

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE DEMOCRAT PARTY OF
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO

RECEIVED

MAY 24 1996

BOB TAFT
SECRETARY OF STATE

Preamble

We, members of the COLUMBIANA COUNTY DEMOCRAT PARTY in convention assembled, in order to organize and perpetuate a representative, effective, and responsible party organization at all levels in Columbiana County, Ohio, affiliate with and advance the interest of the Democrat Party for the State of Ohio and naturally, sustain and advance the principles of democracy, and uphold human and civil rights and constitutional government, do establish Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE I. Name, Membership, and Eligibility for Office

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the COLUMBIANA COUNTY DEMOCRAT PARTY

Section 2. Membership

Membership in this party shall be open to all residents of Columbiana County, in the State of Ohio who support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, and the Constitution, By-Laws and Principles of the COLUMBIANA COUNTY DEMOCRAT 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 COLUMBIANA DEMOCRAT PARTY, who does not meet the aforesaid qualification or who is a member of any other political party at that time.

Section 3. Eligibility for Party Office

Any person who meets the membership requirements of Article I, Section 2, is eligible for election to party office, except as hereinafter listed. There shall be no minimum age requirement for party office save where prescribed by law.

Section 4. Qualifications

In the event that any person's qualifications as a member of the COLUMBIANA COUNTY DEMOCRAT PARTY or 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 Ohio.

ARTICLE II. **Constitutions and Laws**

Section 1.

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 Ohio Democratic Party Constitution and By-Laws. Any matter which conflicts with any of the aforesaid shall be of no force and effect. All constitutional provisions and laws of the United States 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 unenforcibility of any one clause shall not affect any other clause.

ARTICLE III. **Central Committee - Executive Committee**

Section 1.

The controlling committee of the COLUMBIANA COUNTY DEMOCRAT PARTY shall be the County Central Committee consisting of such membership as shall be elected according to the laws of the State of Ohio. The County Central Committee shall elect a County Executive Committee which shall have such powers as are granted it by the County Central Committee, as are provided by law, and by this Constitution and By-Laws. Membership of the Executive Committee shall consist of all the duly elected and appointed precinct committee persons within Columbiana County, County and Municipal Democrat office holders, and 30 democrat members-at-large with said members-at-large to serve at the pleasure of the Chairman. The Chairman shall make said selection of the 30 democrat members-at-large within 30 days after his election as Chairman. Recommendations of the Chairman must be broadly represented of all the various elements of the party.

Section 2.

The members-elect of the party's Central Committee shall meet not earlier than six, nor later than fifteen days following the date of the certification of the primary election at a suitable place and time in Columbiana County, Ohio, to be designated by the retiring chairman of the Committee. Notice of such meeting, giving the place and time, shall be sent to each member-elect 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 Columbiana County, at least five days prior to any such meeting. If the retiring secretary does not issue the call within the time provided by law, such meeting shall be called according to the Statutes of the State of Ohio. The meeting shall be called to order by the retiring chairman or secretary or if there is no such office or if such office is absent, then as provided by the laws of the State of Ohio. A temporary chairman and secretary shall be chosen and the Committee shall proceed to organize by the election of a chairman, a first vice chairman, a second vice chairman, a treasurer, a secretary, and such other officers as the Committee may desire.

Section 3.

The County Central Committee shall confer upon the County Executive Committee all power and authority of the County Central Committee and the County Executive Committee shall be authorized to act for the County Central Committee in all things pertaining to the welfare, business, operation and organization of the County Central Committee and the COLUMBIANA COUNTY DEMOCRAT PARTY during the period of its existence which shall continue until the 6th day after the certification of the election of the next County Central Committee at the succeeding primary election. Any vacancies which may occur in the County Executive Committee or in the County Central Committee shall be filled by the Chairman.

Section 4.

Any member of the County Executive Committee who is absent from two consecutive meetings or absent from 3 meetings of said Committee in any one year, except where officially excused, shall be automatically removed as a member of said County Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV. **Executive Board**

Section 1.

The Executive Board shall be comprised of those persons selected by the Chairman for meetings as called by the Chairman for the purpose of discussing issues relevant to the Columbiana Democrat Party

and for which recommendations can be made to the County Central Committee or Executive Committee for its approval. The Executive Board shall have no inherent powers of its own.

ARTICLE V. **Officers**

Section 1.

The Chairman's duties shall be those of chief executive office and he shall be subject to the direction of and responsible to the County Executive Committee. The Chairman shall appoint a finance committee, a budget committee, a chairlady who shall be director of woman's activities, and other committee as he deems necessary. All of said appointments shall serve subject to the pleasure of the Chairman.

Section 2.

The Chairman shall sit as a member of the County Board of Elections and when said Chairman resigns or no longer holds the position of Chairman, he or she will resign from the County Board of Elections within 15 days from the swearing in of the new Chairman and shall be replaced by the new Chairman on the Board of Elections.

Section 3.

The First Vice-Chairman, in order of succession, shall act as the chairman in case of the death, resignation, incapacity, removal or absence of the chairman of his predecessor, and shall, in such event, have the same powers, duties, and responsibilities as the chairman until such time as the County Executive Committee shall properly elect a new chairman, such election to be pursuant to Article XII, Section 1. The First Vice-Chairman shall also serve as a chairman of the finance committee.

Section 4.

The Second Vice-Chairman, in order of succession, shall act as the chairman in case of the death, resignation, incapacity, removal or absence of the first vice-chairman and the chairman. The Second Vice-Chairman shall be chairman of the budget committee.

Section 5.

The Secretary shall be in charge of all the official documents of the Executive Committee as of

preparation of the necessary notices, minutes and other documents. He shall preserve such files and other documents, and open them for examination and at appropriate times at the request of any duly elected member of the County Executive Committee. He shall also prepare all necessary press releases and communications.

Section 6.

The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the party and shall render up to date financial 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 Budget Committee. He and any other party officer responsible for the handling of party funds shall be under sufficient bond, the amount to be determined and paid by the County Executive Committee.

Section 7.

The Finance Committee shall be responsible for soliciting all contributions and promoting all fund-raising activities for the party.

Section 8.

The Budget Committee shall be responsible for the planning of all expenditures of the party.

ARTICLE V. State, County, Political Subdivisions and Democrat Clubs, Cooperation

Section 1.

The Chairman of the COLUMBIANA COUNTY DEMOCRAT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall consult with, and cooperate with, the various precinct Committeemen and Officers of all Democrat Clubs of the Ohio Democrat Party within their areas of jurisdiction.

Section 2.

The Central Committeeman of the precincts and the presidents of the various Democrat Clubs and elected County office holders, shall consult with and cooperate with the Columbiana County Democrat Executive Committee and its Chairman on all matters relating to the business of the COLUMBIANA COUNTY DEMOCRAT PARTY in their respective areas of jurisdiction of the Central Committeeman or Officers of Democrat Clubs.

ARTICLE VI. **Meetings**

Section 1.

The County Central Committee shall meet after its election as required by law and this Constitution and By-Laws. The County Executive Committee shall meet monthly, except July, August, and December. Special meetings shall be called at the discretion of the Chairman with no less than 5 days and no more than 10 days prior written notice.

Section 2.

Minutes shall be taken of all meetings of the County Central Committee and the County Executive Committee.

Section 3.

A quorum shall consist of 25% of the Executive Committee.

Section 4.

Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote for matters voted on by the Committee. All matters considered shall pass by majority vote of those members present and voting. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Section 5.

An agenda for regularly scheduled meetings shall consist of:

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll call of officers
4. Secretary's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Report of standing committees
7. Report of special committees
8. Old business
9. New business
10. Miscellaneous
11. Calendar of events

ARTICLE VII. **Endorsements**

Section 1.

At any time the Columbiana County Executive Committee may make endorsements for any office

or issue, providing that 60% of the members of the committee present and voting on such question, so determine. At any meeting on which endorsement shall be discussed, no less than 5 days and no more than 10 days prior written notice shall be given to each member of the Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. **Finance**

Section 1.

The County Central Committee members of the COLUMBIANA COUNTY DEMOCRAT PARTY shall be obligated to assist in the raising of monies as shall be determined from time to time by the Columbiana County Democrat Executive Committee that is fair, equitable, and uniform throughout the County, taking into consideration the population, Democrat vote and resources in each sub-division.

ARTICLE IX. **Party Unity**

Section 1.

All members of the party, candidates for office, party officers, party committees and organizations, and elected Democrat officials shall support the principles of the COLUMBIANA COUNTY DEMOCRAT PARTY.

ARTICLE X. **Oath of Office**

Section 1.

All officers of the Columbiana County Central Committee and the 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, the principles of the Ohio Democrat Party, and the Constitution and By-Laws of the COLUMBIANA COUNTY DEMOCRAT PARTY.

ARTICLE XI. **Roberts Rules**

Section 1.

Any matters regarding the conduct of the affairs of the Columbiana County Central and Executive Committees not governed by this Constitution and By-Laws or by the convention rules or by the laws of the State of Ohio shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, except if suspended by a majority vote of those members in attendance.

ARTICLE XII. **Succession**

Section 1.

In case of death, resignation, incapacity, or removal of the Chairman, a Chairman shall be duly elected at a special meeting called for that purpose. The First Vice-Chairman shall call the meeting within 30 days for the election of a new Chairman. Ten days written notice shall be given to each duly elected or appointed precinct Committeeman.

Section 2.

In case of death, resignation, incapacity, or removal of any other officer, the Chairman shall appoint a replacement for said office.

ARTICLE XIII. **Amendment**

Section 1.

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by 60% of the members present and voting of the Executive Committee of the COLUMBIANA COUNTY DEMOCRAT PARTY at any meeting called for that purpose. Amendments proposed under this Section shall be submitted in writing and copies thereof sent to each member of the said Committee 20 days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE XIV. **Sub Chairman**

Section 1.

The County shall be divided into eighteen subdivisions by townships for purposes of this Article. Each subdivision shall have a chairperson who shall be appointed by the County Chairman and who will serve at the County Chairman's pleasure. Said sub-chairman shall be responsible to organize their subdivision for purposes of all causes for the good of the Columbiana County Democrat Party.

ARTICLE XV. **Previous Constitutions and By-Laws**

Section 1.

This Constitution and By-Laws supersede any and all other previous Constitutions and By-Laws of the COLUMBIANA COUNTY DEMOCRAT PARTY and shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

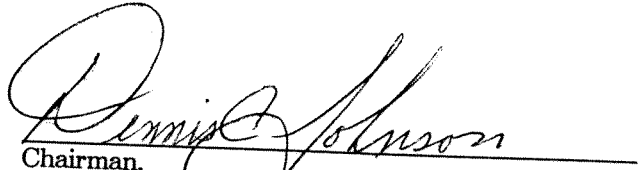
Adopted at Lisbon, Ohio

this 1 day of January,

1993 by the COLUMBIANA COUNTY

DEMOCRAT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE duly

assembled for this purpose.



Chairman,

COLUMBIANA COUNTY DEMOCRAT EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE