

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE LUCAS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

We, the Lucas County Democratic Party, unified in the common purpose, hereby rededicate ourselves to the principles which have historically sustained our party. Recognizing that the vitality of our political institutions has been the foundation of our enduring strength, we acknowledge that a political party which wishes to lead must listen to those who it would lead. A party that asks for people's trust must prove that it trusts the people and a party that hopes to call forth the best that can be achieved must embody the best of our heritage and traditions.

What we seek for Lucas County, we hope for all the people: individual freedom in the framework of a just community and political freedom in the framework of meaningful participation by all citizens. Bound by the United States Constitution, aware that a party must be responsive to be worthy of responsibility, we pledge ourselves to open, honest endeavor and to the conduct of public affairs in a manner worthy of a community of free people.

We recognize that the capacity of the government is limited, but we regard democratic government as a force for good and a source of hope. At the heart of our party lies a fundamental conviction, that citizens must not only be free, but they must live in a fair community.

To that end, the Lucas County Democratic Party believes that our governments should strive to pursue the following goals:

- Demanding the enforcement of all federal, state and local laws that protect the health, welfare and safety of all citizens in the workplace, environment and community as a whole;
- Supporting efforts to award governmental contracts to area contractors who are represented by organized labor, insuring collective bargaining;
- Assuring the highest quality of educational opportunities possible in our school systems;
- Striving to eradicate social, political and economic injustice in our communities;
- Working to create and maintain meaningful jobs, and the continual improvement of a favorable labor/business climate through promotion of the free enterprise system;
- Insuring that an equitable share of money is allocated to rebuilding and maintaining our neighborhoods;
- Insuring that all persons shall be treated with respect and dignity.

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The Lucas County Democratic Party will encourage all citizens of Lucas County to contribute to the well-being of the county, to seek the highest degree of justice for all, to develop an active interest in governmental affairs and the electoral process, to develop leadership skills and involve the Lucas County Democratic Party members in programs to improve voter education and participation.

This is our purpose and promise.

Membership in the party shall be open to all residents of Lucas County who support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Ohio and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Lucas County Democratic Party, and will strive to fill all offices and positions with qualified Democratic candidates.

All individuals receiving the Democratic Party endorsement shall support all individuals endorsed henceforth by the Democratic Party and shall support the resolutions and policies of the Central Committee or its designated agents. Democratic Party endorsed candidates shall not speak publicly of other Democratic endorsed candidates in a way that could be construed as negative or non-supportive, or aid the candidacy of anyone other than those endorsed by the Democratic Party. Failure to heed these principles could result in withdrawal of endorsement by vote of the Executive Committee.

Nothing herein shall conflict with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Constitution, Bylaws and Principles of the Ohio Democratic Party and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Lucas County Democratic Party.

All officers of the Central Committee and the Executive Committee shall be required to take an oath of office to support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Constitution, Bylaws and Principles of the Ohio Democratic Party and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Lucas County Democratic Party.

Any matters regarding the conduct of the affairs of the Central Committee or Executive Committee of the Lucas County Democratic Party not governed by this Constitution or by the laws of the State of Ohio shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by sixty percent of the vote of the Central Committee present at a meeting called for this purpose.

This Constitution supersedes any and all other Constitutions of the Lucas County Democratic Party and shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the Central Committee.

**BYLAWS
ORGANIZATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC
PARTY OF LUCAS COUNTY**

Chapter 1: Central Committee

Section 1. Make Up of Central Committee

The Central Committee shall be committeepersons elected on a precinct basis.

Section 2. Officers of Central Committee

The Central Committee shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer at its first organizational meeting. If any office becomes vacant, the Central Committee will elect a replacement at its next meeting as the first order of business.

Section 3. Meetings

The Central Committee shall meet at least twice each calendar year, in addition to the organizational meeting required by law. All meetings shall require at least five (5) days notice.

Section 4. General Purposes of Meetings

The Central Committee at its meetings shall review the authority delegated to the Executive Committee and receive reports from the Executive Committee, the Policy and Bylaws Committee or the Standing Committees on Organization, Finance and Selection and Endorsement. The Central Committee shall address other matters deemed necessary for the good and welfare of the party, including but not limited to additions to or deletions from the powers and duties of the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Selection of Ward Chairperson

The Central Committeepersons from each Lucas County Ward shall, at the first organizational meeting, or as soon thereafter as possible, select by written petition, signed by a majority of such committeepersons, one of their committeepersons, to the office of chairperson for that ward.

Section 6. Vacancies in Central Committee

Precinct vacancies in the Central Committee, as defined in Section 3517.05 Ohio Revised Code, shall be filled by the Executive Committee, after considering the recommendation of the Chair for that Ward. The Executive Committee may declare a Precinct vacant if they determine a committeeperson no longer qualifies to hold that office.

Section 7. Vacancies in Ward Chairpersons

A vacancy in the office of Ward Chair shall be filled by a majority of votes cast by that Ward's Precinct Committee - persons for an individual nominated by those committeepersons. Said election shall take place at a meeting to be held not later than thirty (30) days alter the vacancy is determined and shall be called by the Executive Committee Chair. Written notice of such meeting will be mailed at least five (5) days before the meeting to each Precinct Committeeperson in that Ward. The Executive Committee Chair shall have the authority to fill such vacancy upon failure of the Precinct Committeepersons to elect a new Ward Chair.

Section 8. Election of Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be elected at the first organizational meeting of the Central Committee and shall be delegated authority necessary to do all things they deem necessary and proper in the best interest of the Democratic Party, except as otherwise speciially directed by majority vote of the Central Committee and further subject to the provisions herein.

Chapter 2: Executive Committee

Section 1. Size and Make Up

The Executive Committee shall consist of:

1. Chair of each Lucas County Ward
2. President of each Democratic club recognized by the Executive Committee of the Lucas County Democratic Party.
3. Endorsed, elected democratic officials of or within Lucas County legally eligible to serve.
4. Democratic members of the United States Congress.
5. Additional members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Central Committee at its first organizational meeting. No more than seventy-five (75) shall be appointed representing the general public, business and elected officials with twenty-two (22) identified with labor.
6. Former party chairs.

Section 2. Officers of the Executive Committee

The officers of the Executive Committee shall be nominated and elected by the Central Committee at its first organizational meeting. They shall include a Chair, two Vice-Chairs, a Secretary and a Treasurer. If any office becomes vacant, the Central Committee will meet within thirty (30) days, upon at least five (5) days written notice, to nominate and elect a replacement.

Section 3. Committees of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee may appoint four Standing Committees and other Committees as needed. The Standing Committees shall consist of: Policy and Bylaws, Finance, Organization and Screening. The membership of each Standing Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Make Up, Duties and Authority of Standing Committees

Policy and Bylaws Committee:

shall consist of an odd number of members not to exceed fifteen (15) members. The Committee will deal with all matters of general party policy, including, but not limited to campaign, platform and issues on the local, state and national level and such other matters of policy that do not fall within one of the other committees. In addition, the Committee will study any proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws, and will notify the members of the Central Committee at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled vote of any proposed changes.

Finance Committee: shall consist of an odd number of members not to exceed eleven (11) members. The Finance Committee shall have the responsibility for programming, implementing and directing all party fundraising activities. It shall prepare an annual budget for the operation of the County Party Organization, including headquarters, Standing Committees and campaign staff expenses. The Finance Committee shall have the staff and authority to

review at such intervals all sources of income and expenses as the Executive Committee directs.

Organization Committee: shall consist of an odd number not to exceed eleven (11) members. The Committee shall establish programs and procedures to be followed by Precinct Committeepersons and Ward Chairs in Lucas County, including a uniform system of progress reports and the regular channeling of information that is indexed and up-to-date. It shall assist all Lucas County Ward organizations in filling all Central Committee positions, establish educational programs for club and precinct organizations and undertake any further activities that may be necessary to enlarge effective participation in party activity.

Screening Committee: Shall consist of an odd number not to exceed 17 members. The Committee shall develop, screen and seek out qualified candidates and appointees for public offices representing any part of Lucas County. In the case of more than one qualified candidate running for an office, no recommendation of endorsement will be given until after the primary election is held.

Section 5. Duties of Officers and Staff

Chair: shall be the Presiding Officer of the Executive Committee, Ex-Offico member of each Standing Committee and shall serve as the Party spokesman and leader of the Lucas County Democratic Party.

Executive Director: may be chosen by the Chair of the Executive Committee. Selection or dismissal of the Executive Director by the Chair of the Executive Committee shall be approved by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting called for that purpose. Executive Director shall be responsible to and carry out the directives of the Policy and Bylaws Committee and Standing Committees, in cooperation with the Chair of the Policy and Bylaws Committee. The Executive Director shall assist the Executive Committee, all Standing Committees, Ward organizations and clubs, all office holders, elected and appointed, in organizing, researching, fundraising, campaigning and in all other matters that will benefit the Democratic Party and its ideals and goals. In all such activities and in carrying out such directives and suggestions, the Executive Director shall work under the supervision of the Chair of the Executive Committee.

Other Staff: shall be selected by the Chair as needed for the efficient operation of the party organization and headquarters.

Section 6. Removal of Executive Committee Members

Executive Committee members can be removed by a 60% majority vote of members present at a meeting called for that purpose with at least five (5) days notice for one or more of the following actions:

1. Three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from Executive Committee meetings;
2. Publicly opposing Democratic candidates endorsed by the Lucas County Democratic Party; and
3. Continual opposition to principles, goals and positions of the Lucas County Democratic Party.

Section 7. Transferal of Records Upon Leaving Office

All records of the party, all financial records and accounts, computer records and all real and personal property, tangible and intangible, are the express property of the Lucas County Democratic Party. All officers and staff will turn over all such items intact to their successors upon election. Failure to do so may result in criminal prosecution.