

**BYLAWS  
OF  
THE  
MISSAUKEE COUNTY**



**ADOPTED  
MAY 4, 2021**

# **BYLAWS OF THE MISSAUKEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

## **INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Missaukee County occupies the ancestral, traditional and contemporary lands of indigenous peoples. The Missaukee County Democratic Party recognizes the Anishinaabek of the Three Fires Confederacy, the Ojibwe (Chippewa), the Odawa (Ottawa), and the Bode'wadmi (Potawatomi); historic indigenous communities in Michigan; and those who were forcibly removed from their homelands. Missaukee County occupies land ceded in the 1836 Washington Treaty. In offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm our dedication to support all indigenous people in their pursuit toward equity and redress of past aggression and grievances. We further recognize the ongoing relationship of dependence upon and respect for all living beings of earth, sky, and water.

### **Section 1. NAME**

- 1.1. This organization is known as the Missaukee County Democratic Party (MCDP) also known in the campaign finance documents as the Missaukee County Democratic Committee.

### **Section 2. PURPOSE**

- 2.1. The MCDP promotes the philosophy of the Michigan Democratic Party and works to elect Democrats who support that philosophy. Further, it unites and aids the activities of precinct delegates, committees, candidates, and other Democrats working to promote wide and active participation in the Michigan Democratic Party.
- 2.2. The MCDP is a non-profit organization and upon its dissolution, its assets and real and personal property revert to the benefit of the Michigan Democratic Party. The income or assets of the MCDP must not inure to benefit any individual except when the MCDP approves either the reimbursement of actual expenses, reasonable compensation for services, or a contribution for electing a member to office.

### **Section 3. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES**

- 3.1. The MCDP, 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.

- 3.2. All rules and bylaws of the MCDP 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 MCDP.
- 3.3. No rule shall be adopted at any level of the MCDP, which would require a person to cast a vote or be recorded as voting contrary to that person's judgment.
- 3.4. The MCDP is committed to respect, transparency, collaboration and accountability. We will communicate openly and respectfully with members and others, and will consider in all our actions that our behavior as an organization will be a reflection on Democrats in our community.

#### **Section 4. MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1. Michigan Democratic Party members who reside in Missaukee County, Michigan are members of the MCDP. Michigan Democratic Party membership requirements are in the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party, Article 3.1
- 4.2. Members are entitled to participate in MCDP activities. The rights not reserved to precinct delegates, officers, or committee members by law, party rules, or these bylaws are vested in the membership.
- 4.3. A current membership list will be shared with members of the county committee as well as any members involved in membership-related activities of the MCDP at the discretion of the chair.

#### **Section 5. MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS**

- 5.1. **Regular Meetings:** The regular membership meeting of the Missaukee County Democratic Party shall be determined by the county committee with as much notice as is practicable. If conditions do not warrant an in-person meeting, the regular membership meeting may be virtual. Meetings will be canceled due to inclement weather when public buildings are closed.
- 5.2. **Special Meetings:** The Chair may call special meetings of the County Committee or Membership. Three (3) days notice shall be given informing members of the place, time and purpose of the meeting.
- 5.3. **County Conventions:** An MCDP *party convention* is different from a regular meeting. The County Committee calls for a convention of members for such purposes, as passage of members' resolutions,

and the election or removal of Officers. All convention attending members of MCDP can participate and vote at a county convention. Notice and date of conventions shall be sent to all members. The notice shall include the purpose of a convention and be sent at least 14 days before the convention.

- 5.4. The County Committee may meet informally prior to the general membership meeting for the purpose of developing the agenda for the general meeting.
- 5.5. **Meeting Quorum** : A quorum shall exist at all membership and county committee meetings when a majority of officers are present.
- 5.6. **Robert's Rules of Order:** Subject to these Bylaws all meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, which shall be the Parliamentary Guide for all matters not covered in the Bylaws of this organization.

## **Section 6. OFFICERS AND COUNTY COMMITTEE**

- 6.1. **Election** 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 County Committee. This election will be held in accordance with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.
- 6.2. **Officers**
  - 6.2.1. The **Chair** shall preside at all General Membership meetings, special meetings and county conventions unless otherwise specified in the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.
  - 6.2.2. The **Vice-Chair** shall be a member of another gender from the Chair. The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair in the discharge of his/her duties, and shall temporarily assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chair in his/her absence.
  - 6.2.3. The **Secretary** of this organization shall keep an accurate record and minutes of the proceedings of general membership meetings, special meetings, and county conventions unless otherwise specified in the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.
  - 6.2.4. The **Treasurer** shall be responsible for the financial receipts and disbursements of this organization subject to the approval of the

County Committee. The funds of this organization shall be deposited in a financial institution and shall be drawn upon only by checks signed by two officers, to include the Treasurer and ] either the Chair or Vice-Chair. The Treasurer shall make financial reports to the County Committee and shall make them to all General Membership meetings.

- 6.2.5. The officers of the County Committee have the powers to conduct business on a routine basis between meetings of the General Membership.
- 6.2.6. When a new officer is elected to any position, the previous occupant of that position will immediately turn over all records and materials relevant to the position. This includes credentials (passwords, etc) to any official accounts (e.g. websites, bank accounts, email, social media, etc.)
- 6.2.7. **Removal:** The county committee may remove any member of the county committee for cause by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the County Committee present, at any regular or special meeting of the Board, provided that reasonable efforts have been made to rectify the problem leading to the removal.

## **Section 7. STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- 7.1. The Chair may appoint committees and committee chairpersons necessary for the work of the organization, provided all members of the committee are MCDP members in good standing. The Chair of the County Party shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

## **Section 8. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- 8.1. General membership meetings and meetings of the County Committee will proceed as follows:
  - I. Call to Order
  - II. Indigenous Land Acknowledgment
  - III. Pledge to the Flag
  - IV. Approval of Agenda
  - IV. Secretary's Report
  - V. Treasurer's Report
  - VI. Chair's Report
  - VII. Unfinished Business

- VIII. New Business
- IX. Good and Welfare
- X. Adjourn

**Section 9. AMENDMENTS**

- 9.1.** Amendments to these Bylaws shall first be referred to an appropriate committee by the county chair. The committee shall consider the amendment and report its recommendation at a general membership meeting.
- 9.2.** These Bylaws may be amended by a two thirds vote of the Missaukee County Democratic Party, present and seated provided that written notice setting forth the proposed amendment has been given to all party members at the time of the meeting notice.