manistee County Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.

Section 7. All rules and bylaws of the Manistee 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 Manistee County Democratic Party.

Section 8. No rule shall be adopted at any level of the Manistee County Democratic Party, which would require a person to cast a vote or be recorded as voting contrary to that person's judgment.

Section 9. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Manistee County Democratic Party shall be of another gender.

Section 10. Votes shall not be taken by secret ballot at any meeting of the Manistee County Democratic Party at any level except for the Annual Don Jennings Award Winner.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Manistee County Democratic Party will enroll individuals who wish to join as members. The Treasurer and the Membership Chair shall maintain a list of enrolled members.

Section 2. Precinct delegates shall be apportioned and selected in accordance with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Section 3. The County Committee shall select the Officers of the Manistee County Democratic Party in accordance with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings of the Manistee County Executive Board may be called by the Chair or three members of the Executive Board 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, email or posting on the Manistee County Democratic Party Website. A quorum shall exist at an Executive Board meeting

when a majority of the Executive Board members are present.

Section 2. The full Manistee General Membership Meeting may meet to review the activities of the Executive Board. At least five (5) days' notice shall be given of the date, time and place of the meeting. Notice may be given by mail, email or by posting on the Manistee County Democratic Party Website.

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 AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. Each even-numbered year within twenty (20) days following the November election, the County Convention shall convene at the call of the county chairperson for the purpose of electing the Executive Board.

Section 2- The Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members by the September General Membership Meeting in each even-numbered year. Officers shall be selected in accordance with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Section 3. The Executive Board has the powers to conduct business on a routine basis between meetings of the General Membership.

Section 4. The Chairperson shall preside at all Conventions, County Committee, Executive Board and General Membership 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 another gender 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 Conventions, County Committee, Executive Board and General Membership 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 to the Conventions, Executive Board, Executive Operating Board and General Membership 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 Board. The funds of this organization shall be deposited in a financial institution and shall be drawn

upon only by checks signed by any of the following officers: Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Treasurer shall make financial reports to the Executive Board and shall make them to all General Membership 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.

Section 8. Removal: The Executive Board may remove any Officer or Committee Chair for cause by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board present, at any regular or special meeting of the Board, provided that a statement of the reason or reasons shall have been mailed by Registered Mail to the Officer or Director proposed for removal at least thirty (30) days before any final action is taken by the Board. This statement shall be accompanied by a notice of the time when, and the place where, the Board is to take action on the removal. The Officer or Chair shall be given an opportunity to be heard and the matter considered by the Board at the time and place mentioned in the notice.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Chairperson may appoint the committees and committee chairpersons necessary for the work of the organization.

The Chairperson of the County Party shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

ARTICLE-VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposals for changes or amendments to these bylaws shall first be referred to the Executive Board, which shall report its recommendations to the next regular General Membership 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 Manistee County General Membership, present at a 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 the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Gary Madden, Chairperson

August 16, 2018 _____
date