

Butler County Democratic Party Constitution

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Enclosed is a copy of the current constitution of the Butler County Democratic Party. At the reorganization meeting on May 26, 2010 this constitution was adopted as the interim constitution for a period of 90 days with the following exceptions:

Article VIII Section A shall read "Elections shall be open and public whenever more than one person is nominated for the same office."

Article 5, Section B, subsection 1 to change the year 2010 to the year 2014. This change describes the new ending term of the members of the Butler County Democratic Party Central Committee.

During the 90-day period a constitution committee will update the Party constitution. After this updated constitution is finalized and adopted by Party membership a copy will be filed with the Butler County Board of Elections and the Secretary of State.

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BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO

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**Constitution of the Butler County, Ohio
Democratic Central and Executive Committees**
~~—Adopted June 1, 2006—~~

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BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO

ARTICLE I: NAME

This organization shall be known as the Butler County, Ohio Democratic Party Central and Executive Committees.

ARTICLE II: AUTHORITY

This organization is created pursuant to and in conformity with Sections 3517.01 through 3517.06 of the Ohio Revised Code, and such other provisions of the laws as are applicable.

ARTICLE III: PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be:

- To promote principles of the Democratic Party as enumerated by the National Charter and the State and National Democratic platforms.
- To educate and inform the voting public of the relative merits of candidates for public office and of questions and issues.
- To encourage public participation in Democratic political activities and to promote interest in progressive, responsive, and efficient government in the County, State, and Nation.
- To present the best possible candidates for election to public office, and to assist such candidates as will support the philosophy of the Democratic Party.
- A copy of the State and National Party Platform(s) shall be kept on file at Democratic Headquarters.

ARTICLE IV: STRUCTURE

A. CENTRAL COMMITTEE

1. COMPOSITION

- a. The Central Committee shall consist of duly elected Democratic Central Committee members from each precinct in Butler County who shall be elected at the Primary Election held every four years, commencing at the Primary Election

held in 2006, or appointed pursuant to this Constitution. Each member shall be a resident of the precinct they represent.

- b. In the event a vacancy occurs in the Central Committee, by death, removal, resignation, or failure to stand for election, the Central Committee shall have sole authority to fill the vacancy as follows:

The name shall be recommended by a member of the Central Committee to its Nominating and Orientation Committee chairperson. No person shall be appointed without first proceeding through an orientation process as outlined under the Nominating and Orientation Committee. Appointment of the nominee to the Central Committee requires approval of the Central Committee Chair and a favorable vote of the majority of the Central Committee members present and voting.

- c. The Central Committee shall be responsible for the chartering and organization of all Democratic Clubs in Butler County and may abolish the Charter of a Club that is ascertained not to be working to elevate the advancement of the Butler County Democratic Party.

2. OFFICERS

The officers of the Central Committee shall be, in accordance with the statutes of the State of Ohio and said Constitution of Central Committee Chair: Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer who shall all be members of the Central Committee. The Central Committee Chair shall have the discretion to appoint the following additional officers: a Chaplain, Parliamentarian, and two Sergeants at Arms.

3. STANDING COMMITTEES

The Chair of the Central Committee shall appoint the following standing committees and such other committees as are deemed necessary, and shall serve as ex officio member of the same:

- a. **The Nominating and Orientation Committee** shall search out and with the approval of the Central Committee Chair for Central and Executive Committee Chair for Executive, nominate individuals to fill vacancies on the Central and Executive Committees. It shall also provide orientation to prospective new members. No person seeking appointment to the Central or Executive Committee may be placed in nomination to membership without first proceeding through an orientation process. The date, time, and place for Orientation meetings shall be at the discretion of the Orientation Committee Chair.

- b. **The Training and Development Committee** shall coordinate workshops for Committee members to train them in organizing their precincts.
- c. **The Constitution Committee** shall prepare and present a Constitution for consideration at an organizational meeting. Within thirty days of adoption, or amendment, this Constitution shall be filed with the Ohio Secretary of State and the Board of Elections along with a list of members of the Central and Executive Committee

4. ESTABLISHING THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Butler County Democratic Central Committee hereby establishes the Butler County Democratic Executive Committee, pursuant to Section 3517.03 O.R.C. Further, it shall be the responsibility of the Central Committee to elect an Executive Committee by a favorable vote of the majority of the Central Committee members present and voting at the organizational meeting.

B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. COMPOSITION

The Executive Committee shall consist of the membership of the Central Committee and up to one hundred thirty (130) additional at-large members may also be appointed to the Executive Committee.

Names shall be recommended by a Central or Executive Committee member to the Nominating and Orientation Committee Chair. No person shall be appointed without first proceeding through an orientation process as outlined under the Nominating and Orientation Committee. Appointment of the nominee(s) to the Executive Committee requires approval of the Executive Committee Chair and a favorable vote of the majority of the Executive Committee members present and voting. No more than six members may reside outside of Butler County.

2. OFFICERS

The officers of the Butler County Democratic Executive Committee shall be, in accordance with Section 3517.03 O.R.C. and said Constitution: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and the Treasurer. The Executive Committee Chair shall have the discretion to appoint the following additional officers: a Chaplain, a Parliamentarian, and two Sergeants at Arms.

3. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

The Chair of the Executive Committee may appoint the following standing committees and such other ad hoc committees as are necessary, and serve ex officio member of same.

- a. **Candidate Recruitment Committee**
- b. **Communications Committee**
- c. **Finance and Fund Raising Committee**

C. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

An Executive Council shall be established to assist the Chairs of the Central and Executive Committees in the daily operation of the Party and in setting the agenda for the Party.

The Executive Council shall consist of Central Committee and Executive Committee officers and five (5) members shall be elected at-large by the Executive Committee. If a vacancy occurs on the Executive Council, it shall be filled at a regularly scheduled Party meeting and shall be so stated in the notice.

The Chair of the Executive Council shall be the Chair of the Executive Committee. In the absence of the Executive Committee Chair, the Central Committee Chair will conduct the Executive Council meetings.

The business of the Executive Council shall be reported at the next regularly scheduled Party Meeting.

ARTICLE V: TERMS OF OFFICE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. CENTRAL COMMITTEE OFFICERS

1. **ELECTION**

The officers of the Central Committee shall be elected at the organizational meeting and shall serve four (4) years until the Party reorganization in the year 2010.

- a. The Chair of the Central Committee shall assist the Chair of the Executive Committee in the daily operations of the Party and shall be responsible for supervising the committees listed in Article IV, Section A, Subsection 3.
- b. The officers of the Central Committee shall have such duties as prescribed by the Central Committee Chair or as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

2. FILLING A VACANCY

In the event of a vacancy among the officers of the Central Committee by death, removal, or resignation, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the Central Committee members present and voting.

3. REMOVAL

To remove an officer for cause a special Central Committee meeting shall be called by a majority vote of the officers of the Central Committee. The Central Committee members may be removed by a three-fourths (3/4) favorable vote of the entire Central Committee. The Central Committee members must receive written notice of the purpose of the meeting and the removal procedures ten (10) days prior to said meeting. (Ten days shall be counted from the date of the mailing.)

B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

1. ELECTION

The officers of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the organizational meeting and shall serve until the Party reorganizes in the year 2010.

2. The CHAIR of the Executive Committee shall serve as Party Chair and Party spokesperson and shall be responsible for the daily operation of the Party. The Chair shall also chair the Executive Council and the monthly Party meetings, and shall be responsible for supervising the committees named in Article IV, Section B, Subsection 3.

3. The officers of the Executive Committee shall have such duties as prescribed by the Executive Committee Chair or as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

4. FILLING A VACANCY

In the event of a vacancy among the officers of the Executive Committee by death, removal, or resignation, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the Executive Committee members present and voting.

5. REMOVAL

To remove an officer for cause a special Executive Committee meeting shall be called by a majority vote of the officers of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee officer may be removed by a three-fourths (3/4) favorable vote of the entire Executive Committee. The Executive Committee members must receive written notice of the purpose of the meeting and the removal procedures

ten (10) days prior to said meeting. Ten (10) days shall be counted from the date of the mailing.

ARTICLE VI: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

A. CENTRAL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The major responsibility of Central and Executive Committee Members is to organize their precincts and Executive Committee members who are not members of the Central Committee shall assist in precinct organization. In addition, Central and Executive Committee members shall:

1. Attend monthly Party meetings.
2. Participate in the Party's major events.
3. Work actively on a subcommittee of their choice.
4. Work actively in the campaign of a candidate of their choice.
5. Pay membership dues annually.

ARTICLE VII: ENDORSEMENTS

- A. The Executive Council shall screen candidates for public office. Recommendations for endorsement shall require a majority of Executive Council members present and voting. Party endorsement shall require a 60% favorable vote of the Executive Committee members present and voting.
- B. The Executive Council may determine the amount of party funds which will be contributed to endorsed candidates.

ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIONS ✕

~~A. Elections shall be by secret ballot whenever more than one (1) person is nominated for the same office.~~

B. ELECTION PROCEDURE

1. The Chair will ask for nominations of candidates for one office at a time. Nominations require no seconding. Nominations are closed after the Chair has asked, "Are there any other nominations?" two times without receiving an affirmative response.
2. If there is only one person nominated for any given office, the Chair will declare that person duly elected.
3. If more than one person is nominated for the office of Chair of the Executive Committee, Chair of the Central Committee, or Board member of the Butler County Board of Elections, each nominee or his or her representative may speak

for up to ten (10) minutes. Following the presentations of all candidates nominated for that office, there shall be no more than ten (10) minutes supporting speeches, discussions, and debates, during which the Chair will strive to allow equal time for the supporters of various candidates.

4. If more than one person is nominated for any other office other than mentioned in Item #3 above, each nominee or his or her representative may speak for up to five (5) minutes. Following the presentations of all candidates, nominated for that office, there shall be no more than five (5) minutes of supporting speeches, discussions, and debates, during which the Chair will strive to allow equal time for the supporters of various candidates.
5. To be declared elected, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes on any ballot, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and another ballot is taken.

ARTICLE IX: MEETINGS

- A. All meetings of the Central and Executive Committees shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, unless otherwise provided herein and do not conflict with provisions outlined in this Constitution and with provisions of the Ohio Revised Code.
- B. Regular Central Committee meetings shall be called at the discretion of the Central Committee Chair, or a majority of the Central Committee officers.
- C. Special meetings of the Central Committee may be called at the discretion of the Central Committee Chair.
- D. Regular Executive Committee meetings shall be called at the discretion of the Executive Committee Chair, or a majority of the Executive Committee officers.
- E. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called at the discretion of the Executive Committee chair.
- F. Notice of regular meetings and elections shall be given in writing or email to each Committee members ten (10) days prior to said meeting. (Ten days shall be counted from the day of the mailing).
- G. Special meetings of the Central or Executive Committees shall be given a five (5) day notice. (The five days shall be counted from the day of the mailing).

ARTICLE X: QUORUM

- A. Any number of elected and/or appointed members of the Central Committee, present at a duly called meeting, shall constitute a quorum.

- B. Any number of voting members of the Executive Committee present at a duly called meeting, shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XI: VOTING

- A. Each member of the Central or Executive Committee shall be entitled to only one (1) vote on any election or issue at any meeting.
- B. No proxy shall be allowed.
- C. A secret ballot or a roll call ballot may be called for on any issue, but approval by a majority of the members present at a duly called meeting is required for such a ballot to be taken.

ARTICLE XII: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The financial records (including campaign filings) of the Executive Committee shall be audited. The Executive Committee Chair and the Central Committee Chair shall jointly appoint an Audit Committee. The committee shall present a report of the financial audit of the Party no less than every two years and immediately following an organizational meeting. Guidelines for financial management of the Party shall be adopted by the Executive Council.

ARTICLE XIII: ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT

- A. This Constitution shall take effect when adopted by the elected Central Committee members present and voting at the organizational meeting.
- B. This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Central Committee present and voting at any regular or special meeting, provided that the Chair gives notice of such meeting and sets forth the provisions to be considered for amendment and the text of the proposed amendment. Said amendment shall not be voted on at the meeting presented and discussed, but shall be placed on the agenda for discussion and vote at the next regular meeting.