

PREAMBLE

We, members of the Delaware County Democratic Party, in order to organize and perpetuate a representative, effective, and responsible political party organization in Delaware County, Ohio, affiliate with and advance the interests of the Ohio Democratic Party and Democratic Party of the United States, sustain and advance the principles of democracy and Constitutional government, and uphold human and civil rights, do establish this Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE I. NAME, MEMBERSHIP AND ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

SECTION 1. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Delaware County Democratic Party.

SECTION 2. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this party shall be open to all residents of Delaware County, Ohio who support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Charter and By-laws of the Democratic National Committee, and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Ohio Democratic Party and the Delaware County Democratic Party. No person may be a member or may vote on any motion, resolution, nomination, or election at any caucus, meeting, or conference of the Delaware County Democratic Party, who does not meet the aforesaid qualifications or who is a member of any other political party at that time.

SECTION 3. QUALIFICATIONS

In the event that any person's qualifications as a member of the Delaware County Democratic Party or eligibility for party office must be determined, the same challenge procedure shall be followed to determine their qualifications as provided by the election laws of the State of Ohio.

ARTICLE II. CONSTITUTIONS AND LAWS

Nothing herein shall conflict with the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, the Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio, the Charter and By-laws of the Democratic National Committee, or the Ohio Democratic Party Constitution and By-Laws. Any provision herein that conflicts with any of the aforesaid shall be of no force and effect. All Constitutional provisions and laws of the United States of America and the State of Ohio are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part hereof. Each clause of this Constitution and By-Laws shall be considered separately and the illegality or unenforceability of any one clause shall not affect any other clause.

ARTICLE III. CENTRAL COMMITTEE - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION MEETING

SECTION 1. COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The controlling committee of the Delaware County Democratic Party shall be the County Central Committee consisting of those residents of Delaware County elected at the primary election every two years, beginning in 2022, in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio. There shall be a Central Committee position for each precinct in the county. The County Central Committee shall elect a County Executive Committee which shall have such powers as are granted it by the Central Committee and as provided by law and by this Constitution and By-Laws.

SECTION 2. ORGANIZATION MEETING CALLED

In accordance with section 3517.04 of the Ohio Revised Code, the members-elect of the County Central Committee shall meet to organize the County Party, not earlier than six nor later than fifteen days after the certification of their election by the Board of Elections, at a suitable location in Delaware County, Ohio. The place and time of this organization meeting shall be designated by the retiring Chairperson of the Central Committee. At least five days prior to the meeting, notice of such meeting specifying the place and time shall be sent by United States mail or electronic mail if the member-elect opts in to receipt of the notice by these means, to each member-elect by the retiring Secretary or, if there is no such officer or if such officer is absent, then as provided by the laws of the State of Ohio. A copy of the meeting notice shall be posted at the Delaware County Board of Elections at least five days before the meeting date. The meeting shall be called according to the laws of the State of Ohio.

SECTION 3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The organization meeting shall be called to order by the retiring Chairperson or the retiring Secretary or, if there is no such officer or if such officer is absent, then the meeting shall be called to order by the County Central Committee member designated by the Democratic members of the Board of Elections. A temporary Chairperson and temporary Secretary shall be chosen from the elected members of the Central Committee only for the matter of organization. The Committee shall then elect a Chairperson, who thereafter will moderate the organization meeting. The Committee shall then immediately proceed to elect two Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom shall be a woman and one of whom shall be a man, as self-identified. The First Vice-Chairperson shall be the opposite gender of the Committee Chairperson.

The County Central Committee shall then elect a Treasurer and a Secretary.

Any person who meets the membership requirements of Article I is eligible for election to Party office, except as limited by law or this Constitution and By-Laws. If any officer position becomes vacant after the organization meeting, the vacancy shall be filled by majority vote of the County Executive Committee.

SECTION 4. COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The County Central Committee then shall create the County Executive Committee and confer upon it all powers and authority of the Central Committee. The Central Committee then shall elect all its members to the Executive Committee. The meeting of the Central Committee shall adjourn and the meeting of the Executive Committee shall be called to order.

The Executive Committee shall be authorized to act for the Central Committee in all things pertaining to the welfare, business, operation, and organization of the Delaware County Democratic Party during the period of its existence, which shall continue until the date of the organization meeting of the Central Committee after the primary election two years hence. In addition to the members of the Central Committee, the Executive Committee shall be comprised of *ex officio* members and at-large members. The Party officers elected by the Central Committee shall be members of the Executive Committee and serve as its officers. The oath of office shall be taken by all members of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 5. *EX OFFICIO* MEMBERS

Ex officio members shall be the five officers elected by the County Central Committee, current Democratic office holders of non-judicial countywide elected offices, the current chairperson of the Delaware County Young Democrats, and nominees for countywide offices, except judicial offices.

SECTION 6. AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Persons considered for at-large membership must be registered Democrats and meet the membership requirements of Article I and must display an on-going commitment to the mission of the Delaware County Democratic Party by, for example, being a former member of the County Executive Committee, being a Democratic candidate for elective office, regularly attending Committee meetings, and/or by sustained support for the Party and Democratic candidates and initiatives. At-large members may be added to the Executive Committee by majority vote of those members present and voting. The Committee may appoint an at-large member to fill a vacancy on the Central Committee as a precinct representative if there is no duly elected Central Committee member for the precinct and the at-large member resides in the precinct. The total number of at-large members can number no more than one fewer of the total number of elected precinct members in Delaware County.

At the organization meeting, the elected Chairperson may submit nominations for at-large members of the Executive Committee. Those nominated must broadly represent all the various elements of the Party and the diversity of Delaware County. After the organization meeting, any person may apply to become an at-large member of the Executive Committee. If it is determined that the applicant meets the requirements of this Section, they shall be nominated for membership.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

SECTION 1. CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson shall be elected by the County Central Committee and shall be a member of the County Executive Committee *ex officio* and shall serve as that Committee's chair. The Chairperson's duties shall be those of chief executive officer and they shall be subject to the directions of and responsible to the Central Committee and the Executive Committee. The Chairperson may create additional standing and special committees to assist in the conduct of the Party's mission and shall appoint the chairpersons of such committees, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Chairperson. They shall consult and cooperate with the Democratic clubs of the Ohio Democratic Party within their duly chartered areas of jurisdiction. They may be referred to as the Chairperson of the Delaware County Democratic Party.

SECTION 2. VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

The Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected by the County Central Committee and shall be members of the County Executive Committee *ex officio* and shall serve as that Committee's vice-chairs. The First Vice-Chairperson shall act as the Chairperson in case of the death, resignation, incapacity, removal, or absence of the Chairperson, and shall, in such event, have the same powers, duties, and responsibilities as the Chairperson until such time as the Executive Committee shall properly elect a new Chairperson. In the event the First Vice-Chairperson is unable to serve as Chairperson, the Second Vice-Chairperson shall act as the Chairperson as provided herein. They may be referred to as the Vice-Chairpersons of the Delaware County Democratic Party.

SECTION 3. SECRETARY

The Secretary shall be elected by the County Central Committee and shall be a member of the County Executive Committee *ex officio* and shall serve as that Committee's Secretary. The Secretary shall be in charge of all official records and documents of the Central and Executive Committees and of the preparation of the necessary notices, minutes, attendance records, and other records and documents, subject to the direction of the Committees. They shall preserve such documents and records and open them for examination at appropriate times and at the request of any duly elected member of the Executive Committee under such procedures as are prescribed by said Committee. The Secretary shall maintain and timely file with the

Board of Elections and the Secretary of State, as required by law, the current Constitution and By-Laws and the rosters of the Central and Executive Committees and Party officers. They may be referred to as the Secretary of the Delaware County Democratic Party

SECTION 4. TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be elected by the County Central Committee and shall be a member of the County Executive Committee *ex officio* and shall serve as that Committee's Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the County Party and shall make up-to-date financial reports each month and render such reports to each meeting of the County Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall be accountable for all receipts and expenditures of the Party, subject to the direction of the Executive Committee and any committees or subcommittees established to oversee the financial functions of the County Party. Within a reasonable time, they shall provide information concerning the finances of the Party at the request of any member of the Executive Committee under such procedures as are prescribed by said Committee. The Treasurer shall be responsible for preparing and filing with the Board of Elections and the Secretary of State all financial reports required by Ohio election law. If required by the Executive Committee, they and any other party officer, employee, or volunteer responsible for handling Party funds, shall be under sufficient bond, the amount to be determined by the Executive Committee. They may be referred to as the Treasurer of the Delaware County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE V. COUNTY REGIONS

SECTION 1. REGIONS

For purposes of facilitating Party organization and volunteer recruitment and coordination, all the precincts in Delaware County are divided into six regions as follows: Big Walnut, Buckeye Valley, Delaware, Dublin/Powell, Orange, and Westerville/Genoa. Every precinct is assigned to one region, as determined by the Executive Committee. If new precincts are added by the Board of Elections, the Executive Committee shall assign the new precincts to an appropriate region. The Executive Committee may increase the number of regions in response to increases in the number of precincts.

SECTION 2. LEADERSHIP

The County Central Committee members residing in each County region shall comprise the region leadership team. After the primary election in which they are elected to the Central Committee and within thirty days after the Central Committee's organization meeting, each leadership team shall caucus to choose one or two members as region managers who will serve as liaison with the Executive Committee and shall take the lead in organizing the activities of the region leadership team.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

SECTION 1. PUBLIC MEETINGS

All meetings of the Delaware County Central Committee, County Executive Committee, and all other official Party committees shall be open to the public.

SECTION 2. FREQUENCY

The County Central Committee shall convene at its organization meeting after its elections as required by law and this Constitution and By-Laws. The County Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly during the period of its existence. The Executive Committee may be called to meet by the Chairperson or by a minimum of twenty percent of its membership.

SECTION 3. NOTICE

Notice of any meeting of the County Central Committee or the County Executive Committee, other than the organization meeting, specifying time and place, shall be sent to all members of the County Executive Committee in writing through regular United States mail or by email or other electronic means, at the individual option of each member, at least seven days in advance of the meeting, except in extenuating circumstances. Notification to members of a schedule of future meetings will constitute sufficient notice under this section unless the time or place of the previously scheduled meeting changes.

SECTION 4. MINUTES

Minutes shall be taken of all meetings of the County Central Committee and the County Executive Committee by the Secretary or their designee. The minutes shall be available for review within one week after the meeting, except in extenuating circumstances.

SECTION 5. QUORUM

Forty percent of the County Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for conducting any business to come before the meetings.

SECTION 6. VOTING

Every vote taken by the County Central Committee or by the County Executive Committee shall be in accordance with the standards set by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Ohio Democratic Party and the Democratic Party of the United States. Voting by unit rule and by proxy is prohibited. No votes shall be taken by secret ballot.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. STANDING COMMITTEES

To facilitate the operation and activities of the County Party, the County Executive Committee shall form standing committees as set forth in this Article. The chairpersons of the standing committees shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the County Party and shall serve at their pleasure. The chairpersons may form subcommittees to undertake specific functions or tasks and may appoint subcommittee chairpersons. The committee chairpersons shall preside over their respective committee and regularly report the plans and activities of the committee to the Executive Committee and the Party officers. The committees shall meet sufficiently frequently to adequately perform their duties and advance the interests of the County Party. In addition to these standing committees, the Executive Committee or the Party Chairperson may, from time to time, form other standing or special committees as deemed necessary. The Party Chairperson may designate Party officers or others as advisors to the committees and as liaisons with the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2. COMMITTEE LIST

The standing committees shall be:

The finance committee;
The fundraising committee;
The party development committee;
The candidate development committee;
The communications committee; and
The diversity, equity, inclusion committee.

SECTION 3. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The finance committee shall be responsible for overseeing and auditing the fiscal aspects of the County Party, including soliciting and reviewing requests for funds by Party officers and committees and developing and recommending the Party's annual budget. In coordination with the candidate development committee, it shall consider and recommend amounts to be contributed to candidates' campaigns. The Party Treasurer may not chair the finance committee or any of its subcommittees.

By the last day of February each year, the finance committee shall audit the Treasurer's financial books and records for the preceding calendar year and report its findings to the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall cooperate with any audit of their records, but otherwise shall have no role in, or oversight of, the audit process.

SECTION 4. FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The fundraising committee is responsible for all aspects of raising funds for the operation and advancement of the County Party by conducting fundraising events and, in coordination with the communications committee, otherwise soliciting donations. The committee also shall coordinate with the candidate development committee to educate and assist endorsed candidates in their fundraising activities.

SECTION 5. PARTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The party development committee shall be responsible for all aspects of membership in the County Party, including reporting on current membership and developing strategies and tactics to increase membership and volunteers. The committee shall review and recommend changes to membership policies and promote unity and cooperation among members and volunteers. The committee shall create a subcommittee to coordinate the activities of the leadership teams of the County regions to foster and promote grassroots volunteering and precinct representation on the County Executive Committee.

The committee shall provide on-boarding training and assistance for new members and volunteers and may sponsor relevant educational programs such as seminars, talks, and discussion groups.

The committee shall maintain a Central Committee handbook and related documents to instruct and assist Central Committee members in their responsibilities as precinct leaders. The committee shall develop and maintain expertise in campaign management technology and software and provide training on such technology to Executive Committee members and other authorized users.

SECTION 6. CANDIDATE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The purpose of the candidate development committee is to attract to Delaware County elective office those candidates most qualified and capable of serving the public. Recruitment activities of the committee shall prioritize inclusion and diversity among candidates. The committee shall be responsible for interactions with Democratic candidates for elective office in the County and shall develop strategies and tactics for recruiting qualified candidates and examining and vetting each potential candidate seeking Party support to determine their qualifications, experience, personality, party identification, electability, and integrity. Based on such examination, the committee shall rate the suitability of each candidate for the elective position sought. The committee shall make endorsement recommendations to the County Executive Committee and shall advise the finance committee on the degree of support to be provided to the candidates. The committee shall offer training, advice, and consultation to all approved candidates.

SECTION 7. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The communications committee is responsible for all intra-Party and public-facing written and electronic communications and related record keeping. The committee's duties include developing and maintaining the County Party's website, email account, social media accounts, and messaging platforms. The committee shall publish an electronic newsletter to inform Party members and the public about Party activities, legislation, events, goals and objectives, and key milestones. The committee is responsible for coordinating Party publicity and interaction with local news media and managing the branding of the Party, including maintaining a consistent graphical presentation in all areas of communications.

The committee shall maintain and be custodian of the Party's contact database which includes contact information and donation records of Party members and other Democrats in Delaware County. The committee shall develop strategies and tactics for increasing the number of contacts in the database and for acquiring key contact information, such as email addresses and mobile telephone numbers. The committee shall be responsible for the security and integrity of the database and may obtain the assistance of qualified persons to audit and evaluate system security. The committee shall provide custom reports from the database as requested by members of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 8. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION COMMITTEE

The diversity, equity, inclusion committee is responsible for promoting the relationships of the County Party with the residents of Delaware County by developing strategies and tactics for improving outreach to targeted diverse groups and encouraging their membership and engagement with the Party. The committee shall maintain communication and engagement with Democratic and progressive organizations in the County and may advise and support organizations, such as the Young Democrats, that are aligned with the goals and principals of the Party. The committee may propose or conduct seminars, townhalls, and public talks to address issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The committee shall maintain up-to-date demographic profiles for the County, surrounding counties, and the State of Ohio.

SECTION 9. CONSTITUTION REVIEW SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Before September 30, 2024, and at least every fourth year thereafter, the Chairperson of the County Party shall create the Constitution and By-Laws special committee and appoint its chairperson. The purpose of the special committee will be to review and evaluate the County Party's Constitution and By-Laws and recommend modifications and amendments, if any, for consideration by the County Executive Committee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Party Chairperson or the Executive Committee, at any time, may create a Constitution and By-Laws special committee for the same purpose.

ARTICLE VIII. ENDORSEMENTS

SECTION 1. STATE PARTY PRE-PRIMARY ENDORSEMENTS

In an election year in which the State Democratic Executive Committee makes endorsements, the Delaware County Democratic Party shall use its resources and leadership to aid and assist in the nomination of such endorsements made by the State Committee for the benefit of the Ohio Democratic Party.

SECTION 2. COUNTY PRE-PRIMARY ENDORSEMENTS

The County Executive Committee may make pre-primary endorsements for any local or district office, providing that 60% of the members of the Committee present and voting on such question so determine. The Committee shall not endorse a primary candidate that is opposed by a candidate endorsed by the State Executive Committee. Ample notice shall be given to each member of the Committee for any meeting during which endorsements will be considered.

SECTION 3. OTHER ENDORSEMENTS

The County Executive Committee may endorse any Democratic nominee and any ballot issue by majority vote of the Committee present. Ample notice shall be given to each member of the Committee for any meeting during which endorsements will be considered.

SECTION 4. RIGHT OF APPEARANCE

Every Democrat who desires to be a Democratic candidate for any public office shall have the right to appear before the County Executive Committee, or such other committee as is authorized by the Executive Committee, to discuss the campaign issues, their candidacy, and any endorsements to be made by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCES

SECTION 1. RECORDS

The Treasurer shall maintain complete and accurate records of all contributions and monies received and all expenditures made. These records shall be made available upon request within a reasonable time to any member of the County Executive Committee.

SECTION 2. DONATING MEMBERS

While it is not a requirement for membership, those supporting the Delaware County Democratic Party are strongly encouraged to provide financial support to the extent they are able. The County Executive Committee may establish a status of donating member to designate Party members who annually donate funds to the Party. The qualifications and minimum contribution required to be a donating member shall be determined annually by the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall keep a record of those persons who have become donating members in any year.

ARTICLE X. PARTY UNITY

All members of the County Party, candidates for office, Party officers, Party committees and organizations, and elected Democratic officials shall support the principles, goals, and mission of the Delaware County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE XI. PARTY STRUCTURE, NATIONAL GUIDELINES; PARTY STRUCTURE, STATE GUIDELINES

The provisions of the Ohio Democratic Party, Party Structure - National Guidelines and Party Structure - State Guidelines, as set forth in the Ohio Democratic Party Constitution and By-Laws as now adopted and hereinafter amended, are incorporated herein and made a part of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Delaware County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE XII. OATH OF OFFICE

All members of the Delaware County Central Committee and the County Executive Committee shall be required to take an oath of office to support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Constitution and By-Laws and principles of the Ohio Democratic Party, and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Delaware County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE XIII. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER

Any matters regarding the conduct of the affairs of the Delaware County Central and Executive Committees not governed by this Constitution and By-Laws or by the laws of the State of Ohio shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

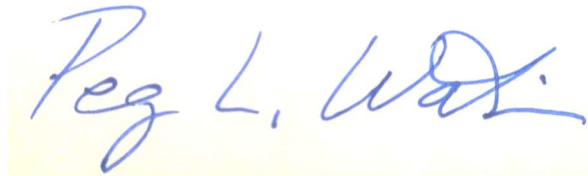
ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENT

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by 60% affirmative vote of the members of the Executive Committee of the Delaware County Democratic Party present at any meeting called for that purpose. Amendments proposed under this Article must be submitted in writing and copies thereof sent to each member of the said Committee by United States mail or electronic mail at a reasonable time prior to the meeting.

Adopted at Delaware County, Ohio

This 21st day of April, 2022

By the Executive Committee of the Delaware County Democratic Party
duly assembled for this purpose.



Peg L. Watkins, Chairperson