



BRANCH COUNTY DEMOCRATS BYLAWS

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PREAMBLE

We, the unit of the Democratic Party of Michigan in Branch County, do hereby establish and adopt these rules of the Democratic Party of Michigan agreeing to their following principles:

The Principle For People: Identifying, promoting, and supporting leaders striving for positive living conditions in areas of health care, environment, senior care, education, employment opportunity, farming, human rights, and civil rights as a service to the needs and aspirations of all people.

The Principle of Democracy: Working for equal opportunity for access and full participation of all elements of society in all political and governmental processes.

We further ascribe to these rules that guide and support the principles of the Democratic Party.

ARTICLE 1: STATUTORY PROVISIONS

The incorporation of statutory provisions in these rules is voluntary and subject to the foregoing Michigan Democratic Party policies and unit reservations.

ARTICLE II. NAME AND POLICY

2.1 This organization shall be known as the Branch County Democrats (BCD). The organization shall consist of Branch County and Precinct Units of the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP).

2.2 The purpose of the Branch County Democrats is to support the principles of the Democratic Party, and to recruit and elect Democrats through a two (2) year plan which includes communications, party building, political organizing, candidate recruitment, campaign components, budget and fundraising to support those activities. The organization should execute the plan for the two (2) year cycle aiming for victory on Election Day.

2.3.1 No rule shall be adopted by the Branch County Democrats which would require a person to cast a vote or be recorded- voting contrary to that person's judgment or beliefs.

2.3.2 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.

2.4 All rules and bylaws of the Branch County Democrats at all levels shall abide by the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and shall be available on request in writing to any member of the Branch County Democrats.

2.5 All public meetings of the Branch County Democrats shall be open to attendance by all members of the Democratic Party regardless of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, gender, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance, disability, or any other identifying trait or characteristic.

2.6 The Branch County Democrats shall support the broadest possible participation without discrimination on grounds of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, gender, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance, disability, or any other identifying trait or characteristic.

2.7 No tests for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Branch County Democrats shall be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current member of the local party to acquiesce in, condone, or support discrimination on the grounds of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, gender, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance, disability, or any other identifying trait or characteristic.

2.8 The time and place for all public meetings of the Branch County Democrats on all levels 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 local party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.

2.9 The Branch County Democrats 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 Branch County Democrats Officers and representatives. Publication of those procedures shall be done in such a fashion that all prospective and current members of the Branch County Democrats will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedure in time to participate in each selection procedure of the Branch County Democrats.

2.10 This set of Bylaws, once adopted, within thirty (30) days will be submitted by the Secretary of this unit, Branch County Democrats, to the Corresponding Secretary of the State Central Committee.

2.11 Single-Position office voting is the method approved by the MDP that shall be used in the election of the Officers of the Branch County Democrats.

2.12 Multiple-Position office voting, or proposed slate of offices, is the method approved by the MDP that shall be used for multiple position offices such as the Branch County Executive Committee members, delegates, or alternatives to the MDP or DNC as detailed in rules 6.4 and 6.5 in the 2018 MDP Rules For Voting And Elections In The Michigan Democratic Party.

2.13 The unit rule (practice of a unit reporting as unanimous when the vote within the unit is not unanimous) is prohibited in the Branch County Democrats as in MDP.

2.14 Votes shall not be taken by secret ballot at any meeting of the Branch County Democrats at any level but can be written and counted at the publicized meeting place and meeting time when electing Officers.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

3.1 MEMBERSHIP

3.1.1 Branch County Democrats does not have a membership category. All interested parties are invited to participate.

3.2 VOTING

3.2.1 A person other than a precinct delegate, candidate, or officeholder must be a member of the Michigan Democratic Party at least thirty (30) days in advance in order to vote at a convention, caucus, or meeting. Precinct delegates, candidates, and elected officials must be members of the Michigan Democratic Party in order to vote, but can declare intent to become a member at that meeting. Proxy voting is not permitted.

3.2.2 Voting at meetings for Officers must be announced along with membership applications for at least thirty (30) days prior to the election date.

3.2.3 In order to be elected or appointed to and to hold any Party office, a person must be a member of the MDP for at least thirty (30) days prior to election or appointment. Lapsed memberships may be renewed for immediate privilege restoration.

3.3 ASSISTANCE

3.1 Only officeholders and candidates who are members of the MDP shall be eligible to receive election assistance of any kind. Judicial officeholders and candidates are exempt from this requirement.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

4.1 The Officers shall be a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer. They shall have two (2) year terms and be elected by ballots, counted hands, or standing to be openly counted at the meeting. The elections are held after required announcements. Vacancies among the Officers shall be filled by nominations and election at the meetings after required announcements .

4.2 The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected member Officers and Assigned Executive Group as needed to carry out the two (2) year plan. The elected members shall serve two (2) years and be elected by ballots, counted hands, or standing openly counted at the meeting. Vacancies among the elected members of the Executive Committee shall be filled by assignment.

4.3 The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings and have such other duties as are usual to the office of Chairperson, or that may be required by this organization.

4.4 The Vice-Chairperson must be a different identifying gender than the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson in the discharge of duties, and shall temporarily assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chairperson in that absence.

4.5 The Secretary shall keep an accurate record and minutes of the proceedings of all meetings. The Secretary shall keep and preserve all the books, documents, correspondence, records, minutes, effects, and any other property of this organization. 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 tenure of office. The Secretary shall see that proper notification is given of all meetings.

4.6 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 of the following Officers: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Treasurer shall make financial reports to the Executive Committee and to the BCD. When a new Treasurer is elected or re-elected, at the change of term, all the books and records must be delivered to the Executive Committee for auditing forthwith.

ARTICLE V. PRECINCT DELEGATES

5.1 FOUNDATION

5.1.1 The foundation of our Party is its people. That includes our Precinct Delegates and members from which we get the ideas, volunteers, candidates, funds, and all other resources necessary to win elections. The Precinct Delegate is the smallest political unit in the country and all the voters in a precinct vote at

one location. Precinct Delegates are elected directly by the voters of each precinct to serve as a bridge between voters and the Democratic Party. Precinct Delegates represent the Democratic Party in their neighborhoods and represent their neighborhoods at Democratic Party meetings.

5.2 DUTIES

5.2.1 The duties of the Precinct Delegate is to:

- Help Democrats get registered to vote.
- Take information on issues and candidates to the voters in their precinct.
- Identify other Democrats and recruit new Party members.
- Help turn out the Democratic vote on Election Day.
- Keep Democratic leaders informed about the issues that concern voters.
- Help elect Democratic Party leadership at county, congressional district and state levels.

5.3 PROCESS

5.3.1 The Precinct Delegate selection and process agrees that; every precinct has at least one (1) precinct delegate position, sometimes more as determined by the local Party under a formula set forth in the MDP Rules. Precinct delegates are elected at the August primary in even-numbered years. People become candidates for precinct delegate by filing an Affidavit of Identity, available from their local clerk, in May of even-numbered years by the 16th Tuesday before the August primary. It must be filed with the local clerk no later than twelve (12) weeks prior to the August primary.

After their election, the county clerk will notify the Precinct Delegates of the election results and of the first local Party convention they must attend in August of even-numbered years. Precinct Delegates must join the Michigan Democratic Party in order to vote at the local conventions. They may join the MDP that day. Committee Members for the Fall State Convention are elected by proportional voting and resolutions are adopted. Precinct Delegates are automatically delegates to state conventions.

5.3.2 After the general election, Precinct Delegates attend local conventions where they elect by proportional voting county party leadership for the following two (2) years, and Precinct Delegates attend the Spring State Convention which elects District and State Party leadership for the next two (2) years. Precinct Delegates must join the Michigan Democratic Party in order to vote at these conventions.

5.3.3 If a vacancy occurs in the position of delegate-elected member of the County Committee, the remaining delegate-elected members shall fill the vacancy.

5.4 PRECINCT VACANCIES

5.4.1 No delegate elected to any District or County Convention shall give a proxy to represent them at such a Convention. All vacancies occurring in any delegation to any County or District Convention may be filled by a majority vote of the delegation for that Convention only. That delegation shall not be permitted to fill any vacancy which may occur in its number by any person not a qualified and registered elector, and resident of the ward, district, county, township or precinct, as the case may be, from which the absent delegate was chosen.

5.5 PRECINCT COMMITTEES

5.5.1 Whenever appropriate the precinct delegates of each precinct or group of precincts, may be organized into a Precinct Committee and elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of different gender from their numbers. The purpose of this Committee shall be to promote the interests of the Democratic

Party within the precinct or groups of precincts.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

6.1 At least once per month there shall be a full membership meeting of the Branch County Democrats in which the Officers and Executive Committee shall report on activities related to the organization. At least five (5) days' notice shall be given of the date, place, and time of the meeting. Notice may be given by ads, phone, mail, or email.

6.2 The regular meetings of the Branch County Democrats Executive Committee shall be on the date and at the location and time set forth 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 mail, or email. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Executive Committee.

6.3 Special meetings for the Executive Committee may be called by any of the Executive Committee members, or by a non-Executive Committee member with the support of two (2) Executive Committee members. Notice for such meetings may depend on the nature of the situation in which a meeting is requested.

6.4 Special meetings for all members may be called by any of the Executive Committee members, or by a non-Executive Committee member with the support of two (2) Executive Committee Members. At least five (5) days' notice shall be given of the date, place, time, and purpose of the special meeting. Notice may be given by ads, phone, mail, or email.

6.5 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).

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES AND CERTIFICATIONS

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.

7.2 Standing Committees shall include, but not be limited, to the following:

1. Executive Committee

- a. Every even-numbered year, the delegates to the Fall County Convention in each County in this State having a population of less than 1,500,000 shall convene at the call of the County Chairperson within twenty (20) days following the November election. The call shall be sent to each delegate by mail or email at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the County Convention. The purpose of the Convention is to elect a number of persons equal to twice the number of candidates for County, State Legislative, and U.S. House of Representatives offices for which candidates were nominated at the most recent fall primary election for that office. Those persons, together with the persons most recently nominated by the Party for each of those offices, shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Party for that County. When a new nomination is made for an office, the nominee is entitled to serve as a member of the Executive Committee. If a vacancy occurs in the position of delegate-elected member of the Executive Committee, the remaining delegate-elected members shall fill the vacancy. Except as otherwise provided in this article, the Executive Committee may elect the Officers it considers proper to carry out the purposes of the Committee, and may fill a vacancy in any of its offices.

2. Rules and Bylaws Committee

3. Precinct Delegate Committee
4. Candidate Recruitment Committee
5. Communications and Public Relations Committee
6. Rapid Response Committee
7. Education and Programing Committee
8. Target Audience Outreach Committee
9. Fundraising Committee

7.3 CERTIFICATION, NOTICE TO SELECTEE

7.3.1 Immediately following the election of members of the Executive Committee, including the filling of vacancies, the Secretary of the County Committee shall certify the names and addresses of persons chosen to the County Clerk and to the Democratic State Central Committee.

7.4 SELECTION OF OFFICERS, PROXY, ENSUING COUNTY COMMITTEE, NOMINEES AS DELEGATES AT LARGE

7.4.1 Within thirty (30) days following the convening of the Fall County Convention, the Executive Committee acting without the Officers of the County Committee who are not otherwise members of the Executive Committee shall meet. The notice of this meeting shall be sent to each member of the Executive Committee by mail or email at least seven (7) days before the date of the meeting. At the meeting, the Executive Committee shall elect a temporary Chairperson and temporary Secretary. The temporary Officers shall serve only during the election of the Officers of the Executive Committee. That election is in accordance with Article III herein. The elected Officers serve as the Officers of the County Committee for the two (2) years commencing on January 1 next. The Officers shall be a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson of the opposite sex to the Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Each officer shall have a vote on the Executive Committee. Candidates for legislative offices consisting of more than one (1) County may give a written proxy to any other member of the Executive Committee.

7.4.2 After the Officers of the County Committee have taken office and within forty-five (45) days after January 1 of each odd-numbered year, the County Committee shall consist of those members as the Executive Committee may determine. The County Committee shall have the right to elect additional Officers who in its judgment are proper to carry out the purposes of the County Committee, and shall have power to 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 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 (2) years or until the selection of its successor.

7.4.3 A person nominated as a candidate for county office shall be a delegate at large to the Fall County Convention held in the year of the candidate's nomination and to all County Conventions during the term of office for which the candidate was nominated. A person nominated as a candidate for legislative office shall be a delegate at large to the Fall County Convention held in the year of the candidate's nomination in each county or part of a county contained in the legislative district and to all County Conventions held during the term of office for which the candidate was nominated. The number of delegates at large shall be in addition to the number of delegates specified in the call for the Fall County Convention. If a person is elected both a delegate at large and a precinct delegate, a vacancy shall exist in the precinct and shall be filled as provided in Article 3.D of MDP Rules, which allows for a majority vote by the Executive Committee.

7.5 EXPANSION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

7.5.1 The members of an Executive Committee may vote to expand the membership of the Committee. These rules encourage the expansion of the Committees for the purpose of achieving more participation and representation.

7.6 COUNTY COMPRISING SINGLE DISTRICT COMMITTEE

7.6.1 In a county comprising a single representative, senatorial, or judicial district, the County Committee of such county shall constitute the representative, senatorial, or judicial committee of the Party of such representative, senatorial, or judicial district, as the case may be.

ARTICLE VIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

At meetings, the business of the organization may proceed in the following order:

1. Roll call of Officers
2. Approval of the previous meeting's minutes
3. Reports of Officers
 - a. Chair
 - b. Vice-Chair
 - c. Treasurer (financial report)
 - d. Secretary (correspondence)
4. Reports of committees
5. Unfinished business
6. Postponed business
7. New business
8. Adjournment

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

9.1 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 local party meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.

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

9.3 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 with the exception the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party.

ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION

10.1 Upon dissolution of Branch County Democrats, all assets remaining after the satisfaction of debts shall be distributed to the Michigan Democratic Party.

Adopted: **April 15th, 2021**

Jeffrey Raymond, Chairperson
Regen Stahl, Vice-Char
Anita Hoyt, Treasurer
Hillary Raymond, Secretary
Amaryllis Thomas, Executive Committee
David McMillan, Executive Committee
Michael Cilla, Executive Committee
Gretchen Driskell, Executive Committee

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