

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OF RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

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Preamble

We, members of the RICHLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE RICHLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY in convention assembled, in order to organize and perpetuate a representative, effective and responsible party organization at all levels in Richland county, Ohio, affiliated with and advance the interest of the Democratic Party for the State of Ohio and nationally, sustain and advance the principles of democracy, and uphold human and civil rights and constitutional government, do establish this Constitution and By-laws.

ARTICLE I Name, Membership and Eligibility for Office

Section 1 Name

The name of this organization should be the RICHLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE RICHLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

Section 2 Membership

Membership in this party shall be open to all residents of Richland 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 RICHLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC 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 RICHALND 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 of Article I, section 2, is eligible for election to party office, except as hereinafter limited. 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 RICHALND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY or eligibility for party office must be determined, the same challenge procedure shall be followed to determine his or her qualifications as provide by the Election Laws of Ohio.

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 State 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 unenforceability of any one clause shall not affect any other clause.

ARTICLE III Central Committee – Executive Committee

Section 1

The controlling committee of the RICHLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY shall be the County Central Committee consisting of such membership as shall be elected for a term of four (4) years (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 grated it by the County Central Committee, as are provided by law and by this Constitution and By-laws.

Section 2

The members 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 results at a suitable place and time in Mansfield, Ohio, to be designated by the retiring chairperson 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 Richland 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 chairperson or secretary or if there is no such office or if such officer is absent then as provide by laws of the State of Ohio. A temporary chairperson and secretary shall be chosen and the Committee shall proceed to organize by election of a chairperson, treasurer, secretary and such officers as the Committee may desire.

Section 3

The County Central Committee shall then elect themselves to the County Executive Committee.

Section 4

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 RICHLAND COUTNY DEMOCRATIC PARTY during the period of its existence which shall continue until the 6th day after the election of the next County Central Committee at the succeeding primary election. Any vacancies which may occur in the County Central Committee shall be filled by a majority vote of the County Executive Committee.

Section 5

The County Executive Committee shall then be called to meet immediately upon its election and shall proceed to elect its chairperson, who need not be a member of the County Central or County Executive Committee. The Chairperson shall automatically become a member of the County Executive Committee.

Section 6

The Chairperson of the County Executive Committee may then or within 30 days thereafter, recommend to the County Executive Committee an additional number of up to one less than the elected members, which recommendation said County Executive Committee may or may not approve, on an individual basis, for membership on the County Executive Committee. The recommendations of the Chairperson must be broadly representative of all the various elements of the party and further must be proportionately representative of the

Democratic vote, by municipalities, townships and ward areas as reflected in the most recent statewide primary election. Such said number of appointed persons must be both recommended and approved for membership on the County Executive Committee.

Section 7

The County Executive Committee shall then immediately proceed to elect as many Vice Chairpersons, in order of succession, as it deems necessary and the secretary and treasurer of said Committee. One-half of the Vice Chairpersons shall be women and one half men.

ARTICLE IV Officers

Section 1

The Chairperson's duties shall be those of chief executive officer and he shall be subject to the direction of and responsible to the County Executive Committee. The Chairperson will appoint an audit committee and a building/maintenance committee and at their discretion may appoint an Executive Committee Director, a finance committee and finance chairperson, a director of organization, a director of communication, a director of women's activities, a director of youth activities, and any other committee and personnel as the Chairperson deems necessary. The Chairperson may provide for the employment of any office personnel necessary. All of said appointments and employees shall serve subject to the pleasure of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, except the auditing committee and the auditing committee chairperson who shall serve at the pleasure of the Executive Committee.

Section 2

The 1st Vice Chairperson shall act as the Chairperson in the event of death, resignation, incapacity, removal or absence of the Chairperson or his predecessor and in such event have the same powers, duties and responsibilities as the Chairperson until such time as the County Executive Committee shall properly elect a new Chairperson.

In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of the 1st Vice-Chairperson, the vacancy will be filled by the remaining vice-chairpersons by alphabetical order.

In the event of a vacancy in any Executive Committee office, the Chairperson may recommend to the executive Committee a replacement to fill that vacancy.

Section 3

The Secretary shall be in charge of all the official documents of the Executive Committee and of preparation of the necessary notices, minutes and other documents. The Secretary shall preserve such files and other documents. The Secretary shall preserve such files and records and open them for examination and at appropriate times at the request of any duly elected member of the County Executive Committee under such rules and regulations as are prescribed by said Executive Committee.

Section 4

The Treasure 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 and to each County Convention. The Treasurer shall be accountable for all receipts and expenditures of the party. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget which shall be presented at the first membership meeting of each year. The budget shall be approved by the general membership.

Section 5

The Chairperson of the Finance Committee shall preside over said committee. The committee shall be responsible for soliciting all contributions and promoting all fund raising activities for the party.

Section 6

The Chairperson of the Auditing Committee shall preside over said Committee. The committee shall be responsible to audit the receipts and expenditures of the party.. The Committee shall make an annual audit and such other audits as the Chairperson of the county Executive Committee or any member of the auditing committee may request. The Auditing Committee shall consist of the Chairperson and two members appointed by the County Executive Committee.

Section 7

The Chairperson of the Budgeting Committee shall preside over said Committee. The Budgeting Committee shall be responsible for the planning of all expenditures of the party.

ARTICLE V State, County, Political Subdivisions and Democratic Clubs, Cooperation

Section 1

The Chairperson of the RICHLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall consult with and cooperate with the various precincts or ward Committeeperson and all officers of all Democratic Clubs of the Ohio Democratic Party within their duly chartered areas of jurisdiction.

Section 2

The Central Committeeperson of the precincts or wards and the presidents of various chartered Democratic Clubs shall consult with and cooperate with the Richland County Democratic Executive Committee and its Chairperson on all matters relating to the business of the RICHLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY in their respective areas of jurisdiction of the Central Committeeperson or Officers of Chartered Democratic Clubs.

Section 3

The Chairperson shall meet with the County Executive Committee no less than four times each year at regularly scheduled meetings.

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 immediately upon its election by the Central Committee and at least quarterly thereafter during the period of its existence. The County Executive Committee may be called to meet by the Chairperson or by a minimum of one-eighth of the membership of said Committee.

Section 2

Notice of any meeting, other than the original meeting of the County Executive Committee, specifying time and place, shall be sent in writing through regular United States Mail to all members of the Committee not less than seven days in advance of the meeting unless otherwise provided by law.

Section 3

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

Section 4

A majority of the membership of said Committee in attendance shall constitute a quorum for conducting any business to come before the meeting.

ARTICLE VII Pre-primary Endorsement

Section 1

In an election year in which the State Democratic Executive Committee makes endorsements the RICHALND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY shall use all of its resources and leadership to aid and assist in the nomination of such endorsements made by the State Committee for the benefit of the Ohio Democratic Party.

Section 2

Upon the recommendations of the majority of the party officers, pre-primary endorsements may be made for any local or district office providing that 60% of the members of the committee present and voting on such questions, so determine. At any meeting on which endorsements shall be discussed, 5 days notice shall be given to each member of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII Finance

Section 1

The finance committee of the Richland County Executive Committee shall have the primary responsibility for soliciting all contributions and promoting all fund raising activities for the party.

Section 2

The County Central Committee members of the RICHLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY shall be obligated to assist in the raising of monies as shall be determined from time to time by the Richland County Democratic Executive Committee.

Section 3

The Chairperson of the Richland County Executive Committee shall compile at least once a year, the list of all contributions and monies received and such listing shall be provided to all members of the Richland County Democratic Executive Committee and to all interested Democrats.

ARTICLE IX 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 RICHLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

ARTICLE X State Convention, Party Structure – National Guidelines, Party Structure – State Guidelines

Section 1

The provisions for a State Convention of the Ohio Democratic Party, Party Structure – National Guidelines and Party Structure – State Guidelines as adopted in Article X, Article XI and Article XII of the Ohio Democratic Party Constitution and By-laws adopted on June 26, 1971, are incorporated herein and made a part of the Constitution and By-laws of RICHLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

ARTICLE XI Oath of Office

Section 1

All officers of the Richland County Central Committee and the County Executive Committees 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 Democratic Party and the Constitution and By-laws of the RICHLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

ARTICLE XII Roberts Rules

Section 1

Any matters regarding the conduct of the affairs of the Richland 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.

ARTICLE XIII Amendment

Section 1

This Constitution and By-laws may be amended by 60% of the members of the Executive Committee of the Richland County Democratic Party at any meeting called for that purpose. Amendments proposed under this section must be submitted in writing and copies thereof sent to each member of said committee 5 days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE XIV Previous Constitutions and By-laws

Section 1

This Constitution and By-laws supersede any and all other previous Constitutions and By-laws of the RICHLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY and shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted at Mansfield, Ohio by the
Richland County Democratic
Executive Committee October 12th
1995 and properly amended June
10th 2004