TUSCOLA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
BYLAWS

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ARTICLE 1 - NAME

This organization shall be known as the Tuscola County Democratic Party, hereafter referred to as TCDP.

ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE

Section 2.1

The purpose of the TCDP is to promote the principles of the Democratic Party and to elect Democrats to public office.

Section 2.2

The TCDP shall be a political organization. In the event of its dissolution, all assets of the Party shall revert to the benefit of the Michigan Democratic Party. No part of the income or assets of the TCDP shall inure to any of its members except for the reimbursement of actual expenses, reasonable compensation for services if the TCDP approves, or a contribution for electing a member to office if the TCDP approves.

ARTICLE 3 - FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Section 3.1

All meetings of the TCDP shall be open to the public, without discrimination based on 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 TCDP may hold meetings limited to TCDP members in cases where confidential consideration of party strategy is necessary.

Section 3.2

The time and location of all TCDP meetings shall be publicized in a manner that ensures timely notice for all interested individuals. Meetings shall be held in venues that are accessible and sufficient to accommodate all who wish to attend.

Section 3.3

No tests of membership or loyalty oaths shall be required for participation in the TCDP.

Section 3.4

TCDP shall publicize a full description of the qualifications and procedures for the selection of TCDP Officers and representatives. Posting this information on the TCDP website and Facebook page and making it available upon request shall be sufficient.

Section 3.5

Proportional voting shall be used for the election of delegates and alternates to any convention as well as for the election of members of the County Committee and Executive Board.

Section 3.6

Rules governing the TCDP are set forth in these bylaws, which shall be consistent with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party, hereafter referred to as the MDP. A copy of the current bylaws shall be posted on the TCDP website and shall be made available to any person upon written request to the TCDP Secretary. Any revision or amendment to the bylaws adopted by the TCDP shall be submitted by the TCDP Secretary within thirty (30) days to the Corresponding Secretary of the Central Committee of the MDP. The MDP shall maintain a public web page on the MDP website where the current bylaws of the TCDP are posted. No bylaw adopted by the TCDP shall be considered valid unless publicly posted on the MDP website.

Section 3.7

No rule shall be adopted that compels any individual to vote, or be recorded as voting, against that person's own judgment.

Section 3.8

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 3.10

No votes shall be conducted by secret ballot at any meeting of the TCDP.

ARTICLE 4.- MEMBERSHIP

Section 4.1

Membership of the TCDP shall consist of all members of the County Committee and all members of the MDP age 16 or older residing in Tuscola County. A financial contribution is not required to be and to remain a member of the TCDP or the MDP.

Section 4.2

Precinct Delegate positions shall be apportioned and delegates elected in accordance with Michigan law and the Rules of the MDP.

Section 4.3

The County Committee and Officers of the TCDP shall be selected in accordance with the Rules of the MDP and these bylaws.

Section 4.4

To be eligible to vote at any convention or meeting of the TCDP, an individual must be a member of the MDP for at least thirty (30) days prior to the event. Exceptions to this requirement include Precinct Delegates, Democratic elected officials, and Democratic nominees for partisan office. However, these individuals must be members of the MDP at the time of the event to vote. Former MDP members whose membership has lapsed within the thirty (30) days preceding a convention or meeting may renew their membership on the day of the event and then shall be eligible to vote on that date.

Section 4.5

To be elected or appointed to, and to hold any TCDP office, a person must be a member of the MDP for at least thirty (30) days prior to election or appointment and maintain membership during the term of office. If MDP membership lapses while a person holds TCDP office, all rights and privileges of that office are suspended until membership is renewed, at which time all rights and privileges are immediately restored.

ARTICLE 5. - COUNTY COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 5.1 TCDP County Committee

5.1.1. The purpose of the County Committee is to provide leadership for the TCDP and oversee its work.

5.1.2. The County Committee shall consist of both automatic and elected members, as follows.

5.1.2.1 Automatic members shall be the most recent Democratic Party nominees for the Michigan State Senate, the Michigan House of

Representatives, and the United States House of Representatives. If more than one state or federal district lies entirely or partly in Tuscola County, the most recent nominee for each district shall be an automatic member of the TCDP County Committee. Should any automatic member of the County Committee decline to serve, that person's seat shall be counted for purposes of calculating the number of elected members of the County Committee.

5.1.2.2 Elected Members of the TCDP County Committee shall be chosen at a Fall County Convention, which is to be convened in each even-numbered year within twenty (20) days following the November general election. The TCDP Chair shall post a Call to Convention on the TCDP website no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the convention date and shall also notify each TCDP member via email, phone, text message, or postal mail.

At the Fall County Convention, attending members shall elect County Committee members equal to twice the number of automatic members. Those persons, together with the automatic members shall constitute the County Committee of the TCDP. If a vacancy arises in an elected County Committee position, the remaining elected members of the County Committee shall appoint a replacement to fill the vacancy.

Within thirty (30) days following the Fall County Convention, the County Committee shall meet. The TCDP Chair shall send a notice of this meeting to each member of the County Committee by email, phone, text message, or postal mail at least seven (7) days before the date of the meeting. At the meeting, the County Committee shall elect the Officers of the TCDP Executive Board, who shall serve for two (2) years commencing on January 1 next.

Section 5.2 TCDP Executive Board

5.2.1 The purpose of the TCDP Executive Board is to manage the day-to-day operations of the TCDP.

5.2.2 The Officers of the TCDP Executive Board shall be as follows:

5.2.2.1 Chair, who shall convene and preside over all meetings of the County Committee and the Executive Board. The Chair shall perform all duties customary to the office and any additional responsibilities as assigned by these bylaws or the County Committee.

5.2.2.2 Vice Chair, who shall assist the Chair in the execution of duties and shall assume the responsibilities of the Chair in that person's absence or when otherwise delegated. The Vice Chair shall perform additional duties as assigned by the Chair or the County Committee.

5.2.2.3 Secretary, who shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the County Committee, the Executive Board, and the TCDP membership. At each monthly TCDP membership meeting, the Secretary shall read the minutes of the previous meeting. The Secretary shall maintain and preserve all official records, including books, documents, correspondence, and any other materials belonging to the organization. Upon the election of a new Secretary, all records and materials shall be promptly transferred to the successor. The Secretary shall ensure that timely notice of TCDP membership meetings is given to all members.

5.2.2.4 Treasurer, who shall be responsible for managing all financial transactions of the TCDP, including the receipt and disbursement of funds. All funds shall be deposited in authorized financial institutions and may be withdrawn only by checks signed by both the TCDP Chair and the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall provide a financial report at each monthly TCDP membership meeting. The Treasurer shall ensure compliance with all applicable financial reporting requirements under state and federal law, including timely filing with the appropriate election authorities. Upon the election of a new Treasurer, the outgoing Treasurer shall promptly transfer all funds, books, and records to the successor.

5.2.2.5 The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Executive Board shall be of different genders.

5.2.2.6 The Chair of the Executive Board shall appoint members of each standing committee specified in Section 6.2. Members of each committee shall then select a Committee Chair, which shall be subject to the approval by the Executive Board.

5.2.3 A vacancy among the Officers of the Executive Board shall be filled by a majority vote of the Executive Board at a regular or special meeting. Alternatively, the Executive Board may choose to refer the vacancy to the entire TCDP membership, to be filled by a majority vote at a regular meeting.

Section 5.3 - Removal From Office

5.3.1 Any Officer of the Executive Board may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of the County Committee. This vote may occur at the next scheduled County Committee meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

5.3.2 Grounds for removal include failure to fulfill the duties of the office, failure to meet the qualifications required for the office, and public support for a non-Democratic candidate opposing a Democrat endorsed by the TCDP. No Officer shall be removed solely based on that Officer's political opinions,

whether expressed within the TCDP or elsewhere.

5.3.3 A meeting to consider the removal of an Officer may be called by the Chair, the Vice Chair, or by written notice signed by a majority of Executive Board members. Such notice must specify the date, time, and location of the meeting, as well as the specific grounds for the proposed removal and be provided to County Committee members at least ten (10) days in advance.

5.3.4 Any Officer may propose the removal of another Officer during a meeting of the Executive Board. If the motion is seconded and approved by a majority vote, the recommendation shall be added to the agenda of the next County Committee meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose. Both the Officer subject to removal and the Officer who made the motion (or their designees) shall be given the opportunity to speak before the vote is taken.

5.3.5 An Officer shall be automatically removed from office if the Officer's primary residence is no longer in Tuscola County, the Officer's MDP membership has lapsed for more than six (6) months, or the Officer has missed three (3) or more consecutive Executive Board meetings.

5.3.5.1 The Chair shall provide written notice to any Officer who has been automatically removed from the office, stating the reason for the removal and the procedure for requesting reinstatement.

5.3.5.2 Any Officer who has been automatically removed from the office may request reinstatement by submitting a written appeal to the County Committee. The request shall be added to the agenda of the next County Committee meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose. The appeal may be approved by a majority vote of the County Committee. Upon approval, the Officer shall be reinstated.

ARTICLE 6 – COMMITTEES

Section -.6.1 - Ad Hoc Committees

The Executive Board may establish or dissolve ad hoc committees and appoint or remove their Chairs by majority vote.

Section 6.2 - Standing Committees

Standing Committee Chairs appointed under Section 5.2.2.6 shall oversee their corresponding standing committees. The TCDP Chair shall serve as an ex-officio member of all standing committees. Standing Committees shall be as follows:

6.2.1 Rules and Bylaws Committee, which oversees TCDP rules and bylaws and monitors compliance.

6.2.2 – Communications Committee, which manages the TCDP website, the TCDP Facebook page, email blasts, newsletters, press releases, and other

public messages.

6.2.3 – Events Committee, which plans and manages TCDP-sponsored events.

6.2.4 – Finance & Fundraising Committee, which plans and manages TCDP fundraising events, donor outreach, and budget development

6.2.5 - Membership Committee, which recruits new members, tracks membership renewals, engages lapsed members, and keeps data on membership of TCDP members in the MDP.

Section 6.3 - Subcommittees

Each standing committee may form subcommittees or working groups at the discretion of its Chair.

ARTICLE 7 - MEETINGS

Section 7.1 - TCDP County Committee Meetings

The County Committee shall meet at least once every two (2) years as specified in Section 5.1.2.2. The Chair of the TCDP may call special meetings of the County Committee at any time.

Section 7.2 - TCDP Executive Board Meetings

The Executive Board shall meet at least monthly or more often at the discretion of the TCDP Chair.

Section 7.3 - TCDP Membership Meetings

Meetings of the entire TCDP membership shall be held on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at a place designated by the TCDP Chair with an optional social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Section 7.4 - Minutes at Meetings

Minutes shall be taken of all County Committee, Executive Board, and membership meetings and shall be available to all TCDP members upon written request to the TCDP Secretary.

ARTICLE 8 – RESOLUTIONS

Section 8.1 – Definition

A resolution is a formal statement of position by the TCDP.

Section 8.2 – Resolutions at MDP State Convention

Resolutions may be submitted by TCDP for adoption at an MDP State Convention.

The procedure for submitting resolutions to a convention are outlined in the MDP Call to Convention.

Section 8.3 – Resolutions by Committee

Resolutions may be adopted by the TCDP County Committee or Executive Board. Adoption requires a quorum to be present and a simple majority vote.

Section8.4 – Resolutions by Members

Resolutions may be adopted by majority vote at any regular or special meeting of the TCDP members. The full text of any resolution to be considered and notice of an endorsement vote shall be sent to all TCDP members at least two (2) weeks before the meeting.

ARTICLE 9 – ENDORSEMENTS

Section 9.1

The TCDP shall not endorse candidates in any Democratic Party primary or caucus that is contested or may reasonably become contested. After a primary or caucus, the TCDP may endorse any Democratic nominee who seeks its endorsement, subject to the provisions of this article and the rules of the MDP.

Section 9.2 Eligibility for Endorsement

To be eligible for endorsement by the TCDP, a candidate must be a member of the MDP at the time the endorsement is made.

Section 9.3 - Nonpartisan Races and Ballot Questions

The TCDP may endorse a candidate in a nonpartisan race, either judicial or non-judicial, and may endorse ballot questions.

Section 9.4 - Requesting Endorsements

Requests for endorsement may be submitted to the TCDP Chair or to any member of the Executive Board. Any Executive Board member receiving a request for endorsement shall promptly forward it to the TCDP Chair.

Section 9.5 - Voting on Endorsements

All endorsements shall be voted on by the entire TCDP membership at a regularly scheduled or specially called meeting. Written notice of an endorsement vote must be sent to all members at least two (2) weeks before the meeting.

Each candidate being considered for endorsement shall be given a reasonable and equal amount of time to address the membership. Candidates may designate a surrogate to speak on their behalf. For ballot proposals, one representative in favor and one opposed shall each be given a reasonable and equal amount of time to

speak. Time shall also be provided for members to ask questions before an endorsement vote takes place.

Section 9.6 - Financial Contributions

Endorsement by the TCDP does not imply that a financial contribution will be made.

Section 9.7 - Use of the TCDP Name

No officer or person elected or appointed to a position within the TCDP may publicly endorse a candidate or ballot question in a manner that could reasonably be interpreted as an endorsement by the TCDP unless its members have voted to endorse that candidate or issue. This section does not restrict individuals from making endorsements, provided they clearly indicate that their endorsement is personal and not on behalf of the TCDP.

Section 9.8 - Notice of Endorsement Policy

A copy of this article shall be provided to all candidates and ballot proposal advocates or opponents who request an endorsement from the TCDP.

ARTICLE 10 – REVISIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 10.1 Proposals for revisions or amendments to these bylaws shall be referred to the Rules and Bylaws Committee, which shall then report its recommendations to the Executive Board at its next regular meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose.

Section 10.2 These bylaws may be revised or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee, provided that written notice setting forth the proposed revision or amendment has been given to all TCDP members at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the Executive Committee meeting. Posting the text of the bylaws on the TCDP website and making it available upon request shall be sufficient.

Section 10.3 Upon their adoption, these bylaws shall be in full force and shall supersede all previous versions and any contrary rules, motions, and policies except for the rules of the MDP.