

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS
OF
LORAIN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
(Amended April 8, 2004)

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SECRETARY OF STATE

We, the members of the Lorain County Democratic Central Committee, in order to organize and perpetuate a representative, effective, and responsible party organization at all levels in Lorain County, to affiliate with and advance the interests of the Ohio and National Democratic Parties, to sustain and advance the principles of democracy, and to uphold human and civil rights and constitutional government, adopt this Constitution and By-Laws.

We dedicate ourselves to the principles and pledges of both the National Democratic Party and the Ohio Democratic Party and we subscribe to the principle of a party structure open to all Democrats. Our aim is to build the party structure from the present level up, to seek and extend cooperation with duly elected Lorain County Democratic office holders and to work toward the goals of a financially strong and viable party.

The Lorain County Democratic Party shall further the election of Democratic candidates and the adoption of those policies which are supported by the National Democratic Party, the Ohio Democratic Party, and the Lorain County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE I. **Name, Membership and Eligibility for Office**

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the "Lorain County Democratic Party."

Section 2. Membership

Membership in this party shall be open to all residents of Lorain County, State of Ohio, who support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Constitution, By-Laws and principles of the Lorain County Democratic Party, and the Ohio and National Democratic Parties. 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 Lorain County Democratic Party, who does not meet the aforesaid qualifications 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 Article I, Section 2, shall be qualified for election or appointment to party office. There shall be no minimum age requirement for party office save where prescribed by law.

ARTICLE II. **Constitution 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. "Conflict", as referred to herein, shall not be interpreted to preclude the County Central or Executive Committee to organize in a manner other than as prescribed for the State Committees under Articles III and IV or the Ohio Democratic Party Constitution and By-Laws so long as such organization is in conformance with State Laws.

ARTICLE III **Governing Body of the Lorain County Party**

The governing body of the Lorain County Democratic Party shall be the Lorain County Central Committee, elected as provided by Law.

The Lorain County Central Committee shall meet at least once every four years or as required by law. The meeting shall be open to the public.

Notice of every meeting shall be given as set forth by these rules.

A quorum shall consist of 50% of the elected or appointed members of the Lorain County Central Committee. No member shall vote by proxy.

The Lorain County Central Committee shall elect the following officers, to serve four-year terms, at each meeting as required by law: A Chairman, three (3) Vice-Chairmen, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

ARTICLE IV. **County Executive Committee**

Section 1.

The Lorain County Central Committee shall establish a County Executive Committee, which shall consist of one hundred two (102) members.

One member of the County Executive Committee shall be the President of the Lorain County Federation of Democratic Women. One member of the County Executive Committee shall be the President of the Lorain County Young Democrats.

The remaining 100 members shall be composed of those persons recommended by the Chairmen of the respective Municipalities, Villages, or Township areas of the County. The number to be recommended from each political subdivision shall be that percentage of Democrats voting in that political subdivision or subdivisions, in proportion to the total Democrats voting in the County as of the primary in each even year based on 100.

Section 2.

The recommendations of such Chairmen for members of the County Executive Committee shall be adopted by the Lorain County Central Committee and such members elected at the organizational meeting held every four years of the Lorain County Central Committee. The County Executive Committee is hereby delegated the authority necessary to do all things it deems necessary and proper, and in the best interest of the Lorain County Democratic Party, and shall have final authority on all matters of general party responsibility, except as it may be otherwise specifically directed by a majority vote of the Lorain County Central Committee, or as is now or hereafter directed by State Law.

ARTICLE V. **Meeting and Voting of the County Executive Committee**

The County Executive Committee shall meet at least every four years or as required by law.

Notice of every meeting shall be given as set forth by these rules.

A quorum shall consist of 50% of the elected or appointed of the County Executive Committee. No member shall vote by proxy.

ARTICLE VII. Vacancies and Appointments

If a vacancy occurs in the office of Chairman of the Lorain County Central Committee or the County Executive Committee, the Committee where the vacancy has occurred will meet within 15 days of said vacancy to elect a successor Chairman. Any other vacancies, which occur in the Lorain County Central Committee, the County Executive Committee, or the offices thereof, shall be temporarily filled by the Chairman of the County Executive Committee based upon recommendation received from the area Chairman of the political subdivision where the vacancy occurred.

Said appointments by the Chairman of the County Executive Committee shall be effective until the next meeting of the County Executive Committee, at which time an election will be held to fill the vacancy.

The vacancy will be considered to have occurred because of the death, disability, resignation or removal from office of any person on the Lorain County Central Committee or County Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. Home Rule

Each political subdivision may adopt its own By-laws or rules for the organization and operation of their affairs. Said By-Laws shall be consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Lorain County Democratic Party, the Ohio Democratic Party, and the National Democratic Party.

If any political subdivision, pursuant to this Section, adopts written By-Laws or rules, a copy of said By-Laws or rules shall be filed the Lorain County Central Committee.

ARTICLE IX. Notice

Notice of any meeting of the County Central Committee or County Executive Committee shall consist of a letter or postcard mailed by regular U.S. mail to the last address of the member appearing on the record of the respective secretary. Proper notice shall be given either as required by law or five (5) days, whichever prevails.

ARTICLE X. Rules of Order

All meetings of the Lorain County Democratic Party shall be governed by ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED, in all cases to which the procedure is applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws.

ARTICLE XI. Party Unity

Section 1.

All members of the party, candidates for office, party officers, party committees and organizations, and elected Democratic officials shall support the principles of the Lorain County Democratic Party.

Section 2

All members of the party, candidates for office, party officers, party committees, organizations and elected Democratic officials shall support the endorsed candidates and issues of the Democratic Party in general elections,

Section 3

Any member of the party, member of one of the party's committees or organizations, party officer, candidate for office or elected Democratic official who fails to support Sections 1 and 2 above may be asked to resign from any elected or appointed party position upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the County Executive Committee. Further, said member cannot seek a party office for one (1) year from the date of the vote of the County Executive Committee. Failing the resignation of said member; the County Executive Committee shall remove him from office upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members except in cases otherwise provided by law.

ARTICLE XII. Appointments

The County Executive Committee Chairman shall appoint such other committees and committee chairmen to conduct the affairs of the Party.

ARTICLE XIII. Amendments

This Constitution and By-Laws of the Lorain County Democratic Party may be amended by a 55% vote of those present and voting at any meeting of the County Central Committee, provided notice of such amendment(s) shall have been sent to the members by the County Central Committee Secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which the amendment(s) are to be considered.

ARTICLE XIV. Remain In Effect

This Constitution and By-Laws of the Lorain County Democratic Party shall remain in effect until changed by a vote of the County Central Committee as provided herein.