

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
CLERMONT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE ONE: NAME

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Clermont County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE TWO: PURPOSE AND AFFILIATION

Section 1: The purpose of this organization shall be to foster and perpetuate the philosophy, principles, and goals of the Democratic Party; to encourage and promote Democratic Candidates for Public Office; to provide for the administration of the local Democratic Party; and to encourage voter participation.

Section 2: The Clermont County Democratic Party shall be affiliated with the Ohio Democratic Party and the National Democratic Party and shall follow the constitution of those organizations.

ARTICLE THREE: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership in this party shall be open to all residents of Clermont County, **in the State of Ohio**, who support the U.S. Constitution, the Ohio Constitution, the constitution, by-laws and principles of the Clermont County Democratic Party. No person may be a member or may vote on any motion, resolution, nomination, or election at any caucus, convention, meeting or conference of the Clermont County Democratic Party who does not meet these qualifications or is a member of any other political party at that time.

Section 2: No person shall hold office in the Clermont County Democratic Party unless that person meets the qualifications of membership and is a registered Democrat.

Section 3: In the event that any person's qualifications as a member of the Clermont County Democratic Party, for eligibility for party office, must be determined, the same challenge procedure shall be followed to determine his or her qualifications as provided by the Election Laws of the State of Ohio.

ARTICLE FOUR: CONFLICT OF LAWS

Section 1: Nothing within this constitution shall conflict with the constitution and laws of the United States of America, the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio, or constitutions of the Ohio and National Democratic Party. Should any portion of this constitution be ruled unenforceable or illegal, the remainder of this constitution shall remain in full force and effect.

ARTICLE FIVE: ORGANIZATION OF CONTROLLING COMMITTEES

Section 1: The controlling committee of the Clermont County Democratic Party shall be the Clermont County Central Committee which shall be elected and constituted in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio. The County Central Committee shall elect the County Executive Committee in the manner set forth in this constitution. The Central Committee shall confer upon the County Executive Committee all power and authority of the Central Committee and the Executive Committee shall be authorized to act for the Central Committee in the management, operation, business and organization of the Clermont County Democratic Party.

Section 2: The members-elect of the Central Committee shall meet in Clermont County, Ohio in a manner and within the time prescribed by the laws of the State of Ohio for the purpose of reorganizing the Central Committee and electing the Executive Committee. The members-elect of the County Central Committee shall meet not earlier than six days or later than (15) days following the date of the certification of the Primary Election. Notice of such meeting, giving the place and time, shall be sent to each member-elected by the retiring secretary of the Committee by mail and a copy of the notice shall be posted in the office of the Board of Elections of Clermont County, at least five days prior to any such meeting. The Central Committee shall be called to order by the retiring chairperson. A temporary chairperson and temporary secretary shall then be elected by the Central Committee. The Central Committee shall then proceed to reorganize with the election of a chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, and any other officers as the Central Committee may desire, from within the membership of the Central Committee.

Section 3: The County Central Committee shall then elect the County Executive Committee as follows:

- A. One member from each township selected by the majority vote of the duly-elected precinct committeepersons in that township;
- B. One member from any city within the county to be elected by the majority vote of the duly elected precinct committeepersons of that city;
- C. The Central Committee chair and secretary.

Section 4: After the election of the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall be called to meet immediately and proceed to elect a chairperson, who need not be a member of the Central or Executive Committee, meets all membership eligibility requirements of Article 3, Section 3 of this document, and upon election shall become a member of the Executive Committee.

Section 5 The chairperson of the Executive Committee may appoint the president of any Democratic Club authorized by the Executive Committee as of January 1st of the year of reorganization, or a duly-authorized representative.

Section 6: The chairperson of the Executive Committee may appoint to the Executive Committee an additional number of individuals, not to exceed five, for membership on the Executive Committee.

Section 7: The Executive Committee shall then proceed to elect as many vice-chairpersons, in order of succession, as the Executive Committee deems necessary. The Executive Committee shall then elect a secretary and a treasurer.

Section 8: In all elections for officers or membership in the Executive Committee, or in the election of officers of the Central Committee, or in the election of replacement members of the Central Committee, or in the election of any individual to any position by either committee, any form of a secret ballot is strictly prohibited.

Section 9: Four consecutive unexcused absences by an Executive Committee member or 50 % or more absences of meetings during their term shall forfeit that individual's membership on the Executive Committee. This person shall be ineligible to be elected or appointed to the Executive Committee during the next county re-organization.

ARTICLE SIX: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Section 1: Officers of the Executive Committee shall be the persons elected as chairperson, vice chairperson(s), secretary and treasurer.

Section 2: The Executive Committee Chairperson shall act as chief executive officer of the committee and shall be subject to the direction of, and responsible to, the Executive Committee.

Section 3: The chairperson shall appoint such directors, committees, and committee chairpersons as is necessary for the operation of the Executive Committee. Those appointments shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 4: The vice-chairperson, in order of succession, shall act as chairperson of the Executive Committee in case of death, resignation, removal, incapacity, or absence of the Executive Committee chairperson. The vice-chairperson shall have the same duties and powers as the chairperson until such time as a new chairperson is elected by the Executive Committee at the next party re-organization.

Section 5: The secretary shall record the proceedings of all meetings, maintain official documents, and prepare the minutes and necessary notices of all meetings and make them available to any Executive Member upon request.

Section 6: The treasurer shall have custody of all funds of the Executive Committee and give a financial report at every meeting. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all receipts and expenditures of the Executive Committee. The treasurer shall be under sufficient bond as determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 7: The Executive Committee shall meet at least four times per calendar year and at any other times as set by the chairman or eight Executive Committee members.

Section 8: All members of the Central Committee shall be invited to meetings of the Executive Committee and shall be permitted to participate in the meetings but shall not be permitted to vote on any matter before the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE SEVEN: PARTY UNITY, PARTY POLICY, VACANCIES, AND ORGANIZATION OF VARIOUS DEMOCRATIC CLUBS

Section 1: The chairperson of the Executive Committee and the officers of the various Democratic Clubs within the county shall consult with and cooperate with each other in the operation of the various areas of their jurisdictions.

Section 2: Central Committee members and the chairpersons or presidents of the various Chartered Democratic Clubs shall consult with and cooperate with the Executive Committee.

Section 3: All members of the Clermont County Democratic Party, all party officers, all Democratic Party officeholders, and all candidates for office nominated by the Democratic Party shall support the principles of the Democratic Party and work for the unity of the Democratic Party.

Section 4: There shall be no pre-primary endorsement of any candidate where the election is contested unless 66% of the Executive Committee votes to endorse. Before such endorsement is given all party candidates for that office shall be given an opportunity to attend an Executive Committee meeting, and speak, and answer questions.

Section 5: All vacancies in the Central and Executive Committees shall be filled by the Executive Committee except for the removal of an Executive Committee member in accordance with Article 5 Section 8.

Section 6: All delegates and alternate delegates to the state or national conventions shall be elected in accordance with the laws of the state of Ohio.

ARTICLE EIGHT: MEETINGS

Section 1: Notice of any meeting of the Central and Executive Committee specifying time and place shall be sent in writing, via fax, email, or United States mail to all members of the committee not less than three days in advance of the meeting unless otherwise provided by law.

Section 2: Minutes shall be taken of all meetings.

Section 3: Any matters regarding the conduct of the affairs of the Clermont County Central and Executive Committees not governed by this constitution and its by-laws nor by the convention rules nor by the laws of the State Of Ohio shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 4: No meeting shall be conducted without the presence of a quorum which shall be 40 % of the Executive Committee membership.

ARTICLE NINE: PARTY FINANCES

Section 1: The Clermont County Executive Committee shall have the primary responsibility for soliciting contributions and promoting fund raising for the party.

Section 2: The Executive Committee chairperson shall compile at least once a year, a list of all contributions and receipts received by the Executive Committee, and shall provide each Executive Committee member such list upon request.

Section 3: The members of the Central Committee, candidates, office holders and party members shall assist the members of the Executive Committee in fund-raising activities and in the solicitation of contributions.

ARTICLE TEN: OATH OF OFFICE

Section 1: All members of the Central and Executive Committees shall be required to take the following oath before entering into the discharge of their position.

I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF OHIO, AND THE CONSTITUTIONS, BY-LAWS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THE OHIO DEMOCRATIC PARTY, AND THE CLERMONT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: This constitution may be amended by a 60% vote of the Clermont County Democratic Executive Committee at a meeting called for that purpose. Any amendment shall first be submitted in writing, via fax, email or United States mail, to every member of the Executive Committee at least 21 days prior to any meeting called to act on the amendment.

Section 2: Upon adoption, this constitution shall supersede any and all other constitutions previously adopted by the Clermont County Democratic Party.

Presented to the Clermont County Executive Committee for consideration on April 26, 2007.
Amendments to the By Laws made at the May 24, 2007 meeting.

Signed by:

Dave Lane, Chairman
Russ Arey, 1st Vice Chair
Bonnie Carlier, Secretary
Sandy Zimmer, Treasurer, By-Laws Committee Co-Chair
David Koon, By-Laws Committee Chair
Judy Miller, Executive Member
Gregg Conrad, Executive Member

Clermont County Democratic Party