

# CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

## PREAMBLE

This we believe:

We the Representatives of the Democrats living in Montgomery County — in order to form a strong party organization that empowers representative democracy within our party and throughout the county — do establish the Montgomery County Democratic Party Constitution.

Our country has a long history of honest men and women working hard to better themselves, their families, their communities, and their nation. The Montgomery County Democratic Party recognizes that the values of these people underline the principles which are at the heart of our system of government.

These principles include:

a commitment to the importance of the individual and the right of each individual to self-determination.

a commitment to the proposition that each individual should have the freedom to formulate and act upon their own concept of the sort of life that is most appropriate for them, limited only by a responsibility to respect the life plans of others and the obligation to be sensitive to the common good.

the belief that the government can and should exercise a positive, yet limited, role in safeguarding the security and promoting the well-being of each individual and the community as a whole.

These principles entail a belief in the moral and legal equality of each person. They also entail a duty on the part of individuals and their government to acknowledge and nurture the common bonds that unite us, as well as the private institutions which work to the benefit of individuals and society, and to respect and encourage the characteristics that allow us to be different.

The Montgomery County Democratic Party believes that each of us must take responsibility for maintaining freedom for all. Each of us must have the opportunity to have our voice heard in government and all of us must help those whose voices are too small or too weak to be heard alone. We believe that these principles are deeply embedded in our country's history and traditions and that our distinctiveness as a nation lies in our unflagging commitment to uphold them.

We are committed to upholding our democratic representative form of government and the principles embedded in the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

The Montgomery County Democratic Party offers itself as a forum for all those who share belief in these principles.

As duly elected representatives of the Montgomery County Democratic Party, we hereby adopt this:

## **PRINCIPLES & VALUES**

As the Montgomery County Democratic Party, we are proud to adopt these principles and values based on our belief in a Montgomery County that values opportunity and equality for all its residents, and respects both the self-reliance of individuals and the benefits of teamwork, to meet the challenges of a fair and just society. To that end:

We believe that the best government is one that is efficient, yet understanding – a government that is based not on systems or bureaucracies, but on people, ideas and values.

We believe there is no substitute for fair and equal representation and strong public participation in a government chosen by election.

We believe in a government that stands on the side of working families - that listens, understands and addresses their concerns.

We believe that all residents reap benefits when we, as a county, meet our challenges together.

We believe in the equality of all people and condemn any discrimination.

We believe in a society that strengthens families and protects our children.

We believe in the rights of all people to achieve economic security and find affordable housing, to seek good jobs at a livable wage, and protection for our workers in a growing, robust economy.

We believe in a society that puts the health, safety and prosperity of its residents first, one that promotes excellence in education, choices in quality health care and a healthy environment for all Montgomery County residents.

We believe in a society that values community and protects all Ohio residents from violence and crime.

We believe in a society that respects our elders, who deserve the right to retire with the resources they need and have earned to support themselves in their golden years.

We believe in reproductive rights and the fundamental right of privacy for all individuals.

We believe in pursuing these ideals with honesty and integrity, with respect for the freedoms that we in Montgomery County are proud to call our own.

# **CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

## **ARTICLE I. NAME, PURPOSE, MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1-1. Name.**

The name of this organization shall be the MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY (“MCDP”).

### **Section 1-2. Purpose.**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 3517 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Central Committee shall be the “Controlling Committee” of the Montgomery County Democratic Party. The Montgomery County Democratic Party Central Committee (“Central Committee”) shall elect the Montgomery County Democratic Party Executive Committee (“Executive Committee”), which shall have all the powers as are granted it by the Central Committee, as are provided by law, by this Constitution, and by the Montgomery County Democratic Party By-Laws. The purpose of the MCDP is to represent and to serve Montgomery County Democrats. The MCDP advances this purpose by connecting Montgomery County Democrats with an extended MCDP community where every member has a voice, by advancing candidates of the people who are dedicated to public service, and align with the principles of the Democratic Party.

### **Section 1-3. Membership.**

Membership in the MCDP shall be open to all Democrats registered in Montgomery County. MCDP encourages all Democrats to become active members of the party. All members of the MCDP are encouraged to be dues paying members of the MCDP and to promote the ideals and principles of the party throughout the community. No person may be a member of the MCDP who is a member of any other political party at that time.

### **Section 1-4. Legal Conflict.**

Nothing herein shall conflict with the Constitution of the United States of America,, the laws of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the laws of the State of Ohio and the Charter and By-Laws of the Democratic National Committee and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Ohio Democratic Party. Any matter which conflicts with any of the aforesaid shall be of no force and effect. Should any provision of this Constitution be declared or determined by any court to be illegal or invalid, the validity of the remaining parts, terms, or provisions shall not be affected thereby and the illegal or invalid part, term, or provision shall be deemed not to be a part of the Constitution.

## **Article II. CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

### **Section 2-1. Elected Precinct Committee Person.**

Membership in the Central Committee shall include all Democratic precinct committee persons elected at the gubernatorial primary in accordance with Section 3517.02 of the Ohio Revised Code.

### **Section 2-2. Reorganization Meeting.**

The “Reorganization Meeting” of the Central Committee shall be held in accordance with Section 3517.04 of the Ohio Revised Code. To the extent that they do not conflict with that section, the following provisions shall apply:

The meeting shall be held not earlier than six, no later than fifteen days following the declaration of the results of the election of precinct committee persons, certified by the Montgomery County Board of Elections.

Notice of the Reorganization Meeting, giving the place and time, shall be sent to each member-elect by the retiring Secretary of the committee by mail, a copy of the notice shall be posted at the Montgomery County Board of Elections and the Montgomery County Democratic Headquarters at least five days prior to any such meeting.

The meeting shall be called to order by the retiring Chairman or Secretary, or if such officer is not available, by a Democratic member of the Board of Elections, so designated by the Board.

A temporary Chairman and Secretary shall be chosen by the majority vote of the Central Committee, the Central Committee shall proceed to organize by the election of such officers as the Constitution provides and then the adoption of its Constitution.

## **ARTICLE III. OFFICERS**

### **Section 3-1. Elected Officers.**

The elected officers of the Central Committee shall be a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Vice-Chairperson shall be of the opposite gender of the Chairperson in accordance with the rules set forth in the Charter of the Democratic National Committee. The Central Committee shall then be called to meet immediately upon its election and shall proceed to elect the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. The elected officers of the Central Committee need not be a member of the Central Committee. The elected officers shall automatically become a member of the Executive Committee. The elected officers of the Central Committee shall also be considered the officers of the Executive Committee and shall, to the maximum extent, have all the powers and authority of their respective offices.

### **Section 3-2. Duties of the Officers.**

The duties of the officers of the Central Committee shall be as follows:

Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and/or Central Committee, and perform other duties as defined or assigned. The Chairperson shall be responsible for the progress and development of this organization.

The Vice-Chairperson shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chairperson in his/her absence or incapacity (as determined by the Executive Committee), and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson.

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee and/or Central Committee and such minutes shall be open to review by the members of this organization; shall maintain the reports of committees; shall maintain a roster of all Executive Committee and Central Committee members; shall conduct the correspondence of this organization as directed by the Chairperson or by resolution of the Executive Committee and/or the Central Committee; and performs such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson.

The Treasurer shall deposit all funds of this organization in the name of the "Montgomery County Democratic Executive Committee" and shall be responsible for maintaining these funds in such a manner as directed by the Executive Committee. All checks shall be co- signed by the Chairperson, or other party designated by the Executive Committee, and the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as to fully insure all properties and funds of this organization and shall report on the state of these funds upon the request of the Chairperson or the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE IV. CONSTITUTION**

As a newly elected governing body, and in accordance with Section 3517.04 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Central Committee shall adopt at its Reorganization Meeting such rules and procedures, including a Constitution, as it may consider appropriate. Such rules, procedures and Constitution

are not binding, however, upon a subsequently elected Central Committee that meets to organize that Committee.

A copy of the proposed Constitution shall be open to review to members of the newly elected Central Committee prior to the Reorganization Meeting. A copy of the Constitution as adopted, shall be available for members by the next Executive Committee meeting following the Reorganization Meeting.

## **ARTICLE V. MERGE OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **Section 5-1. Election of the Central Committee to the Executive Committee.**

Then the next act of the elected Central Committee shall be to establish and elect themselves to the Executive Committee. This shall be a privileged motion; no other action shall be considered.

### **Section 5-2. Confirmation of Power.**

The Central Committee shall confer upon the Executive Committee all power and authority, to the maximum extent allowed by the law, of the Central Committee and 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 Central Committee and the MCDP during its existence. The Executive Committee shall establish By-Laws to guide and regulate the MCDP.

### **Section 5-3. Vacancies of Precinct Committee Person.**

Vacancies in the position of precinct committee person may be filled by the recommendation of the Chairperson, subject to a majority affirmative vote of the Executive Committee, and such appointees shall be considered full members of the Central Committee. Precinct committee persons shall be registered voters in the precinct they are appointed to represent. Appointed precinct committee persons may attend and vote at a Central Committee and/or Executive Committee meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI. APPOINTMENTS TO EXECUTIVE AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

### **Section 6-1. Automatic Appointments to the Executive Committee.**

Then the Executive Committee shall appoint to the Executive Committee the following:

1. All Democratic U.S. Representatives, State Senators and State Representatives who reside in Montgomery County;
2. All Democratic State Central Committee persons, who reside in Montgomery County;

3. All countywide Democratic officeholders including:

Montgomery County Auditor;

Montgomery County Clerk of Courts;

Montgomery County Commissioners;

Montgomery County Coroner;

Montgomery County Engineer;

Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney;

Montgomery County Recorder;

Montgomery County Sheriff; and,

Montgomery County Treasurer.

4. All Democratic Mayors, whose jurisdiction exceeds 60,000;

5. The Club Presidents of the Recognized Clubs of the Democratic Party; and,

6. The elected President of the Greater Dayton Young Democrats.

### **Section 6-2. Additional Appointments.**

The Chairperson may at any regular scheduled Executive Committee meeting recommend to the Executive Committee an additional appointment of Executive Committee members. The Executive Committee shall then vote, subject to a majority (50%+1) vote, to appoint individuals contained in the proposed list to the Executive Committee. The appointed members of the Executive Committee, including automatic appointments, shall not exceed the seventy-five percentage (75%) of the membership of the Central Committee. Further, if any appointed member of the Executive Committee could serve as a Central Committee member then their appointment to the Executive Committee shall be considered as an appointment to the Central Committee. The Chairperson shall endeavor to ensure that additional appointments are diverse and reflect the membership of the Democratic Party as a whole.

### **ARTICLE VII. ENDORSEMENT**

The Executive Committee shall be the sole authority to endorse candidates for public office and issues which will appear on the ballot. Any candidate or issue brought before the Executive Committee for endorsement must receive two-thirds (2/3) of the votes of those present and voting,

unless they are an incumbent then a presumptive endorsement exists as further explained in the Bylaws. The endorsement of the candidates and issues must follow the procedures outlined in the Bylaws of this Constitution. The Chairperson will endeavor to keep the Executive Committee informed of the Screening Committee's recommendation and provide a report of all candidates who came before the Screening Committee. Further, prior to the vote by the Executive Committee each candidate that came before the Screening Committee will be provided an opportunity to address the Executive Committee for five (5) minutes.

## **ARTICLE VIII. AUDIT**

Within two weeks after the primary election, at which precinct persons are elected the Treasurer shall submit all financial records of the MCDP to the Audit Committee.

## **ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS**

### **Section 8-1. Regular Meetings.**

There shall be at least six regular meetings of the Executive Committee. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee may call other regular meetings of the Executive Committee at the Chairperson's discretion.

### **Section 9-2. Special Meetings.**

Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Chairperson; however, a special meeting must be called by the Chairperson within fourteen days upon the receipt of the written request of twenty- five members of the Executive Committee. Such requests should be accompanied by and for that "special meeting" and that agenda shall be mailed to members of the Executive Committee with the notice announcing the special meeting. Special meetings shall be limited to the agenda for which the meeting is being called for.

### **Section 9-3. Meeting Notice for Regular Meetings.**

Written notice of regular meetings of the Executive Committee must be provided to all members thereof at least five days prior to the date of the scheduled meeting. The Executive Committee may opt to receive notices via electronic means.

### **Section 9-4. Meeting Notice for Special Meetings.**

Written notice of special meetings of the Executive Committee must be provided at least forty-eight hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

### **Section 9-5. Special Meetings for the Central Committee.**

When necessary, the Chairperson, at their discretion, may call a special meeting of the Central Committee.

### **Section 9-6. Electronic Meeting.**

When necessary, the Chairperson may, but is not required, to conduct special, regular, an/or emergency meetings by electronic means. The formation of a quorum for such meetings may be established by teleconference or interactive video, and the members shall not be physically present at the meeting site. Such meetings need not be open to the public, but must be transmitted electronically and made available for viewing via closed circuit television, cable, and/or the internet.

### **Section 9-7. General Executive Committee Meeting Rules.**

1. The members of the Executive Committee have a significant interest in conducting orderly, efficient, effective, and dignified meetings. All members of the Executive Committee must not act in a manner that disrupts the meeting. The Executive Committee members are encouraged to discuss and debate relevant issues during its meetings and at the meetings of the various committees. Healthy and respectful discourse is encouraged and necessary for the advancement of the MCDP's agenda.

2. The Chairperson may order the removal of any member or person disturbing its lawful meeting, or failing to comply with any lawful decision and/or order by the Chairperson. Prior to removal, the Chairperson shall warn the disruptive member.

3. In the interest of other speakers and the members of the Executive Committee, time limits on speakers at the Executive Committee meetings shall be strictly enforced. All members and speakers are permitted to speak for three (3) minutes. When a speaker's time limit has expired, they shall promptly conclude their sentence and cease speaking. The Chairperson may extend the speaker's time upon request.

3. The Chairperson, at their sole discretion, may permit individuals and/or members of the Executive Committee additional time for presentations to the Executive Committee. Presentation must be included on the agenda of a regularly scheduled meeting.

4. Any sign, placard, poster, or other item brought into the Executive Committee meeting containing obscene or profane language, personal attack, libel, defamation, and/or threat of physical violence, shall be subject to removal at the discretion of the Chairperson.

## **ARTICLE X. VACANCIES**

### **Section 10-1. Vacancy in the Office of Chairperson.**

In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Chairperson, at the next scheduled Executive Committee meeting a Chairperson shall be elected. Until an election occurs, the Vice-Chairperson shall assume the office of “Acting Chairperson” with all of the rights and responsibilities of the Chairperson, until such time as the Executive Committee acts.

**Section 10-2. Vacancy in Other Offices.**

In the event of a vacancy in the Office of Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, or Treasurer, at the next scheduled Executive Committee meeting such office shall be elected. The Chairperson may appoint an acting officer to carry out the duties of the vacated office until such time as the Executive Committee acts.

**Section 10-3 Declaring Other Offices Vacant.**

Executive Committee membership shall be revoked if the member no longer maintains a legal voting residence in Montgomery County. Central Committee membership shall be forfeited if the member no longer resides within the precinct in which they were elected and/or appointed.

**ARTICLE XI. ADDITIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DUTIES**

**Section 11-1. Duties of the Executive Committee.**

The Executive Committee shall serve under the Chairperson’s leadership in directing the affairs and activities of this organization. It shall direct by majority vote, a quorum being present, the affairs, properties and funds of this organization in all respects, unless otherwise provided herein. The Executive Committee shall receive and review all reports of standing or special committees and may advise and instruct such committees to conduct or study particular activities or projects. Appointed Executive Committee members having missed more than three Executive Committee meetings in a calendar year may be removed from the committee by a vote of the Executive Committee.

**Section 11-2. Executive Committee Officers.**

As soon as practical after the Reorganization, the Chairperson shall appoint a General Counsel and Parliamentarian.

**Section 11-3. Duties of Executive Committee Officers.**

The duties of the officers of the Executive Committee shall be as follows:

Chairperson – The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee, shall appoint, with the approval of the Executive Committee, all committee chairpersons and members thereof, as provided in this Constitution. The Chairperson is responsible for the progress and

development of this organization. The Chairperson will ensure that proper advice and counsel; is offered to every candidate endorsed by the Executive Committee relating (1) to all state and federal rules and regulations covering campaign activities, and (2) to standards set by the Executive Committee regarding ethics in campaigning. The Chairperson has an obligation to call to the attention of the Executive Committee any irregularity in campaigning by candidates, so that appropriate action can be taken by the Executive Committee.

Executive Vice-Chairperson – The Executive Vice-Chairperson assumes the duties and responsibilities of the Chairperson in his/her absence or incapacity, as determined by the Executive Committee; and shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson.

Secretary – The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committees, and such minutes shall be open to review by the members of the Central and Executive Committee; shall mail the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee prior to the next meeting or have copies of the previous meeting minutes to pass out prior to the meeting, as directed by the Chairperson; shall maintain the reports of committees and other records of this organization, other than the Treasurer's records; shall conduct the correspondence of this organization as directed by the Chairperson, or by resolution of the Executive Committee; shall maintain a roster of all Executive Committee members and all standing and special committees appointed under this Constitution.

Treasurer – The Treasurer of the Executive Committee shall be the Treasurer of the MCDP in all aspects and perform all of the duties outlined in this Constitution.

Committee-Chairpersons – The Committee-Chairpersons shall be appointed by the Chairperson, with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Committee-Chairpersons shall chair the following committees; Campaigns and Elections Committee, Communication Committee, Finance Committee and Issues Committee.

General Counsel – The General Counsel shall advise and counsel the Executive Committee in legal matters. The General Counsel shall be appointed and removed by the Chairperson, with approval of the Executive Committee.

Parliamentarian – The Parliamentarian shall advise the Chairperson on interpretations of this Constitution and on parliamentary procedures. The Parliamentarian shall be appointed and removed by the Chairperson, with the approval of the Executive Committee.

#### **Section 11-4. Standing Committees of the Executive Committee.**

Chairperson of the Montgomery County Democrat Party shall appoint chairpersons to the following standing committees established herein:

Steering Committee – The Steering Committee shall consist of the officers of the Executive Committee, the Chairperson of each standing Committee established in this section, and any other individual the Chairperson chooses to bring into the meeting. The purpose of the Steering Committee shall be to provide overall direction to the Party, clear information and coordinate activities among major functions. The Steering Committee shall not assume any authority belonging to the Executive Committee by this Constitution or state statute. The Chairperson may convene the Steering Committee at the Chairperson’s discretion.

Screening Committee – This committee shall strive to attract to public office those candidates most qualified and capable of serving the public. This Committee shall make recommendations for the endorsement of Democratic candidates for the office to the Executive Committee. The Chairperson shall chair the Screening Committee. Members of the Screening Committee will be appointed by the Chairperson.

Campaign and Election Committee – This committee shall develop and guide comprehensive programs on a county-wide basis for election campaigns.

Communications Committee – This committee shall develop and implement a comprehensive communications publicity and education plan for the MCDP.

Finance Committee – This committee shall manage the organization’s funds and property and develop and guide various fund raising activities. The Treasurer of this organization is an ex-official member of this committee.

Issues Committee – This committee shall research pertinent issues as related to the Democratic Party or the community for approval on those matters where the Issues Committee wishes the Party’s support or endorsement. This committee shall also provide research assistance to candidates and elected officials. It shall also bring issues of concern to elected officials to their attention.

Community Involvement Committee – This committee shall develop and implement programs to involve members of the Democratic Party in constructively contributing toward the problems and issues facing the community.

Rules Committee – This committee shall be responsible for providing the interpretations of this Constitution and preparing and presenting proposed amendments to this Constitution. The Chairperson of this committee shall also serve as Parliamentarian of the Executive Committee.

Auditing Committee – This committee shall be responsible for reviewing this organization’s monthly financial documentation and reporting to the Executive Committee. A report of this monthly review will be given by the Auditing Committee at the Reorganization meeting. In the event of a change in the office of Chairperson or Treasurer, it is the responsibility of the Audit

Committee to conduct an audit. The audit will be reported to the Executive Committee as soon as possible after the change in officers.

Candidate Development Committee- This committee shall, with the guidance and authority of the Chairperson, discover, recruit, and develop candidates for future office and shall develop a candidate academy to teach and promote future candidates. Candidates will be provided with hard skills and a foundational understanding of campaign best practices. If deemed appropriate by the Chairperson, campaign volunteers and staffers may also be permitted to attend the candidate academy.

Membership Committee- This Committee shall be responsible for the recruitment of new members, the retention of active members of the MCDP, and recruitment of precinct captains and organizing of precincts. This Committee shall also be responsible for any events and education for new members to become even more active in the party.

#### **Section 11-5. Special Committees.**

Special Committees may be established and appointed by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee with the approval of the Executive Committee, or by resolution of the Executive Committee.

#### **Section 11-6. Terms of Committees.**

The Chairperson and members of all standing committees shall serve for four (4) years, or at the pleasure of the Chairperson. The terms of the Chairperson and members of all special committees shall expire one-year from the date of establishment of the committee, unless otherwise provided by resolution of the Executive Committee. The Chairperson and members of standing and special committees may be appointed for unlimited consecutive terms.

#### **Section 11-7. Executive Committee Quorum.**

Meetings of the Executive Committee must have a quorum present in order to conduct official business. Those members present and voting shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee.

### **ARTICLE XIII. PRECINCT CAPTAIN**

#### **Section 12-1. Precinct Captain.**

The position of a Precinct Captain is a MCDP volunteer position. All Central Committee members will be considered a Precinct Captain for their neighborhood.

#### **Section 12-2. Expectations of a Precinct Captain.**

1. Precinct Captains are tasked with organizing Democrats in their precinct and serving as their voice in the larger committees. Each Precinct Captain shall assist the current Membership Committee Chairperson with all of the organizing activities in their assigned precinct and support endorsed Democratic candidates during election cycles.

2. At the very grassroots level of the MCDP are the Precinct Captains. They are to act as a surrogate and advocate for the MCDP in their own Precincts. As a Precinct Captain, you should be willing and able to:

- A. Attend MDCP meetings.
- B. Lead organizing efforts (voter registration, phone bank, block walk, dispense campaign literature, engage voters, remind of upcoming election dates, etc.).
- C. Contact Democrats who live in your assigned precinct, and remind them to vote in all elections.
- D. Support Democratic candidates/officeholders on your precinct's ballot.
- E. Not openly endorse candidates/officeholders from any other political party.

## **ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

### **Section 13-1. Amending the Constitution.**

This Constitution may be amended by the Executive Committee with two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of those present and voting, at any regular meeting of the Executive Committee, and also provided that the notice of said meeting shall specify the change in the Constitution to be voted upon.

### **Section 13-2. Amending the Bylaws.**

The Bylaws of this Constitution may be amended with two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote for those present and voting, at any regular meeting of the Executive Committee, and also provided that the notice of said meeting shall specify the change in the Constitution to be voted upon.

## **ARTICLE XIV. ENABLING ARTICLE**

This Constitution and Bylaws becomes the governing document of the Montgomery County Central Committee and Executive Committee only after its adoption by a majority of those present

and voting at a regular scheduled meeting, or subsequently through the amendment process established in Article XII of this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE XV. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

### **Section 15-1. Reorganization Meeting.**

The Reorganization Meeting shall be held in accordance with Section VII of this Constitution and Section 3517.04 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Order of Business shall be:

1. Central Committee Meeting
  - A. Credentials Report
  - B. Election of Temporary Chairperson & Secretary
  - C. Election of Central Committee Officers
  - D. Adoption of Constitution and Bylaws
  - E. Election of the Central Committee to the Executive Committee
  - F. Audit Committee Report
  - G. Automatic Appointments to the Executive Committee
2. Executive Committee Meeting
  - A. Other Business
  - B. Credentials Report

The Chairperson shall be elected before other officers. The Chairperson shall assume office immediately upon his/her election.

Nominations shall be made from the floor for each other office immediately preceding the casting of the ballots for that office.

A majority of the votes cast for any particular office shall be sufficient to elect a candidate to that office.

# BYLAWS

A Code of Conduct shall be drafted upon the request of the Chairperson. Any member of the Executive Committee who fails to abide by the Code of Conduct may be censured by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Executive Committee.

The endorsement of candidates may occur six months prior to an election. The endorsement of candidates on the ballot for the May primary may take place as early as the December Central Committee meeting. The Screening Committee may begin meeting at least three weeks before the December meeting to begin consideration of endorsements for the May primary election.

The endorsement of candidates on the ballot for the March primary, during a presidential year, may take place as early as the October meeting. The Screening Committee may begin meeting at least three weeks before the October meeting to begin the consideration of the March primary election.

The endorsement of candidates on the ballot for the November general election may take place as early as the May meeting. The Screening Committee may begin meeting at least three weeks before the May meeting to begin consideration of endorsements for the November general election.

Any person requesting to appear before the Screening Committee for a recommendation for endorsement shall complete a questionnaire provided by the Screening Committee. The individual requesting endorsement shall provide sufficient copies for each member of the Screening Committee.

The Screening Committee may meet to consider endorsement upon written request of a candidate, or written request of a representative of a ballot initiative.

In order to receive the recommendation for endorsement from the Screening Committee, the candidate must receive a majority (50% + 1) vote for those present and voting.

In cases where there are more than two candidates, if no candidate receives a majority, the candidate receiving the least votes, plus any others failing to receive 20% of the votes shall be dropped from the ballot and a new vote taken.

In cases where there are more than two candidates on the ballot and no candidate receives a majority, the Chairman may request a new vote. If a new vote is not taken, or if neither candidate receives a majority, it shall be reported to the central committee as “no recommendation for endorsement.”

Votes shall not be taken by secret ballot.

All requests for the endorsement of issues appearing on the ballot may be referred to the Screening Committee for their review and recommendation.

A recommendation of the Screening Committee may go to the Executive Committee for its discussion and support.

The Screening Committee recommendation shall go to the Executive Committee. The question on the floor shall be "Shall the Executive Committee concur with the Screening Committee's recommendation." This shall be a privileged motion; no other action relative to endorsement for a specific office shall be in order until the Executive Committee has acted on this question. In accordance with the Constitution, in order to concur with the Screening Committee recommendation to endorse requires a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Executive Committee present and voting.

If the Screening Committee recommendation fails to receive the required two-thirds (2/3) of the votes of those present and voting, the floor shall be open to accept nominations from the floor for endorsement.

Vote on endorsement by the Executive Committee shall be by open ballot, either by voice or a show of hand.

All Democratic incumbents hold a presumption of endorsement which can only be rebutted by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee.

The Chairperson of the Screening Committee shall provide written notice at least 48 hours prior to any meeting of the Screening Committee. The Screening Committee, by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of those present and voting, may waive the required notice provided there is urgency for the Screening Committee to act and adequate notice has been provided.

A quorum of the Screening Committee shall be a majority (50% + 1) of its members. A quorum must be present for the Screening Committee to vote on any recommendation for endorsement.

The Chairperson will endeavor to keep the Executive Committee informed of the Screening Committee recommendation.

The Chairperson shall provide all candidates that have screened for an endorsement the opportunity to speak before a vote of the Executive Committee for five (5) minutes.

The Chairperson, at their sole discretion, may endeavor to hold a pre-screening candidates forum and/or furnish a voters guide.

The Chairperson, at their sole discretion, may create a screening questionnaire for candidates that may be shared with members of the Executive Committee in either part or whole. This screening questionnaire shall not contain information that would disclose privileged information.

The Chairperson, at their sole discretion, may create caucuses focused primarily on specific political issues and concerns.

The Chairperson shall make a list of Screening Committee members available to all candidates prior to its scheduled meeting.

The Screening Committee may approve multiple candidates in an election between Democrats.

The MCDP shall honor all endorsements of the Ohio Democratic Party Executive Committee.