

1

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

ARTICLE ONE NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Auglaize County Democratic Party

ARTICLE TWO PURPOSE AND AFFILIATION

Section 1. The purpose of this organization shall be to foster and perpetuate the philosophy, principles and goals of the Democratic Party, to contribute to the well being of the community, to provide for the administration of the local Democratic Party, and to encourage voter participation, to establish this constitution.

Section 2. The Auglaize County Democratic Party shall be affiliated with the Ohio Democratic Party and the National Democratic Party, and shall follow the constitution of those organizations.

ARTICLE THREE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this organization shall be open to all residents of Auglaize County, Ohio, who will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Ohio and the Constitution, By-laws, and principles of the Auglaize County Democratic Party. No person may be a member or vote on any motion, resolution, nomination, or election at any caucus, convention, meeting, or conference of the Auglaize County Democratic party unless that person is registered with the Board of Elections as a Democrat.

Section 2. No person shall hold office in this organization unless that person meets the qualifications of membership.

Section 3. Should a person's qualifications of membership or office be challenged, said challenge procedure shall be established by the executive committee.

ARTICLE FOUR CONFLICT OF LAWS

Section 1. Nothing within this constitution shall conflict with the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America, the Constitution and Laws of the State of Ohio, or the constitutions of the Ohio and National Democratic Party. Should any portion of this constitution be ruled unenforceable or illegal, the remainder of this constitution shall remain in full force and effect.

ARTICLE FIVE ORGANIZATION OF CONTROLLING COMMITTEES

Section 1. The controlling committee of the Auglaize County Democratic Party shall be the Auglaize County Central Committee which shall be elected and constituted in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio. The County Central Committee shall elect

the County Executive Committee in the manner set forth in this constitution. The Central Committee shall confer upon the County Executive Committee all power and authority of the Central Committee, and the Executive Committee shall be authorized to act for the Central Committee in the management, operation, business and organization of the Auglaize County Democratic Party.

Section 2. The members-elect of the Central Committee shall meet in Auglaize County, Ohio in a manner and within the time prescribed by the laws of the State of Ohio for the purpose of reorganizing the Central Committee and electing the Executive Committee. The Central Committee shall be called to order by the retiring chairperson. A temporary chairperson and temporary secretary shall then be elected by the Central Committee. The Central Committee shall then proceed to reorganize with the election of a chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, treasurer,, and any other officers as the Central Committee may desire.

Section 3. The Central Committee Chairperson need not be an elected member of the Central Committee.

Section 4. The Central Committee shall then proceed to elect nine members to the Executive Committee.

Section 5. After the election of the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall proceed to elect a Chairperson, who need not be a member of the Central or Executive Committee, but upon election shall become a member of the Executive Committee.

Section 6. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall within 45 days, recommend to the Executive Committee an additional number of individuals for membership on the Executive Committee. The total number of Executive Committee members shall not exceed twenty-five. Each recommendation may be approved or disapproved on an individual basis, for membership on the Executive Committee.

Section 7. The recommendations of the Chairperson shall be broadly representative of all individuals in the Democratic Party, and representative of the Democratic vote in the various political subdivision of the county.

Section 8. The Executive Committee shall then proceed to elect as many Vice-Chairpersons, in order of succession, as the Executive Committee deems necessary. One-half of the Vice Chairpersons shall be women and one-half men. The Executive Committee shall then elect a secretary and treasurer.

Section 9. In all elections for officers or membership in the Executive Committee, or in the election of officers of the Central Committee, or in the election of replacement members of the Central Committee, or in the election of any individual to any position by either committee, any form of a secret ballot is strictly prohibited.

Section 10. Four consecutive unexcused absences by an Executive Committee member shall forfeit that individual's membership on the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE SIX EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers of the Executive Committee shall be the persons elected as Chairperson, Vice-chairpersons, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. The Executive Committee Chairperson shall act as chief executive officer of the committee and shall be subject to the direction of and responsible to the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Chairperson shall appoint such directors, committees, and committee chairpersons as is necessary for the operation of the Executive Committee. Said appointments shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. The Vice-Chairpersons, in order of succession, shall act as Chairperson of the Executive Committee in case of death, resignation, removal, incapacity, or absence of the Executive Committee Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall have the same duties and powers as the Chairperson until such time as a new Chairperson is elected by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. The Secretary shall record the proceedings of all meetings, maintain official documents, and prepare the minutes and necessary notices of all meetings.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds of the Executive Committee and give a financial report at every meeting. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all receipts and expenditures of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall be under sufficient bond as determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 7. The Executive Committee shall meet at least four times per calendar year and at any other times as set by the Chairman or eight Executive Committee members.

Section 8. All members of the Central Committee shall be invited to meetings of the Executive Committee and shall be permitted to participate in the meetings but shall not be permitted to vote on any matter before the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE SEVEN PARTY UNITY, PARTY POLICY, VACANCIES, AND ORGANIZATION OF VARIOUS DEMOCRATIC CLUBS

Section 1. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee and the officers of the various Democratic Clubs within the county shall consult with and cooperate with each other in the operation of the various areas of their jurisdictions.

Section 2. Central Committee members and the Chairpersons or Presidents of the various Chartered Democratic Clubs shall consult with and cooperate with the Executive Committee.

Section 3. All members of the Auglaize County Democratic Party, all party officers, all Democratic Party officeholders, and all candidates for office nominated by the Democratic Party shall support the principles of the Democratic Party and work for the unity of the Democratic Party.

Section 4. Any pre-primary endorsement of the Ohio Democratic State Executive Committee shall be supported by the County Executive Committee.

Section 5. There shall be no pre-primary endorsement of any local candidate where said election is contested unless 66% of the Executive Committee votes to permit endorsement. Before such endorsement is given all party candidates for that office shall be given an opportunity to attend an Executive Committee meeting and speak and answer questions.

Section 6. The Executive Committee by a 60% vote may set party policy for the conduct of elections.

Section 7. All vacancies in the Central and Executive Committees shall be filled by the Executive Committee.

Section 8. All delegates and alternate delegates to the state or national conventions shall be elected in accordance with the laws of the state of Ohio.

ARTICLE EIGHT MEETINGS

Section 1. Notice of any meeting required by this constitution or any meeting of the Central or Executive Committee shall be given in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio. Notice of regular or special meetings of the Central or Executive Committee shall be given at least seven days prior to said meeting, said notice stating time and place of meeting and delivered by ordinary United States Mail to each and every member.

Section 2. An annual convention of the Auglaize County Democratic Party may be called at the request of the Executive Committee. Notice of any convention shall be given in writing to all Central and Executive Committee members and by notice in any county daily newspaper at least 15 days before said meeting. The County Executive Chairperson shall preside at said meeting.

Section 3. Minutes shall be taken of all meetings.

Section 4. Roberts Rules of Order, Revised shall be strictly followed in the conduct of any meeting held under the authority of this constitution.

Section 5. No meeting shall be conducted without the presence of a quorum which shall be half the membership plus one.

ARTICLE NINE PARTY FINANCES

Section 1. The Auglaize County Executive Committee shall have the primary responsibility for soliciting contributions and promoting fund raising for the party.

Section 2. The Executive Committee Chairperson shall annually compile a list of all contributions and receipts received by the Executive Committee, and shall provide each Executive Committee member such list upon request.

Section 3. The members of the Central Committee, poll workers, candidates, office holders and party members shall assist the members of the Executive Committee in fund raising activities and in the solicitation of contributions.

ARTICLE TEN OATH OF OFFICE

Section 1. All members of the Central and Executive Committees shall be required to take the following oath before entering into the discharge of their position.

I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF OHIO, AND THE CONSTITUTIONS, BY-LAWS, AND PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THE OHIO DEMOCRATIC PARTY, AND THE AUGLAIZE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

ARTICLE ELEVEN AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This constitution may be amended by a 66% vote of the Auglaize County Democratic Executive Committee at a meeting called for that purpose. Any amendment shall first be submitted in writing to every member of the Executive Committee at least 60 days prior to any meeting called to act on the amendment.

Section 2 Upon adoption, this Constitution shall supersede any and all other Constitutions previously adopted by the Auglaize County Democratic Party.

Adopted by the Auglaize County Ohio Democratic Executive Committee in open session on the 4th day of April, 2000.

Attest:

B. David Campbell

B. David Campbell, Chairman

Jean M. Leistner

Jean Leistner, Secretary