

**BYLAWS
for the
MEDINA COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

PREAMBLE

We, the Democrats of Medina County, united in common purpose, hereby dedicate ourselves to the principles that have historically guided and sustained the Democratic Party. Thomas Jefferson said that we "are naturally divided into two parties: Those who fear and distrust the people, and wish to draw all powers from them into the hands of the higher classes [and] Those who identify themselves with the people, have confidence in them, cherish and consider them as the most honest and safe" As Democrats, we exemplify the basic tenets of freedom, equality, and civil rights expressed by Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence. We are the Party that identifies with the people and seeks to ensure that all citizens have the opportunity to participate in the political process. We work to provide a government that is responsive, honest, and open to every citizen regardless of race, gender, religion, or economic status, a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

We acknowledge that a political party that wishes to lead must listen to those it would lead; a party that asks for the people's trust must prove that it trusts the people; and a party that hopes to call forth the best our nation can achieve must embody the best of the nation's heritage and traditions. In accordance with the Constitution of the United States and the State of Ohio and the Constitution and Bylaws of the National and Ohio Democratic Parties, we pledge to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of a society of free people.

Be it resolved by the Medina County Democratic Central Committee that the following Articles herein enumerated shall constitute its Rules and Bylaws.

**ARTICLE I
(Organization According to Ohio Revised Code)**

Section 1. The Medina County Democratic Central Committee shall proceed to organize in accordance with the laws of Ohio regulating the procedure and in accordance with any rules described within these Bylaws.

Section 2. The first order of business, after the election of a temporary chairman and a temporary secretary, at the organizational meeting to be held every four (4) years following the election of Central Committee Members shall be the adoption of any changes or

amendments of these Bylaws as enacted by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of Central Committee Members present. Once adopted, the revised Bylaws shall go into effect immediately.

Section 3. At the Organizational Meeting, nominations for the Executive Committee may be presented as a slate or may be nominated individually from the floor. The Executive Committee shall then be elected by a majority vote of the Central Committee Members present.

ARTICLE II
(Members of the Central Committee)

The Central Committee shall consist of the Central Committee Members regularly elected, one from each election precinct in the County every four (4) years (beginning 1992).

ARTICLE III
(Central Committee Officers)

The officers of the Central Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. At all times, the Vice Chairperson must be of opposite gender as the Chairperson.

ARTICLE IV
(Executive Committee Powers)

The County Executive Committee, which shall have such powers as are granted it by the County Central Committee, as provided by law, and by these Bylaws.

ARTICLE V
(Members of the Executive Committee)

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of fifteen (15) members of the Central Committee, elected at large by the Central Committee at their organizational meeting every four years. In addition, countywide elected Democratic officials, with the exception of judicial elected officials, shall become members ex-officio of the Executive Committee with voting privileges but without the requirement of attendance.

Section 2. The Chairperson may, at his or her discretion and with the approval of the Executive Committee, appoint up to four (4) additional members of the Executive Committee by choosing Democrats who could add talent, discourse, and leadership to the Committee. The term of the appointed Executive Committee person shall continue until the next Central Committee organizational meeting.

**ARTICLE VI
(Officers of the Executive Committee)**

The officers of the Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. At all times, the Vice Chairperson must be of opposite gender as the Chairperson.

**ARTICLE VII
(Duties and Chair Succession)**

The Secretary shall keep an accurate and complete record of all proceedings of the Committees, which shall be open to inspection at any time by any member of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall keep a complete record of all expenditures and receipts. The Vice Chairperson shall be and become Chairperson of the Central and/or Executive Committees forthwith should such office become vacant for any reason or cause whatsoever. He or she is to have full and complete chairpersonship powers as hereinafter set forth in the event of such succession, all without further vote or election by the members of the County Central Committee.

**ARTICLE VIII
(Removal)**

Section 1. If a member of the Executive Committee has more than three unexcused absences from the regularly scheduled meetings in a given year, that member may be removed by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. All members of the Executive Committee and the Central Committee, party officers and Committee members, as well as elected Democratic officials and Democratic candidates for office, are expected to support the principles of the Medina County Democratic Party and to support the endorsed candidates and issues of the party in General

Elections. Failure to do so may result in the individual being asked to resign from any elected or appointed Party position upon the affirmative vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Executive Committee. If such individual is a member of the Executive Committee, he or she may be removed from the Executive Committee upon the affirmative vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IX
(Meetings / Number of Meetings)

Section 1. All meetings of the Committees shall be convened at the call of the Chairperson or in his or her absence, or inability to serve, at the call of the Vice Chairperson, and the call shall state the date, time, place and purpose or purposes of the meeting.

Section 2. There shall be at least six (6) meetings of the Executive Committee per year. These meetings are to be held at a location in Medina County designated by the Chairperson.

Section 3. All meetings of the Central and/or Executive Committees shall be open to the public. Notice of said meetings shall be made in a manner consistent with the current requirements set forth in the Ohio Revised Code, including the submission of Public Meeting notices to local newspapers.

ARTICLE X
(Special Meetings)

The Secretary shall convene the Executive Committee within ten (10) days upon receipt by him or her of a petition signed by not less than ten (10) members of the Executive Committee requesting a special meeting and stating the purpose or purposes of such desired special meeting.

ARTICLE XI
(Voting at Meetings / Quorum)

Meetings of the Central and Executive Committees shall be conducted in accordance with accepted rules of parliamentary procedure. The voting on all-important questions, including the election of officers, shall be exercised in a public manner such as by voice vote or show of hands. A quorum shall consist of the members present. The Executive Committee may establish procedures to permit voting via electronic means on issues before the Executive

Committee.

**ARTICLE XII
(Attendance and Guests)**

Upon the recognition of the Chairperson, guests shall be permitted to enter into the discussion of the Committees. A maximum of two minutes shall be permitted for individual guest comments. A Committee may publicly vote to adjourn to an Executive Session to discuss other business that does not require a public meeting. Upon adjournment to Executive Session, others present shall be excused unless invited to attend only upon the invitation of the Committee Chairperson.

**ARTICLE XIII
(Vacancies)**

Vacancies on the Central Committee shall be filled by election at a duly called meeting of the Executive Committee. Any and all vacancies of officers of the Central Committee or Executive Committee shall be filled forthwith by appointment by the Chairperson of said Committee, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE XIV
(Use of Funds)**

The power is hereby delegated to the Executive Committee to raise and collect funds for the Democratic Party and campaign purposes in general and to spend the same in and under its own sole discretion; and, to do any and all things believed by it to be necessary and incidental to the well-being and preservation of the Democratic Party and the principles for which it stands.

**ARTICLE XV
(Sub-Committees)**

The Executive Committee may, from time to time, appoint committees to serve various needs and purposes. Those committees have no authority to take any action on behalf of the Medina County Democratic Party. The Executive Committee may hear recommendations from such committees and may approve such recommendations.

**ARTICLE XVI
(Duties & Best Efforts)**

Section 1. Each member of the Central Committee elected by the electors of the Democratic Party at the last Primary Election as their representative shall and hereby does pledge and dedicate his or her best efforts and wholehearted loyalty to insure the success of the Democratic cause and its candidates at all elections to be held during his or her tenure in office.

Section 2. It is the policy of the Medina County Democratic Party that members of the Party's Executive Committee and Central Committee shall publicly support only the Democratic nominee in any election. If there is no Democratic nominee, members of the Party's Executive Committee and Central Committee shall publicly support only a candidate who is a currently registered Democrat.

**ARTICLE XVII
(Amending the Bylaws)**

These Bylaws may be amended by the Medina County Democratic Central Committee at a regular meeting, by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at such meeting. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify, in writing, each member of the Committee at least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled meeting. Said notice shall contain the proposed amendment and the date, time and place where it will be presented for adoption. Voting members may notify the Secretary by e-mail or in writing that they would prefer to be notified of all meetings by electronic means. The Secretary shall maintain a current list of all such requests and shall notify the members accordingly.

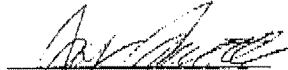
**ARTICLE XVIII
(Authority of Bylaws)**

These Bylaws shall supersede and replace all previous Bylaws adopted by the Central Committee.

These Bylaws shall be reviewed every four (4) years by a committee appointed by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, beginning in January, 1988. After having reviewed these Bylaws, one of the officers of the Executive Committee shall affix his or

her signature hereto noting the date of such last review, and this provision shall be effective on or after (date) April 12, 2012.

Adopted by the Medina County Democratic Central Committee at its organizational meeting held on (date) April 16, 2012.



Jay Smith
Secretary of Central Committee

Revised 03.13.12