

THE DICKINSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

P. O. BOX 204

IRON MOUNTAIN, MI 49801

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME

This organization shall be known as the Dickinson County Democratic Party (DCDP). It shall consist of the Dickinson County Executive Committee, the Dickinson County Committee, and all members of the Michigan Democratic Party and all duly elected Democratic precinct delegates residing in Dickinson County.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of the DCDP is: (a) to promote the philosophy of the Democratic Party; (b) to recruit and help elect Democratic candidates who support this philosophy; and (c) to work for equal opportunity for access and full participation of all elements of society in all political and governmental processes.

ARTICLE III – FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES & POLICY

Section 1. All meetings of the Dickinson County Committee shall be open to the public 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. However, the Dickinson County Committee may hold meetings limited to Dickinson County Democratic Party membership in cases where confidential consideration of party strategy is necessary.

Section 2. No tests for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the DCDP shall be required or used including those which have the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the DCDP 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 DCDP 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 DCDP 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 for DCDP officers and representatives, and qualifications for the same. Publication of these procedures shall be done in such a fashion that prospective and current members and prospective candidates or applicants will be fully informed of the pertinent procedures and to compete for office.

Section 5. All rules and bylaws of the DCDP at all levels shall be consistent with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) and shall be available on request in writing to any member of the DCDP.

Section 6. No rule shall be adopted by the DCDP that would require any person to cast a vote or be recorded as voting contrary to that person's judgement. The Unit Rule (the practice of a unit reporting a unanimous vote when the vote within that unit was not unanimous) shall be prohibited.

Section 7. On all questions of procedure not resolved by the Rules of the MDP or these bylaws, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used.

Section 8. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of any unit, Committee, Caucus, or Convention of the DCDP shall be of the opposite sex.

Section 9. No votes shall be taken by secret ballot at any meeting of the DCDP at any level.

Section 10. Dues for DCDP membership shall be \$10.00 (ten dollars) per calendar year.

ARTICLE IV –COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Section 1. Membership of the Dickinson County Democratic Party shall consist of all the following: (a) the Dickinson County Democratic precinct delegates elected at the most recent primary election; (b) the members of the Dickinson County Executive Committee; (c) registered voters who reside in Dickinson County and who are members of the Michigan Democratic Party; and (d) registered voters who reside in Dickinson County and who are members of the Dickinson County Democratic Party if such membership has been established. (Article III, Section 10).

Section 2. A member of the County Committee shall cease to be a member if he/she meets none of the membership requirements given in Section 1.

ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Section 1. Each even-numbered year within twenty (20) days following the November general election a County Convention shall convene at the call of the county chairperson for the purpose of electing the Dickinson County Executive Committee. One third (1/3) of the Dickinson County Executive Committee shall automatically consist of the candidates from the most recent primary election for County, State Legislative and U.S. House of Representatives. The balance of the Executive Committee, two thirds (2/3) will consist of twice the number of automatic members.

Section 2. If a vacancy shall occur in an appointed position on the Executive Committee when the person holding that position should die, decline to serve, or move, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall be notified that a replacement will be elected at a meeting of the Executive Committee called by the chairperson of the County Committee. The replacement will be elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting at that meeting.

Section 3. A vacancy shall occur in a candidate position on the Executive Committee when the person holding that office dies, resigns from the office for which he/she was nominated, or declines to serve. The number of members on the Executive Committee shall be reduced by one (1) until the succeeding primary election.

Section 4. The members of the Executive Committee may vote to expand the membership of the Executive Committee. These rules encourage the expansion of the Committee for the purpose of achieving more participation and representation.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section 1. Within thirty (30) days following the convening of the County Convention, the Dickinson County Executive Committee shall meet. The purpose of this meeting is to elect the officers of the DCDP, who shall serve for the next two (2) years commencing on January 1 of the next year. The officers shall be a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 2. The duties of the Officers are as follows:

- a. Chairperson: The Chairperson shall preside at all Executive and County meetings and have such duties as are usual to the office of County Chairperson, or that may be required by this organization. The Chairperson shall be empowered to call special meetings.
- b. Vice-Chairperson: The Vice-Chairperson shall be a member of the opposite 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.
- c. Secretary: The Secretary of this organization shall keep an accurate record and minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Executive Committee and County Committee. The Secretary 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 their tenure of office.
- d. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial receipts and disbursements of this organization. The funds of this organization shall be deposited in a bank and shall be drawn upon only by checks signed by any two of the following officers: Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Treasurer shall submit a financial report at regular committee 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 their tenure in office.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall have the right to elect additional officers which in its judgement are proper to carry out the purposes of the Executive Committee, and shall have power to fill a vacancy which may occur in the membership of the Executive Committee or in any of its additional offices.

Section 4. Any officer absent two (2) consecutive monthly meetings, without notifying another officer (to be excused for a legitimate reason) shall be automatically removed from office. An election for that office shall be held the next proceeding month with proper publication of said office, two weeks prior to election.

Section 5. Any officer may be recalled by and/or upon petition to the Executive Committee signed by seven (7) members of the Dickinson County Democratic Party.

Section 6. Any office may be declared vacant by reason of death or removal, or for reasons of gross misconduct by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those members present at any meeting of the Dickinson County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE VII– MEETINGS

Section 1. The Dickinson County Democratic Party shall have regular monthly meetings. The day, time and location of the meeting will be given out seven (7) days prior to the meeting via newspaper, electronic notice, or email.

Section 2. Only members of the DCDP shall be entitled to vote at the meetings of the County Committee. Elected Precinct delegates and members of the Executive Committee are eligible to vote at the meetings of the County Committee. Members of the MDP shall be eligible to vote at the County meetings (thirty-day prior membership).

Section 3. The Dickinson County Executive Committee will meet at the call of the DCDP chairperson. The day, time, location, and purpose of the meeting will be given out three (3) days prior to the meeting via text, electronic notice, or email.

Section 4. Only members of the Dickinson County Executive Committee shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees shall include the following:

1. Rules and Bylaws Committee
2. Finance Committee
3. Candidate Recruitment Committee
4. Political Organizing Committee
5. Communications Committee
6. Policy and Resolutions Committee
7. Community Outreach Committee

Section 2. The Chairs of the Standing Committees and the Members of the standing committees shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the DCDP with a majority approval of the members of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. These committees can include the appropriate subcommittees. The Chairperson of the County Party shall be an ex officio member of all standing committees.

Section 4. Other standing committees and special committees can be created by a majority vote of the appropriate body (Executive or County Committee) with the membership, duties, and terms to be determined at the time that the committee is created.

ARTICLE IX – ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1. The meetings of the Dickinson Committee shall proceed in the following order:

1. Roll call of members and guests.
2. Approval of agenda.

3. Reading and approval of the Secretaries minutes of previous meeting.
4. Reading and approval of the Treasurers previous financial report.
5. Vice-Chairs Reports
6. Chairs Report.
7. Unfinished Business.
8. New business.
9. Good & Welfare.
10. Adjournment.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS AND SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Section 1. Proposals for changes or amendments to these By-Laws must be presented in writing to the Rules committee.

Section 2. The Rules committee shall report its recommendations on proposed changes or amendments in a timely manner to the Executive Committee.

Section 3. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members of Dickinson County Committee, 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 4. 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.

Section 5. Any official endorsement of a Democratic candidate in a primary election or official opposition to any Democratic candidate in a primary election or general election shall require a two-thirds vote of members of the Dickinson County Democratic Party, present and voting at a regular monthly meeting of the County Committee; providing that all members of the Executive Committee were notified in writing or by electronic means at least two-weeks in advance that such an action will be considered at the next regular monthly meeting of the County Committee.

Section 6. The Dickinson County Democratic party shall be a non-profit organization and upon its dissolution, all assets and any 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 if the Party approves, or a contribution for electing a member to office if the Party approves.

Approved This Date:

DECEMBER 9, 2020