

**Adopted: September 11, 1999**

Amended June 11<sup>th</sup> 2003

Amended January 18<sup>th</sup> 2006

**THE STARK COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

ARTICLE 1. NAME, MEMBERSHIP, AND ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be THE STARK COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

Section 2. Membership

Membership in this party shall be open to all residents of Stark County 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 Stark 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 Stark 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 Stark 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 provided by the Election Laws of Ohio.

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ARTICLE II. CONSTITUTION AND LAWS

Section 1. Conflict of Laws

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, and the laws of the State of Ohio. 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 of the State of Ohio are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part hereof. The illegality or unenforceability of any one clause shall not affect any other clause.

ARTICLE III. CENTRAL COMMITTEE – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Central Committee

The controlling committee of the Stark County Democratic Party shall be the Stark County Central Committee consisting of such membership as shall be elected according to the laws of the State of Ohio. The Stark County Central Committee shall elect a County Executive Committee, which shall have such power as is granted it by the County Central Committee, as are provided by law, and by this Constitution.

Section 2. Election of Officers

The members-elect of the Party's Central Committee shall meet not earlier than six nor later than fifteen days following the declaration of the results by the board of elections of the election of members of the county central committee, at a suitable place and time in Stark County, Ohio, to be designated by the retiring chairman 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 at least five days prior to the meeting. Notice shall be posted in the office of the board of elections at least five days prior to the meeting. If the retiring secretary does not issue the call within the time provided by law, any five members-elect may do so. The meeting shall be called to order by the retiring chairman or secretary or if there is no such officer, or if such officer is absent, then by a member of the Committee. A temporary chairman and secretary shall be chosen and the Committee shall proceed to organize by the election of a chairman. A treasurer, secretary, and two (2) vice chair persons will also be elected by the members of the Central Committee, present and voting. At least one of the Vice Chairmen shall be of the gender opposite of the Chairman.

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### Section 3. Executive Committee

The County Central Committee shall then elect a County Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than 67 members but not more than 81 members. The Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and two (2) vice chairs elected in Article 111, Section 2 are automatically members of the Executive Committee. Not less than 62 members, but not more than 76 members shall be nominated by the County Chairman, and elected by the Central Committee. They, together with the officers duly elected, shall constitute the Executive Committee. The officers of the Central Committee shall be the officers of the Executive Committee. Any member of the Executive Committee shall be subject to removal from said Executive Committee, for just cause, upon the vote of sixty percent of the members of the Executive Committee present. Vacancies that arise during the term of the Executive Committee may be filled through a nomination by the Chairman and majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive Committee present.

### Section 4. Power and Authority

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 items pertaining to the welfare, business, operation and organization of the County Central Committee and the Stark County Democratic Party during the period of its existence which shall continue until the 6th day after the election of the next Central Committee.

## ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

### Section 1. Duties

The Chairman'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 Chairman may appoint city chairmen in the various cities of Stark County. The Chairman may also appoint ward and township captains throughout the county. The Chairman may appoint other committees as he deems necessary and in the best interest of the Democratic Party. He may provide for the employment of any other office personnel necessary. All of said appointments and employees shall serve subject to the pleasure of the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

### Section 2 Appointments

The Chairman shall appoint the following positions to assist the Chairman in the operation of the Democratic Party of Stark County;

Executive Vice Chairman, Communications Director, Political Director.

These appointments do not require approval of the Central and Executive Committee and shall serve at the pleasure of the Chairman.

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ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1. Notice

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 five days in advance of the meeting unless otherwise provided by law.

Section 2. Minutes

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

Section 3. Quorum

Twenty-five percent of the membership of said Committee shall constitute a quorum for conducting any business to come before the meeting.

ARTICLE VI. PRE-PRIMARY SUPPORT OF CANDIDATES

Section 1. Support

The Stark County Democratic Party shall support all Democratic candidates to the best of its ability. An organized meeting of the County Executive Committee may be called at any time for the purpose of support, or withdrawal of support, for any particular candidate, subject to a vote of sixty percent of the members of the Committee, present and voting.

The Stark County Democratic Party may endorse Democratic Candidates running statewide in a primary election. Two thirds of the Executive Committee members, present and voting, must vote to allow an endorsement for a particular statewide office. If an endorsement in a statewide race is authorized by the Executive Committee, a candidate will need a two thirds vote of the executive committee, present and voting, to receive the pre-primary endorsement of the Stark County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE VII. PARTY UNITY

Section 1. Unity

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

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ARTICLE VIII. PARTY STRUCTURE – NATIONAL GUIDELINES

Section 1. Compliance

The Stark County Democratic Party shall be guided by and shall comply with the guidelines established by the Commission on Party Structure and Delegate Selection of the Democratic National Committee. Delegates-at-large and alternates-at-large to the National Convention shall be chosen by direct vote of the electors as prescribed by Ohio law.

Section 2. Delegates

At any meeting held by the County Executive Committee and district committees, any county committees, or any committee meeting called to consider the endorsement, selection, or nomination of any of the delegates or alternates to the National Convention, the following shall apply:

- A. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.
- B. The use of the unit rule and the instructing of delegations is forbidden, each person must cast his own vote.
- C. At any such meeting a majority of the members of such committee shall be required to constitute a quorum for conducting business.
- D. There shall be no mandatory assessments of delegates to the National Convention by any person, committees or organizations.
- E. Vacancies for delegate and alternate candidates shall be filled by the organizing committee with the approval of the candidate, unless provided by law.

Section 3 Equal rights

The Stark County Democratic Party shall seek as broad a base of support as possible in the following manner:

- A. The six elements of the special equal rights committee as adopted by the Democratic National Committee, and the Ohio Democratic Party, are hereby incorporated as follows:
  - I. All public meetings at all levels, of the Stark County Democratic Party shall be held without regard to sex, race, color, creed, or national origin.
  - II. No test for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Stark County Democratic Party shall be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Stark County Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, color, creed, or national origin.

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- III. The time and place for all public meetings of the Stark County Democratic Party on all levels should be publicized fully and in such a manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Said meetings must be held in places accessible to all party members in a facility large enough to accommodate all such interested persons.
- IV. The Stark Democratic Party, on all levels, shall support the broadest possible registration without discrimination on grounds of sex, race, color, creed, or national origin.
- V. The Stark County Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such manner to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of the Stark County Democratic Party officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of these procedures should be done in such fashion that all prospective and current members of the Stark County Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at all levels of the Stark County Democratic Party Organization.
- VI. The Stark County Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications for all officers and representatives of the Stark County Democratic Party. Such publications should be done in a timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within the Stark County Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for said offices.
- B. The Stark County Democratic Party shall take affirmative action to encourage representation on the National Convention Delegation of minority groups, young people and women in reasonable relationship to their presence in the population in the State of Ohio.
- C. Public meetings referred to herein mean meetings to which the public has been invited.

Section 4. Equal Opportunity

The Stark County Democratic Party shall provide easy access and frequent opportunity for qualified residents of Stark County to become members of the Stark County Democratic Party and shall support the elements outlined above.

ARTICLE IX. PARTY STRUCTURE – STATE GUIDELINES

Section 1. Conflicts

No Democratic State or County, Central or Executive Committee shall permit any rules which tend to limit participation in said organization except on the basis of residency and the general qualifications set out in ARTICLE I, Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this Constitution.

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Section 2. Candidate Support

No Democratic candidate shall be required to contribute, lend, give, or donate anything of value to any Democratic Committee or party official as a condition of his support or endorsement for elective office.

Section 3. Financial Support

No member, candidate, party official, acting for himself individually, or for any Democratic committee, shall request or receive any financial contribution, donation, gift, or other form of economic remuneration as a condition for securing an endorsement or support of any Democratic candidate for elective or appointive office.

Section 4. District Candidates

Every Democrat who desires to be a Democratic candidate for any public office shall have the right to appear before the County Central or Executive Committee, or such other committee as is authorized by the County Executive Committee to make endorsements, if said office is decided on a county or district basis, at regularly scheduled meetings established for such purpose, to discuss the campaign issues, and their candidacy and any endorsements to be made by such committees.

Section 5. Unit Rule

No Democratic State or County, Central or Executive Committee shall permit the use of the unit rule in voting on any matter.

Section 6. Proxy

No Democratic State or County, Central or Executive Committee shall permit proxy voting on any matter.

Section 7. Slate

No Democratic State or County, Central or Executive Committee shall permit election of its officers by slate.

Section 8. Voting

Every vote taken by any Democratic State or County, Central or Executive Committee for the election of its officers or the endorsements or selection of persons for public office shall be by secret ballot, standing or voice as determined by a majority of those present and voting.

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Section 9. Voter Lists

Each County Democratic Central and Executive Committee shall be required to compile a complete list of all Democratic voters in all primary elections in its county, and shall, at the request of the Chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, transmit a copy of such list to the Chairman within sixty days following the primary. The State Democratic Executive Committee shall reimburse the County for the cost of duplicating and transmitting such list, if requested.

ARTICLE X. OATH OF OFFICE

Section 1. Oath

All officers of the State and County Central Committees and the State and 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 Bylaws, and the Principles of the Stark County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE XI. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER

Section 1. Rules

Any matters regarding the conduct of the meetings of the County Central and Executive Committees, State Central and Executive Committees, and the convention of the Stark County Democratic Party not governed by this constitution or by the laws of the State of Ohio shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENT

Section 1. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by sixty percent of all members of the Executive Committee, present and voting affirmatively thereon. Amendments proposed under this section must be submitted in writing. The Executive Committee shall be given thirty days written notice prior to voting on said amendments.

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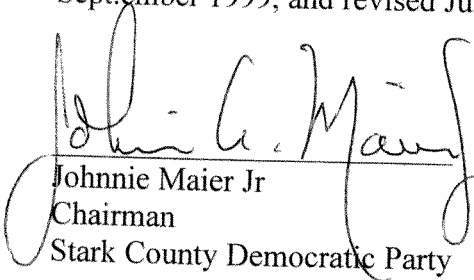



ARTICLE XIII. PREVIOUS CONSTITUTIONS

Section 1. Effect

This Constitution supersedes any and all other previous constitutions of the Stark County Democratic Party and shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the Executive Committee.

THIS CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS ARE HEREBY ADOPTED BY THE STARK COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THIS 11th DAY OF September 1999, and revised June 11, 2003, and January 18th 2006.

  
Johnnie Maier Jr  
Chairman  
Stark County Democratic Party

  
June Barlow  
Secretary  
Stark County Democratic Party

Constitution and By-laws Committee: 1999

Harold "Jim" Roach - Chairman  
Thomas V. Ferrero  
Bill Bachman  
Frank Fischer  
Robert Thompson

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