

Oceana County Democratic Party Bylaws

ARTICLE I. NAME

The organization shall be known as the Oceana County Democratic Party, also known as the Oceana County Democratic Committee.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Oceana 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.

ARTICLE III. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Section 1. All public meetings of the Oceana County Democratic 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 test for membership in nor any oath of loyalty to the Oceana 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, 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 Oceana County Democratic Party shall be publicized fully and in such a manner as to ensure 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 Oceana County Democratic Party shall support the broadest possible participation without discrimination on grounds of actual or perceived race, color, creed, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance, or disability.

Section 5. The Oceana County Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such manner as to ensure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Oceana 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 Oceana County Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedure in time to participate in each selection procedure of the Oceana County Democratic Party organization.

Section 6. The Oceana County Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such manner as to ensure notice to all interested parties a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications for all officers and representatives of the Oceana 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 Oceana 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.

Section 8. All rules and bylaws of the Oceana County Democratic Party shall be consistent with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and shall be available on request in writing to any member of the Oceana County Democratic Party.

Section 9. The unit rule is prohibited in the Oceana County Democratic Party.

Section 10. No rule shall be adopted by the Oceana 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 Oceana County Democratic Party shall be of the opposite sex.

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

Section 14. 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 IV. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Oceana County Democratic Party shall consist of all members of the Michigan Democratic Party residing in Oceana County, all duly elected Democratic Precinct Delegates residing in Oceana County, and everyone residing in Oceana county 16 years of age

or older who wishes to be a member of record of the Oceana County Democratic Party. A membership of record is established by providing contact information to the officers of the Oceana County Democratic Party; however, a member of record in the Oceana County Democratic Party will not have voting privileges in the Oceana County Democratic Party unless they are a member of the Michigan Democratic Party.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1. The regular meetings of the Oceana County Democratic Party shall be on the same day of each month (e.g. the first Tuesday of each month) at a location and at a time designated in a meeting notice. At least 5 days' notice shall be given of the date, time and place of the meeting. Notice may be given by mail, phone, fax, or email or other forms of electronic communication.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Oceana County Democratic Party may be called by the officers of the Oceana County Democratic Party or by ten members of record. At least 5 days' notice shall be given of the date, place, time, and purpose of the special meeting.

Section 3. Subject to the rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and these Bylaws, all meeting shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order (latest edition).

Section 4. At the monthly party meetings, the order of business of the organization shall proceed in the following order:

1. Roll call of officers and self-introduction of members present
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Introduction and presentations of invited guests
4. Minutes of the previous meeting
5. Reports of the officers
 - a. Chair
 - b. Vice Chair
 - c. Treasurer (financial report)
 - d. Secretary (correspondence)
6. Reports of committees
7. Unfinished business
8. Postponed business
9. New business
10. Adjournment

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS AND COUNTY COMMITTEES

Section 1. Officers of the Oceana County Democratic Party shall be selected in accordance with the rules of the Michigan Democratic Party within 30 days of the November election in even numbered years. 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 the Oceana County Democratic Party. Officers shall have 2-year terms and be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the monthly party meeting who have voting privileges.

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

Section 3. 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 4. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record and minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the County Party. He/she will keep and preserve all the books, documents, correspondence, records, minutes, effects, and any another 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 participants of County Party meetings.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial receipts and disbursements of the Oceana County Democratic Party subject to the approval of the officers of the Party. The funds of this organization shall be deposited in banks and shall be drawn upon only by checks signed by one of two designated signers, one of which is the treasurer and the second to be one of the other officers designated yearly by consensus of all of those officers. The Treasurer shall make financial reports at all County Party 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 6. Precinct delegates shall be apportioned and selected in accordance with the rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Section 7. The Officers of the Oceana County Democratic Party shall be selected in accordance with the rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and must be members of the Michigan Democratic Party.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

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

Section 2. Committees could include the following and could be permanent or for a designated period:

1. Nominating Committee
2. Rules and Bylaws Committee
3. Finance Committee
4. Candidate Recruitment Committee
5. Political Organizing Committee
6. Communications Committee
7. Policy and Resolutions Committee
8. Campaign Committee
9. Ad Hoc Committees

Section 3. The Chairperson of the County Party shall be an ex-officio member of any committee.

ARTICLE VIII. 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 County Party 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 Oceana County Democratic Party present at a meeting who have voting privileges, provided that written notice setting forth the proposed amendments 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 IX. DISSOLUTION

The Oceana County Democratic Party, upon its dissolution, shall distribute all assets and real and personal property of the Party and its committees to the benefit of the Michigan Democratic Party once all financial obligations have been met.

Adopted by vote of the Oceana County Democratic Party on Aug. 3, 2021 in Pentwater, MI, Oceana County.

Chair: Janet Schultz