

TUSCOLA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY BYLAWS

Adopted June 20, 2019

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1.1. This organization shall be known as the Tuscola County Democratic Party hereafter referred to as TCDP. The TCDP shall consist of all members of the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) and all duly elected Democratic precinct delegates who reside in Tuscola County and who operate through the TCDP's Officers, Executive Committee, County Committee, standing committees, and ad hoc committees.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section 2.1. The purpose of the TCDP is to promote the principles of the Democratic Party and to elect Democrats to public office who support these principles; and further, to unite and to aid in the activities of all the Party members, precinct delegates, committees, officeholders, candidates and all other Democrats working to promote wide and active participation in the Democratic Party.

Section 2.2. The TCDP shall be a non-profit organization and upon its dissolution, all assets and real and personal property of the Party and its committees shall revert to the benefit of the Michigan Democratic Party. No part of the income or assets of the Party shall inure to any of its members except for the reimbursement of actual expenses, reasonable compensation for services if the Party approves, or a contribution for electing a member to office if approved by the TCDP.

ARTICLE III. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Section 3.1. All public meetings of TCDP at all levels shall be open to all prospective and current members of the Democratic Party regardless of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance or disability.

Section 3.2. No tests for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, TCDP shall be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party in Michigan to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the grounds of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance or disability.

Section 3.3. The time and place for all public meetings of the TCDP on all levels

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shall be publicized fully and in such a manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings must be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.

Section 3.4. TCDP, on all levels, shall support the broadest possible participation without discrimination on grounds of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance or disability.

Section 3.5. The TCDP shall publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of TCDP officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of those procedures shall be done in such a fashion that all prospective and current members of the TCDP will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedure in time to participate in each selection procedures at all levels of the TCDP organization.

Section 3.6. The TCDP shall publicize fully and in such a 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 TCDP. Such publication shall be done in a timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within the TCDP will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.

Section 3.7. Proportional voting shall be used in the election of delegates and alternates to any Convention and members of the Executive Committee.

Section 3.8. All rules and bylaws of the TCDP at all levels shall be consistent with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and shall be available on request in writing to any member of the TCDP.

Section 3.9. The unit rule is prohibited at all levels of the TCDP.

Section 3.10. No rule shall be adopted at any level of the TCDP which would require a person to cast a vote or be recorded a voting contrary to that person's judgment.

Section 3.11. On all questions of procedure not resolved by the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party or these Bylaws, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used.

Section 3.12. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of any unit, Committee, Caucus or Convention of the TCDP shall be of the opposite sex.

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Section 3.13. Votes shall not be taken by secret ballot at any meeting of the TCDP at any level.

Section 3.14. The Bylaws and any rules adopted by the Executive Committee or County Committee shall be submitted to the State Central Committee within thirty (30) days after adoption.

Section 3.15. The foregoing principles shall apply where applicable to the Executive Committee and County Committee.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 4.1. Membership of the TCDP shall consist of all duly elected Democratic precinct delegates of Tuscola County; members of the Michigan Democratic Party residing in Tuscola County; and the Executive Committee, County Committee and TCDP Officers all of whom must be members of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Section 4.2. Precinct delegates shall be apportioned and selected in accordance with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Section 4.3. The Officers, the Executive Committee, and the County Committee of the TCDP shall be selected in accordance with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Section 4.4. In order to vote at any Convention, Caucus, or meeting of the TCDP, a person must be a member of the MDP for at least thirty (30) days prior to that Convention, Caucus or meeting. A Party member must be a qualified and registered elector in order to vote on nominations for public office.

Section 4.5. Precinct delegates, Democratic elected officials and Democratic nominees to partisan offices are exempt from the thirty (30) day advance membership requirement. However, Precinct Delegates, Democratic elected officials and Democratic nominees to partisan offices must be a member of the MDP in order to vote at any Convention, Caucus or meeting of the TCDP.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 5.1. The regular meetings of the Tuscola County Executive Committee shall be on the day of each month at the location and time designated in the meeting notice. At least five (5) days' notice shall be given of the date, time and place of the meeting. Notice may be given by email or may also be given by phone or postal mail. A

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quorum shall exist at an Executive Committee meeting when one-third (1/3) of the members or at least five (5) members of the Executive Committee of whom two (2) are Officers are present.

Section 5.2. The full County Committee shall meet at least one (1) time a year at the call of the county chair to review the activities of the Executive Committee. At least five (5) days' notice shall be given of the date, time and place of the meeting. Notice may be given by email or may also be given by phone or postal mail. A quorum shall exist at a County Committee meeting when one-fourth (1/4) of the members or five members of the County Committee of which two (2) are Officers are present.

Section 5.3. Special meetings of the Executive or County Committee may be called by the majority of the members of the Executive Committee or County Committee, respectively. At least five (5) days' notice shall be given of the date, place, time and purpose of the special meeting. Notice shall be given by email or may also be given by phone or postal mail.

Section 5.4. Subject to the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and these Bylaws, all meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order (latest edition).

Section 5.5. The Officers should meet more frequently than the Executive Committee or County Committee to plan and carry out the day to day execution of Party Business.

ARTICLE VI. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, COUNTY COMMITTEE, AND OFFICERS

Section 6.1. The TCDP Executive Committee:

Section 6.1.1. One third (1/3) of the Executive Committee shall be composed of Automatic Members who are the most recent nominees for countywide office and the county commission and the State House of Representatives, the State Senate and the United States House of Representatives whose districts include all or part of Tuscola County. The County Convention shall elect the balance of the Executive Committee, the Elected Members, who shall consist of twice the number of Automatic Members. In each even-numbered year and within twenty (20) days following the November election, at the County Convention, the delegates to the County Convention shall convene at the call of the county chairperson for the purpose of electing the Executive Committee. If a vacancy occurs in the position of a delegate-elected member of the Executive Committee, the remaining delegate-elected members fill the vacancy. The Executive Committee may fill a vacancy in any of its offices.

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Section 6. 1.2. Expansion of the Executive Committee: Statutory Members of the Executive Committee may vote to expand membership of the Executive Committee with Associate Members. Expansion of the Executive Committee with Associated Members is to encourage for the purpose of achieving more participation and representation or to honor key supporters. An Associate Member shall sit as part of the Executive Committee and shall have both voice and vote in all issues considered, except elections to the Executive Committee, the Officers of the Executive Committee, the Bylaws or Bylaws Amendments, the Associate Committee Members, or any statutory matter, which may come before the Executive Committee.

Section 6.1.3. An Associate Member shall hold a valid MDP membership and a TCDP membership at the time of assuming the duties of the position.

Section 6.1.4. The Statutory members of the Executive Committee shall elect the Associate Members of the Executive Committee in January of odd numbered years to a two (2) year term.

Section 6.1.5. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly at a regularly scheduled meeting and shall keep minutes of all meetings which shall be available to all Party members at Oversight meetings.

Section 6.1.6. The purpose of the Executive Committee is to provide fair and equitable leadership for the TCDP and oversight for the work of the Officers and the rest of the TCDP.

Section 6.1.7. If a vacancy occurs in the position of an elected member of the Executive Committee the remaining elected members shall fill the vacancy.

Section 6.1.8. The Executive Committee shall have final approval of the annual and election budgets as presented by the Executive Board (Officers) and shall regularly review receipts and expenditures at its meetings as reported by the Treasurer.

Section 6.1.9. Officers shall be selected in accordance with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party within thirty (30) days of the election of the Executive Committee. The officers are a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson of the opposite sex of the Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall serve as officers of both the Executive Committee and County Committee.

Section 6.2. The TCDP County Committee:

Section 6.2.1. Within forty-five (45) days of January 1 of each odd-numbered year, the Executive Committee determines the membership of the County Committee. The County Committee can elect additional officers who in its judgment are proper to

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carry out the purposes of the County Committee and can fill a vacancy which may occur in the membership of the County Committee or in any of its additional offices. Between meetings of the County Committee the Executive Committee has all the powers and performs all the duties of the County Committee including the filling of vacancies in nominations as prescribed by law.

Section 6.2.2. Membership: The County Committee shall consist of two (2) party members from each township and precinct within Tuscola County plus any additional number of members that the Executive Committee may choose to add. However, the total number of County Committee members shall not exceed the total number of township and precinct delegates allocated to Tuscola County.

Section 6.2.3. The main purpose of the County Committee is to foster and support the grassroots precinct organization. The County Committee shall also review the TCDP budget that was approved by the Executive Committee and may review the activity of the Executive Committee.

Section 6.2.4. The County Committee shall govern the TCDP and shall have authority to take any action to achieve TCDP's purpose which is not inconsistent with applicable Michigan law, MDP Rules, and these Rules. Between meetings of the County Committee the Executive Committee shall have all the powers and perform all the duties of the County Committee including the filling of vacancies in nominations as prescribed by law. The term of service of a County Committee shall continue for two years or until the selection of its successor.

Section 6.3. The TCDP Officers shall have the following responsibilities:

Section 6.3.1. The Chairperson shall preside at all Executive Committee and County Committee meetings and have such other duties that are usual to the office of Chairperson or that may be required by this organization.

Section 6.3.2. The Vice-Chairperson shall be a member of the opposite sex from the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson in the discharge of his/her duties and shall temporarily assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chairperson in his/her absence.

Section 6.3.3. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record and minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Executive Committee and County Committee. The Secretary shall keep and preserve all the books, documents, correspondence, records, minutes, effects, and any other property of this organization, and when a new secretary is elected the past secretary shall forthwith deliver to the newly elected secretary all the aforesaid items kept and preserved during his/her tenure of office. The Secretary shall see that proper notification is given to the Executive Committee and County Committee

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of their meetings. The Secretary shall notify the State Central Committee of any changes of officers. In the absence of the Chair and the Vice-Chair, the Secretary shall conduct an election of the membership present to select a Chair Pro-Tem.

Section 6.3.4. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial receipts and disbursements of this organization subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. The funds of this organization shall be deposited in banks and shall be drawn upon only by checks signed by any two of the following officers: Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Treasurer shall make financial reports to the Executive Committee as that Committee so directs and shall make them to all County Committee meetings. It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to complete required campaign finance reporting as it applies to this organization and to submit these reports within the applicable deadline. When a new Treasurer is elected, the past Treasurer shall forthwith deliver to the new Treasurer the funds and all the books and records kept during his/her tenure in office. The Treasurer may delegate authority to an Assistant Treasurer by expressed resolution of the Executive Committee who shall assist the Treasurer in the discharge of his or her duties.

Section 6.3.5. The main purpose of the TCDP officers is to plan and oversee the execution of the day-to-day business of the Party and to execute their individual responsibilities as outlined above.

Section 6.3.6. The Executive Committee shall fill any vacancies in the Officers at any regular meeting by the same method used to elect officers.

Section 6.3.7 The officers shall meet at a minimum monthly and otherwise at the discretion of the Statutory Chair.

Section 6.3. 8. The Treasurer shall cause an annual budget to be presented and approved by the Executive Committee every year.

Section 6.3.9. An Executive Committee member may resign by written notice to the committee, which resignation is effective upon its receipt by the committee.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

Section 7.1. The Chairperson, subject to the approval of the majority of the Executive Committee, shall appoint the committees and committee chairpersons necessary for the work of the organization.

Section 7.2. Standing Committees shall include the following:

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1. Rules & Bylaws Committee
2. Finance & Fundraising Committee
3. Party Building & Organizing Committee
5. Communication & Education Committee
6. Candidate Recruitment & Campaign Committee

Section 7.3. Each Standing Committee Chair shall keep records of committee business, and turn them over to the TCDP Secretary, shall appoint committee officers if appropriate, and shall report to each Executive Committee meeting.

Section 7.4. These committees may include the appropriate subcommittees.

Section 7.5. The Chairperson may also appoint ad hoc committees subject to the approval of the majority of the Executive Committee present at the meeting.

Section 7.5. The Chairperson of TCDP shall be an ex-officio member of all TCDP standing committees.

ARTICLE VIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 8.1. At meetings, the business of the organization shall proceed in the following order:

1. Call the Meeting to Order
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
3. Reports of Officers
 - a. Chair
 - b. Vice Chair
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Secretary
4. Reports of Committees
5. Unfinished Business
6. New business
8. Adjournment

ARTICLE IX. RESOLUTIONS

Section 9.1. A TCDP resolution is a TCDP statement of position. Statements of positions as to candidates for public office and ballot questions are considered endorsements.

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Section 9.2. A State Resolution may be adopted at a State Convention: The procedure for handling this type of resolutions at a convention shall be set forth in the call to the convention. If a proposed resolution is not circulated with the call to the convention, the proponent of the resolution shall provide enough copies so that each person in attendance may have one.

Section 9.3. A resolution may be adopted by the Executive Committee or the County Committee. Adoption shall be by simple majority.

ARTICLE X. ENDORSEMENTS

Section 10.1. The TCDP shall not make endorsements in any Democratic Party primary or caucus that is contested or may be contested. After the primary or caucus, the TCDP may endorse any Democratic candidate who seeks our endorsement, subject to the provisions of the Michigan Democratic Party rules on an endorsement.

Section 10.2. A candidate seeking an endorsement must be a member of the Michigan Democratic Party before an endorsement is made.

Section 10.3. TCDP may endorse a candidate in a non-partisan race, either judicial or non-judicial, and may endorse ballot questions. The number of candidates endorsed shall not exceed the number of candidates to be elected to a given office.

Section 10.4. A candidate or supporter of a ballot question may make a request for endorsement to the TCDP Chair who shall then refer the request to the TCDP Executive Board. The Executive Board consists of the TCDP officers. The endorsement shall be made in writing or by email and shall indicate detailed information about the office or ballot question for which the candidate or supporter seeks an endorsement.

Section 10.5. The Executive Board may recommend by a majority vote that TCDP endorse a candidate or ballot question. A recommendation for endorsement shall be sent to everyone on the TCDP's mailing list as part of the notice of the next general membership meeting.

Section 10.6. If the Executive Board's recommendation is approved at the general membership meeting by a majority vote, the candidate or ballot question is endorsed. No request for endorsement, other than the Executive Board's recommendation, may be considered by any general membership meeting.

Section 10.7. An endorsement does not imply that a financial contribution will be made.

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Section 10.8. A financial contribution to a candidate or supporter of a ballot question shall be made in the same manner as an endorsement.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

Section 11.1. Proposals for changes or amendments to these Bylaws shall first be referred to the Rules and Bylaws Committee which shall report its recommendations to the next regular Executive Committee meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.

Section 11.2. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee present at a meeting provided that written notice setting forth the proposed amendment has been given to all Party members at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 11.3. These Bylaws shall be in full force and effect upon their adoption and shall supersede all bylaws, rules, motions, and policies of a contrary nature except for the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.