

CONSTITUTION 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 that wishes to lead must listen to those who it would lead. 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, and our parties' elected officials 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;
- Ensuring the highest quality of educational opportunities possible in our school systems;
- Working to create and maintain meaningful jobs, and the continual improvement of a favorable labor/business climate through promotion of the free enterprise system;
- Ensuring that an equitable share of money is allocated to rebuilding and maintaining our neighborhoods;
- Ensuring that all persons shall be treated with respect and dignity;
- Working to defend the rights of all workers to collectively bargain for fair wages, secure retirements, workplace safety and other rights by opposing any and all efforts to weaken these rights; and
- Ensuring that all persons shall be treated with respect and dignity regardless of age, race, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic status or any other designation used to divide people.

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 candidate 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 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 the 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 OF THE LUCAS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

CHAPTER 1: The Lucas County Democratic Party

Section 1. Membership

Membership in the party shall be open to all registered Democrats 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.

Section 2. Conduct of Endorsed 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 candidate 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.

CHAPTER 2: Central Committee

Section 1. Make Up of Central Committee

The Central Committee shall consist of committeepersons elected on a precinct basis for four (4) year terms commencing with the 2016 election consistent with Ohio Revised Code 3517.05. All officers of the Central 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.

Section 2. Officers of Central Committee

The Central Committee shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant at Arms at its first organizational meeting. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Central Committee shall be of opposite gender. If any office becomes vacant, the Central Committee will elect a replacement at its next meeting as the first order of business. The vacancy of any Central Committee office or succession in the absence of any Central Committee officer shall be governed by the same procedures provided herein with respect to the officers of the Executive Committee, as applicable (see Chapter 3, Section 2).

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)

business days notice. All meetings of the Central Committee shall be open to the public and no secret ballots may be used to conduct business.

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, Screening and Candidate Support. 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. Appointees shall have voted in at least one (1) out of the last two (2) Democratic Primaries. The Executive Committee may declare a Precinct vacant if they determine a committeeperson no longer qualifies to hold that office.

Section 7. Conduct of Meetings

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

Section 8. 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 Committeepersons for an individual nominated by those committeepersons. Said election shall take place at a meeting to be held not later than thirty (30) days after the vacancy is determined and shall be called by the Executive Committee Chair. Written notice of such meeting will be made at least five (5) business days before the meeting to each Precinct Committeepersons in the 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 9. 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 in the best interest of the Democratic Party, except as otherwise specifically directed by the majority vote of the Central Committee and further subject to the provisions herein.

All officers of 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. All Executive Committee members shall have voted in at least one (1) out of the last two (2) Democratic Primaries.

CHAPTER 3: Executive Committee

Section 1. Size and Make Up

The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- A. The Chair of each Lucas County Ward.
- B. The President of each Democratic club recognized by and in good standing with the Executive Committee of the Lucas County Democratic Party.
- C. The endorsed, elected Democratic officials of or within Lucas County legally eligible to serve.
- D. The Democratic members of the United States Congress.
- E. Seventy Five (75) additional members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Central Committee at its first organizational meeting. These additional members shall consist of fifty three (53) appointees representing the general public and twenty-two (22) identified with labor. Beginning at the 2016 Central Committee organizational meeting and thereafter, these additional members shall be equally divided by gender, with a difference of no more than 1. These additional members must be broadly representative of all of the various elements of the Democratic Party.
- F. The former party chairs.

Section 2. Officers of the Executive Committee

A. 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, a First and Second Vice-Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Sergeant at Arms. The Chair and First Vice Chair shall be of opposite gender.

B. If any office becomes vacant pursuant to the definition herein, the Central Committee will meet within thirty (30) days, upon at least five (5) business days written notice, to nominate and elect a replacement. Vacancy shall be defined as the death, resignation, removal, or incapacity, either voluntary or involuntary, lasting or anticipated to last greater than 90 days, of the officer.

If any officer of the Executive Committee except the Chair is absent or unable or unwilling to perform the duties of the office, or the office has become vacant, the Chair shall appoint

a person to act in the capacity of the absent officer on a temporary or acting basis until such time as the officer returns or the vacancy is filled. If the Chair is absent or unable or unwilling to perform the duties of the office, or the office of Chair is vacant, the First Vice-Chair, the Second Vice-Chair, or the Chair of the Central Committee, in that order of priority, shall serve in the Chair's stead until the Chair returns or the vacancy is filled.

Section 3. Committees of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee may appoint five (5) Standing Committees and other Committees as needed. The Standing Committees shall consist of: Policy and Bylaws, Finance, Organization, Screening, and Candidate Support. The Chair shall appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair of each Standing Committee who shall be of opposite gender, with the approval of the Executive Committee. The membership of each Standing Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and, beginning at the 2016 Central Committee organizational meeting and thereafter, shall be equally divided by gender, with a difference of no more than 1. The Chair of the Executive Committee and the Chair and Vice-Chair of each Standing Committee shall make best efforts to communicate Standing Committee openings to the Party's membership prior to recommending appointments.

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) business days prior to the scheduled vote of any proposed changes. The County Chair shall strive to ensure that all of the county is represented on this committee.

The Chair of the Policy and Bylaws Committee (and in the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair) shall serve as the Parliamentarian of the Executive and Central Committees and shall, upon request, advise those bodies and their presiding officers on matters of parliamentary procedure and application of this Constitution and By-Laws.

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. The County Chair shall strive to ensure that all of the county is represented on this committee.

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. The County Chair shall strive to ensure that all of the county is represented on this committee.

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. The County Chair must ensure that all of the county is represented on this committee.

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. *Exception:* A pre-primary endorsement may be given if a motion for endorsement is made at a regularly scheduled Executive Committee Meeting and the motion is approved by a majority. If approved a special meeting shall be called with notice given within (5) business days of the meeting. Only members who have signed in and attended at least one (1) of the last three (3) regularly scheduled Executive Committee meetings may vote on the issue of endorsement at the special meeting. An endorsement will be given by the Lucas County Democratic Party if the motion for endorsement is approved by 60% of the qualified members present.

A Judicial Screening Committee shall serve as an ad hoc committee of the Screening Committee. It shall consist of seven (7) registered democratic attorneys to advise the Screening Committee on all judicial races whose jurisdiction includes Lucas County.

Candidate Support Committee: shall consist of an odd number of members not to exceed 15. The Committee shall work to ensure that all qualified and endorsed candidates and appointees for offices representing any part of Lucas County shall receive support from the Lucas County Democratic Party. The Committee shall work to ensure candidates and their campaigns are offered training, and support by ensuring coordination between campaigns, help to raise funds for a slate piece for all candidates, help create phone banks, assist with voter protection efforts and the providing of rides to the polls among other activities. The County Chair shall strive to ensure that all of the county is represented on this committee.

Section 5. Duties of Officers and Staff

Chair

The Chair's duties shall be those of Chief Executive Officer and the individual shall be subject to the direction of, and responsible to, the Executive Committee.

The Chair shall appoint an Executive Director, the Chair, Vice-Chair, and membership of each Standing Committee and such other committees of the Executive Committee as may be formed, and such other positions as may be appropriate, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. The Chair may provide for the employment of any other personnel necessary. All of the appointments shall serve at the pleasure of the Chair. The Chair shall be the Presiding

Officer of the Executive Committee, Ex-Officio member of each Standing Committee and any other committees of the Executive Committee, and shall serve as the Party's spokesperson and leader of the Lucas County Democratic Party.

Vice-Chairs

The First and Second Vice-Chair, in that priority, shall act as the chairperson and have the same powers, duties, and responsibilities as the chairperson in the event the Chair is absent or has vacated the office as provided herein.

Secretary

The Secretary shall be in charge of all of 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 records and open them for examination at convenient and appropriate times at the request of any duly elected member of the Executive Committee under such rules and regulations as are prescribed by the Executive Committee.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the Party and shall render up-to-date financial reports to the Executive Committee and make all filings required by law. The Treasurer shall be accountable for all receipts and expenditures of the Party subject to the direction of the Chair and the Finance Committee. The Treasurer and any other officer or employee responsible for the handling of Party funds shall be under sufficient bond, the amount to be determined by the Executive Committee.

Sergeant at Arms

The Sergeant at Arms, under the direction of the Chair or presiding officer, shall maintain order and decorum among the members and all persons present at a meeting and may even expel persons from the meeting who are not properly present, or if necessary to maintain order and decorum. The Sergeant at Arms shall act as doorkeeper and shall admit only eligible persons.

Executive Director

The 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. The Executive Director shall be responsible to and carry out the directives of the Standing Committees, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of each Standing 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 goal. 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

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) business days notice for one or more of the following actions:

- A. Three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from Executive Committee meetings;
- B. Publicly opposing Democratic candidates endorsed by the Lucas County Democratic Party;
- C. 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 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.

Section 8. Meetings

All meetings of the Executive Committee shall be open to the public and no secret ballots may be used to conduct business. The Executive Committee may enter into a closed executive session on the recommendation of the Chair by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present. Any matters regarding the conduct of the affairs of the 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.

ADOPTED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE – MAY 18, 2015



David Mann, Secretary of the Central Committee