

# 2010 RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



## **PREAMBLE**

The purpose of the Hamilton County Democratic Party shall be the election of candidates to local, state and national office and the promotion of the goals and principles of the Democratic Party. The Democratic Party shall be open to all and due regard shall be taken to insure that appointment to Party bodies reflects the diversity of the Democratic Party.

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## **COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

### Article I: Membership

- A. The Hamilton County Central Committee shall be composed of the Central Committee persons elected at the Primary Election in even numbered years from each precinct in Hamilton County in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3517.03, and those appointed to fill vacant precincts by the Central Committee or the Executive Committee.
- B. Between meetings of the Central Committee, vacancies in the Central Committee shall be filled by appointment of the Hamilton County Executive Committee.
- C. Appointed Central Committee members shall be eligible to vote after their appointment has been approved by the Central Committee or the Executive Committee and, once appointed shall serve the same term and have the same powers as if they had been elected.

### Article II: Meetings

- A. The organizational meeting of the Central Committee shall take place in accordance with the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 3517.04.
- B. All other meetings shall be held at the call of the Chair of the Central Committee.

### Article III: Officers

- A. The officers of the Central Committee shall be:
  - 1. One (1) Chair or Co-Chairs who agree to run and serve together.
  - 2. Five (5) Executive Co-Chairs who agree to run, and serve together.
  - 3. A Secretary.
  - 4. A Treasurer.
- B. The above officers shall collectively constitute an Officers Council which shall meet no less than monthly.
- C. The Chair(s) may appoint Vice-Chairs who shall be members of the Executive Committee and the Steering Committee if one is authorized by the Executive Committee.

### Article IV: Election of Officers

- A. All officers, with the exception of Vice Chairs, shall be elected at the biennial organizational meeting of the Central Committee.
  - B. Voting in the Central Committee shall be either by voice, standing or roll call.
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Article V: Powers of the Central Committee

- A. The Central Committee shall exercise all powers granted to it by the statutes of the State of Ohio.
- B. The Central Committee shall delegate all of its powers to the Hamilton County Executive Committee except those expressly reserved to it by Ohio law.

Article VI: Dual Capacity of Officers

- A. The officers of the Central Committee shall be the officers of the Executive Committee.

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**COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Article VII: Membership

- A. The Hamilton County Executive Committee shall be limited to 200 members.
- B. The Executive Committee shall be composed in part of all duty elected Cincinnati Ward Chairs and the District Chair of each City, Village and Township.
- C. The balance of the 200 members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the Chair(s) of the Central Committee. Such appointed members need not be members of the Central Committee.

Article VIII: Meetings

- A. The organizational meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held within thirty (30) days following the biennial organizational meeting of the Central Committee at the call of the Chair(s) of the Central Committee.
- B. Additional meetings may be held at the call of the Chair(s) of the Executive Committee.
- C. Meetings may also be called upon the written request signed by twenty-five (25) members of the Committee stating the purpose thereof. Upon receipt of the request, the Chair(s) shall call a meeting of the Committee within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of the request, giving at least five (5) days' notice to the members of the Committee which notice shall also state the purpose of the meeting.

Article IX: Officers and Duties

- A. The officers of the Executive Committee shall be the same as the officers of the Central Committee.
- B. The duties of the Chair(s) shall be as follows:
  - 1. The Chair(s) may designate one of the Executive Co-Chairs to conduct meetings in his/her (their) absence and to perform such other duties as the Chair may designate.
  - 2. The Chair(s) shall resolve, decide and determine any disputes, objections or protests which may arise concerning the legality of the election of County Central Committeepersons, Ward, City, Village and Township Chairs.
  - 3. The Chair(s) shall appoint such committees as are necessary to fulfill the purpose of the Hamilton County Democratic Party as stated in the Preamble.
- C. The duties of the Secretary shall be as follows:
  - 1. The Secretary shall keep a record of the minutes of the proceedings of meetings of the organization.
  - 2. The Secretary shall give notice as required in these rules and regulations of any and all meetings.
  - 3. The Secretary shall generally do and perform the duties ordinarily required to be done and performed by such an officer.
- D. The duties of the Treasurer shall be as follows:
  - 1. The Treasurer shall keep a true and accurate account of all money, valuables or credits received by the Treasurer or coming into possession of the Treasurer or control belonging to this organization, together with the character, amount and to whom made, of any and all disbursements. And with the assistance of an accountant or fiscal officer shall render a full true and accurate account of the financial condition of this organization when requested

by the Chair(s) and annually to the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall also file all reports required by state and federal law.

Article X: Powers

- A. The Executive Committee shall exercise all powers granted to it by statute and those delegated to it by the Central Committee.

Article XI: Procedure

- A. Voting in the Executive Committee shall be either by voice, standing or roll call.
- B. Members must be present to be entitled to vote. No proxy voting shall be permitted.
- C. Those Members attending a meeting shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business except when a statute provides otherwise.

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**DISTRICT CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

Article XII: Definition

- A. Each City, Village and Township shall have a Central Committee composed of the Central Committee persons of the respective city, village or township.

Article XIII: Meetings

- A. The organizational meeting of each District Central Committee shall take place no later than twenty (20) days following each biennial meeting of the County Central Committee, provided, however, that the City of Cincinnati organizational meeting shall take place no later than September 30th of each even numbered year.
- B. All other meetings shall be held at the call of the Chair of the District Central Committee.
- C. Meetings may also be called upon the written request signed by ten percent (10%) of the members of the Committee stating the purpose thereof. Upon receipt of the request, the Chair shall call a meeting of the Committee within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of the request, giving at least five (5) days' notice to the members of the Committee which notice shall also state the purpose of the meeting.

Article XIV: Officers and Their Election

- A. The officers of each District Central Committee shall be as follows:
  - 1. A Chair.
  - 2. Such other officers as determined by the members of the District Central Committee.
- B. The officers shall be elected at the organizational meeting of the committee.

Article XV: Powers and Duties

- A. Each District Central Committee may take nominations or issue endorsements of candidates for public office solely within that district.
- B. Each District Central Committee shall also adopt rules and regulations regarding all other matters relating to the affairs of the Democratic Party within that District, which may provide for a District Executive Committee whose members may include non members of the District Central Committee.

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**ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

Article XVI: Ward Chairs

- A. No later than twenty (20) days following each biennial meeting of the County Central Committee, the Central Committee persons elected in each ward of a city shall meet and elect a Ward Chair.
- B. The Ward Chair shall be responsible for directing the political activity of the Democratic Party for that ward.

Article XVII: Policy Committee

- A. Among the committees appointed by the Chair(s), there shall be a Policy Committee which shall consider and make recommendations on issues, including ballot issues, for consideration by the Executive Committee and which may draft a County Party platform for consideration by the Executive Committee.

Article XVIII: Democratic Clubs

- A. Wherever possible, each ward of the City of Cincinnati, and each other city, each village and each township shall have a Democratic Club whose membership shall consist of the chair, all Central Committeepersons and all other Democrats who desire to participate in the activities of the club.
- B. The County Executive Committee, to the extent possible, shall prescribe the rules and regulations under which all clubs shall operate.
- C. Each club shall determine the amount of annual dues for its membership.
- D. The objectives of all clubs shall be:
  - 1. To increase membership by interesting local citizens in the goals and principles of the Democratic Party.
  - 2. To maintain interesting and informative programs at club meetings.
  - 3. To raise funds for the payment of outside workers on election day through continuing fund-raising, raffles, social events, etc.
  - 4. To train precinct committeepersons and those who will in the future, become precinct committeepersons.
  - 5. To assist in the registration of Democratic voters.

Article XIX: Miscellaneous Provisions

- A. The County Executive Committee may authorize the formation of other Democratic committees and/or clubs within the county such as a steering committee, college clubs, women's clubs, etc.
- B. In the event of a vacancy in the office of ward or district chair, the Central Committee persons of the respective area shall meet upon two (2) days written notice to elect a new chair. The meeting shall be called by and chaired by the Chair(s) of the County Executive Committee or his/her designee.
- C. These rules and regulations may be amended by vote of a majority of the members of the County Executive Committee at a meeting called for that purpose by the Chair(s) of the Executive Committee.
- D. These rules and regulations replace and supersede all prior rules and regulations of the Democratic Party of Hamilton County, Ohio.
- E. Robert's Rules of Order shall apply to all Central and Executive Committee meeting.
- G. For any position for which an Executive Committee recommendation is required by law, 30 days notice shall be provided of such a position opening prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee at which a recommendation will be made.