

ONTONAGON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME

This organization shall be known as the Ontonagon County Democratic Party. It shall consist of the members of the Michigan Democratic Party and all duly elected Democratic precinct delegates residing in Ontonagon County. All members must be up-to-date dues paying members, in accordance with the dues structure required by the Michigan Democratic Party, and at least 18 years of age.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Ontonagon 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 Ontonagon County Democratic Party shall be a non-profit organization and upon its dissolution, all assets and real 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, or a contribution for electing Democratic members to office if approved by the Ontonagon County Democratic Party membership.

ARTICLE III. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Section 1 All meetings of the Ontonagon County Democratic Party shall be open to all members of the Ontonagon County 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, nor any oaths of loyalty to the Ontonagon 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 meetings of the Ontonagon County Democratic Party 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 Ontonagon County Democratic Party 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. All members of the Ontonagon County Democratic Party shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner as to not bring reproach on the Democratic Party at all levels.

Section 5 The Ontonagon County Democratic Party shall publicize fully, and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties, the procedures for selection of Ontonagon County Democratic Party officers and representatives. Publication of those procedures shall be done in such a fashion that all prospective and current members of the Ontonagon County Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedure in time to participate in each selection procedure of the Ontonagon County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

All members must be a paid member for at least 30 days to vote or otherwise participate in any Ontonagon County Democratic Party election.

Section 1 Precinct delegates shall be apportioned and selected in accordance with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and shall be automatic delegates to the Michigan Democratic State Convention. Any delegate to the State Convention will be responsible for all of his/her own expenses. If a delegate registration fee is required the membership may, by majority vote, authorize payment of such registration fee on behalf of the delegate if he or she is a paid member of the Ontonagon County Democratic Party. The Corresponding Secretary shall advise the Michigan Democratic Party as to the number and identity of all delegates who will be attending the State Convention.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Section 1 Officers and Executive Board members shall be elected in a fair and equitable manner. The Ontonagon County Democratic Party Chairperson shall call a meeting within 20 days of the November Election to elect the officers and executive board members. The officers and board members shall consist of the following:

1. Chairperson – Opposite sex of the Vice-chairperson
2. First Vice-chairperson – Opposite sex of the Chairperson
3. Second Vice-chairperson – either gender
4. Recording Secretary
5. Corresponding Secretary – may be the same person as Recording Secretary
6. Treasurer
7. Trustees – Three

All terms of office shall be for a two-year period. By a majority vote of the membership, the above listed officers and executive board positions may be expanded or reduced to more efficiently carry out the objectives of the Ontonagon County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE VI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Section 1 The Chairperson shall preside at all County membership meetings and all Executive Board meetings and shall have such other duties as are usual to the office of County Chairperson, or that may be required by this organization.

Section 2 The First Vice-chairperson shall be a member of the opposite sex from the Chairperson. The First 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 3 The Second Vice-chairperson shall assist the Chairperson in the discharge of his/her duties, and shall temporarily assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chairperson if both the First Vice-chairperson and the Chairperson are absent.

Section 4 The Recording Secretary of this organization shall keep an accurate record and minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the membership and Executive Board of the Ontonagon County Democratic Party. S/he shall keep and preserve all books, documents, correspondence, records, minutes, effects, and any other property of this organization. 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. S/he shall see that proper notification of all meetings is given to the Executive Board and Ontonagon County Democratic Party membership.

Section 5 The corresponding Secretary shall be responsible to issue press releases and to send correspondence as directed by the Chairperson and the Ontonagon County Democratic Party's membership.

Section 6 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial receipts and disbursements of this organization subject to the approval of the membership. The funds of this organization shall be deposited in banks and shall be drawn upon only by checks signed by any two of the following officers: Chairperson, Recording Secretary, Treasurer or two other designated officers. The Treasurer shall make financial reports to the membership at 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 7 The Trustees will be responsible to carry out all appropriate assignments issued by the Chairperson and the party's membership. Each Trustee must serve on at least one standing committee. In the event an audit becomes necessary; such audit will be conducted by the three (3) trustees.

Section 8 Any officer or executive board member who is absent in excess of three (3) meetings in one calendar year without being excused by the membership may be removed from office by a majority vote of the membership. Any vacancy will be filled at the next party membership meeting after notification is made to the membership of such existing vacancy.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

Section 1 The Chairperson, subject to the approval of the majority of the Membership, shall appoint all standing committees and the committee chairpersons necessary to carry out the duties of the committees. The Party Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the Nominating Committee.

Section 2 Standing Committees shall include the following:

1. Rules and Bylaws Committee
2. Finance Committee
3. Policy and Resolutions Committee
4. Campaign Committee
5. Veteran's Affairs Committee
6. Labor Liaison Committee

The membership, by a majority vote, may add any additional committees that they deem necessary to carry out the objectives of the Ontonagon County Democratic Party. The committees will from time to time report back to the membership regarding their activities.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1 The regular meetings of the Ontonagon County Democratic 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 the meeting. Notice may be given by newspaper, mail, telephone, fax, text, or email. A quorum shall exist at an Ontonagon County Democratic Party meeting when a total of ten percent (10%) of the Ontonagon County Democratic Party members are present at the meeting.

Section 2 Special meetings of the Executive Board (comprised of the Chairperson, Vice-chairpersons, Secretaries, Treasurer, and Trustees) may be called by the Chairman or a majority of the members of the Executive Board. Adequate notice of the date, place, time, and purpose of the special meeting will be given to all Executive Board members by mail, telephone, fax, text, or email. If immediate action is required on behalf of the Ontonagon County Democratic Party, the Executive Board may vote via phone, fax, text, or email to facilitate the business of the party. Any action taken by the Executive Board between regular membership meetings shall be brought to the membership for a ratification vote at the next regular meeting. Any financial action by the Executive Board shall not exceed \$200.

Section 3 Subject to the rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and these bylaws, all meetings will be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE IX. ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES AND CONVENTION

If two or more members of the Ontonagon County Democratic Party are running for the same political office in the democratic primary election in Ontonagon County, the party will remain neutral during said primary election. Individual members may support the primary candidate of their personal choice.

During the Democratic Primary Election, the party shall endorse only candidates who are members of the Ontonagon County Democratic Party. Likewise, in the general election the Ontonagon County Democratic Party will only endorse candidates who are members of the Ontonagon County Democratic Party. This section does not apply to federal, state, or non-partisan candidates.

All state, county, and district conventions will be held in accordance with Michigan Democratic Party rules and regulations.

ARTICLE X. ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

1. Roll call of officers
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Minutes of the previous meeting (including Executive Board minutes, if appropriate) by the Recording Secretary
4. Reports of officers:
 - a. Treasurer, financial report
 - b. Corresponding secretary, correspondence
5. Reports of committees
6. Unfinished business
7. Postponed business
8. New Business
9. Set time, date, and place of next meeting
10. Adjournment

By a vote of the majority of members present, the order of business may be changed or postponed at any regular membership meeting to accommodate the desires of the membership.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

Section 1 Proposals for changes or amendments to these bylaws shall first be referred to the Rules and Bylaws Committee which shall report its recommendations to the next regular Ontonagon County Democratic Party meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.

Section 2 These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the members of the Ontonagon County Democratic Party present at a meeting, provided that written notice setting forth the proposed amendment has been given to all party members 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.

Presented by the Ontonagon County Democratic Party by-laws committee for adoption July 17, 2012.