

**CONSTITUTION
AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
ATHENS COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

PREAMBLE

The Mission of the Athens County Democratic Part is to recruit, nominate, support and elect qualified Democratic candidates to public office. To that end, the Athens County Democratic Party is committed to public and governmental policies that encourage, promote and advance the shared values, principals and traditions of our Party which include:

- A. Individual, political, economic and religious freedom;
- B. Fairness, equal opportunity and equal protection under law for all citizens
- C. Mutual respect, tolerance and respect for the diversity fall all citizens, families, and communities;
- D. Openness, competence, fiscal responsibility, integrity and ethical conduct in government;
- E. Protection of and the responsible use of our environment and community resources; and
- F. A decent quality of life for all citizens and families.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
ATHENS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY CENTRAL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTES**

ARTICLE I - NAME AND ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be the Athens County Democratic Party. It shall be composed of the Central Committee whose members are elected to represent the Democrats of their precinct, and an Executive Committee to include all Central Committee members plus elected Democrat officials and members selected to represent different party constituencies.

ARTICLE II - CENTRAL COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. SELECTION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

All members of the Central Committee shall be elected by direct vote of the members of the Democratic party in each precinct. Candidates' names shall be placed on the official ballot under rules established by the Ohio Secretary of State. Persons receiving the highest number of votes in each precinct shall collectively comprise the membership of the Athens County Democratic Central Committee.

SECTION 2. MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS AND TERMS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Each candidate and member must be a member of the Democratic Party and a resident and qualified elector of the precinct that the member is elected to represent. The term of office shall be for two (2) years with elections to take place in even numbered years.

Central Committee members are not considered public officials or employees.

SECTION 3. VACANCIES IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Vacancies in any precinct shall be filled with a nomination by any Central Committee member and a majority vote of the Executive Committee at any Executive Committee meeting. These members must meet the same requirements as in Section 2 and fill the remainder of the term until the next election.

SECTION 4. DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Each Central Committee member has a responsibility to vote in every Democratic Primary; attend Central and Executive Committee meetings; recommend poll workers as needed; assist people in their precinct to become regular, informed voters; support Democratic Party activities; support Democratic candidates and their campaigns; and be an active and enthusiastic Democrat.

SECTION 5. CENTRAL COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

As provided by statute, the membership-elect of the Central Committee shall meet not earlier than six (6) nor later than fifteen (15) days following the date of certification of the results of the party primary election by the Athens County Board of Elections, at a suitable time and place to be designated by the immediate past Chair of the Central Committee.

Notice of such meeting, giving the time and place, shall be sent to each member-elect by the immediate past Secretary of the Central Committee, by US mail or electronic mail at least five (5) days prior to any such meeting. A copy of the notice shall be posted in the office of the Athens County Board of Elections for the same period of time.

SECTION 6. ORDER OF BUSINESS / ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Pursuant to statute, the meeting shall be called to order by the immediate past Chair of the Central Committee. If that person is absent and no other immediate past officers of the Central Committee are present, then the meeting shall be called to order by the Central Committee Member designated by the Democratic Members of the Board of Elections.

The Central Committee shall then proceed to organize by the election of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers, as may be deemed necessary. Officers must be members of the Central Committee.

SECTION 7. DUTIES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OFFICERS

CHAIR: Shall call and preside over any meetings of the Central Committee, as provided for by state law and this constitution; and perform all the other duties prescribed by statute, or duties usually exercised by the Chair, not conflicting with this constitution.

VICE-CHAIR: Shall perform all the duties of the Chair in his/her absence. In the case of the death, resignation, or any other reason creating a vacancy in the Chair's position, the Vice-Chair of the Central Committee may serve out the balance of the Chair's term if he/she so chooses to do so.

SECRETARY: Shall keep the official minutes of all meetings of the Central Committee, and send notices of any special and the next organizational meeting to all members.

TREASURER: Shall receive and deposit all funds, pay all bills authorized by the Central Committee, file all financial reports required by law, and perform all other duties accorded a Treasurer that are not inconsistent with this constitution.

SECTION 8. MEETING NOTICES

Notices of meetings shall be sent in accordance with statutes and provisions set down in these By-Laws.

ARTICLE III - AUTHORITY FOR DELEGATION TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

As allowed by statute, the Central Committee shall create an Executive Committee that shall have the powers granted to it by the party Central Committee, and provided to it by law. The Executive Committee shall: manage the affairs of the Athens County Democratic Party, direct and conduct campaign activities; promulgate and carry out the general policies of the party organization; promote the best interests and ideals of the Democratic Party; and, perform all party duties required by statute.

ARTICLE IV - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE **

Membership on the Executive Committee shall consist of all Democratic precinct Central Committeepersons, including those elected and those selected by the Executive Committee to fill vacancies.

All Athens County Democrats elected at partisan elections to represent some or all Athens County residents shall be appointed to the Executive Committee unless he/she declines. These currently include Athens City, county, state and federal legislative and executive offices, and Democratic State Central Committeepersons. They do not include non-partisan village or board of public affairs, township, or board of education offices.

In addition, the Executive Committee may appoint as members persons who have demonstrated an interest in and a commitment to the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party.

The membership of the Executive Committee shall number no more than one less than the number of precincts in the county.

SECTION 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the meeting required in Article II Section 5, after the election of Central Committee Officers, the members of the Central Committee shall elect themselves to the County Executive Committee. The newly elected Chair and Secretary of the Central Committee shall serve as the temporary chairman and secretary of the Executive Committee until permanent officers are duly elected.

The County Executive Committee shall then be called to meet immediately upon its election and shall proceed to elect its Chair, who need not be a member of the County Central or County Executive

Committee. The Chair shall automatically become a member of the County Executive Committee. Following this the Committee shall then elect a Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The Chair of the Executive Committee shall hold a meeting, not less than five (5) nor more than thirty (30) days following, for the purpose of electing additional members to the Executive Committee as prescribed in Section 1 above.

SECTION 3. DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

CHAIR; The Chair shall: call and preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee; direct the operations of the Athens County Democratic Party and Executive Committee; report to the Committee on party activities at each regular meeting; perform all other duties prescribed by statute or duties usually exercised by the Chair, not conflicting with this Constitution, including but not limited to the appointment of such committees as he/she deems necessary to carry on the work of the Party.

VICE-CHAIR: The Vice-Chair shall perform all the duties of the Chair in his/her absence.

SECRETARY: The Secretary shall: keep the official minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee; keep and be the custodian of the permanent books, records and correspondence; notify all members of any special and all regular meetings; handle all correspondence of the Executive Committee, as required by law; file with the office of the Secretary of State and Ohio Democratic Party a copy of this constitution within thirty (30) days of adoption or amendment; and file with the office of the Secretary of State and local Board of Elections a list of members Central and Executive Committees and officers within thirty (30) days of their election or appointment.

TREASURER: The Treasurer shall: receive, deposit and invest all funds; pay out all monies owed by the Committee; submit for approval a written report of the financial condition of the Committee at each regular meeting of the Committee; file all financial reports required by law; and perform all other duties accorded a Treasurer that are not inconsistent with this constitution.

SECTION 4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS' VACANCIES

Except as otherwise provided herein, any vacancy which occurs in an officer's position of either the Central or Executive Committee for any reason, shall be filled by a majority vote of the members present of the respective body at any duly called and convened meeting.

SECTION 5. MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETINGS

The Executive Committee shall meet no less than once a calendar quarter at a time and place approved by the Committee.

QUORUM **

Thirty (30) members of the Executive Committee present at any regularly called or special meeting of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, provided notice requirements detailed herein are met.

MEETING NOTICES

All meetings, except recessed meetings shall require at least three (3) days written or electronic notice to all members.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings may be called by the Chair or any member with a petition signed by fifteen (15) members. If the Chair refuses to attend, a temporary Chair, chosen by the group may act in that post, providing that all members are notified in the manner indicated in the paragraph above.

SECTION 6. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Expenditures by the Athens County Democratic Party for an individual campaign or issue shall require the written concurrence of two-thirds of the officers of both committees. An officer serving on both committees shall have only one vote for this purpose. All other expenditures made by the party shall be authorized by the Chair of the Executive Committee and reported appropriately by the Treasurer of said committee.

SECTION 7. VOTING AND RULES OF ORDER FOR CENTRAL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

NO PROXY VOTING

All votes on all matters shall be in person. No proxy voting shall be allowed on any issue.

OPEN VOTING

All votes of the Central or Executive Committees shall be open.

RULES OF ORDER

The newest, abridged version of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern all proceedings not specifically otherwise provided herein.

ARTICLE V - BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The Executive Committee shall recommend the Democratic Party appointments to the Athens County Board of Elections in accordance with ORC 3501.07 of the Ohio Revised Code and any other applicable law.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS

The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by resolution presented to the Secretary at any regular meeting of the Executive Committee. It shall be read to all members present, then tabled until the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee. At this next meeting it shall be read for a second time and a vote on the resolution shall be taken. A simple majority vote of members present shall be required to approve the amendment.

The Constitution may be reviewed with possible amendments added at the end of each Central and Executive Committee term and be ready for adoption by the new Committees.

ARTICLE VII - EFFECTIVE DATE OF CONSTITUTION

Upon adoption, this Constitution shall supersede any and all previous Constitutions and By-Laws of the Athens County Democratic Central and Executive Committees and shall remain in effect until amended or revised according to Article VI - Amendments.

Adoption of this constitution certifies that all requirements under the Ohio Revised Code, Sections 3517 have been reviewed and met.

Adopted at Athens County, Ohio, this day by the Athens County Democratic Party Executive Committee assembled in regular session.

Kathy Hecht

June 6, 2013

CHAIR

DATE

George W. Bain

SECRETARY

Amendments

** Article V Section 5: QUORUM

Twenty (20) members of the Executive Committee present at any regularly called or special meeting of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, provided notice requirements detailed herein are met.

Amended by the Athens County Democratic Party Executive Committee on July 15, 2014

Alan Trout

George W. Bain

CHAIR

SECRETARY

** Article IV Section 1: MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

All Athens County Democrats elected at partisan elections to represent some or all Athens County residents shall be **members of** the Executive Committee unless he/she declines. These currently include Athens City, county, state and federal legislative and executive offices, and Democratic State Central Committeepersons. They do not include non-partisan village or board of public affairs, township, or board of education offices.

Amended by the Athens County Democratic Party Executive Committee on December 10, 2014

Alan Trout

George W. Bain

CHAIR

SECRETARY

** Article IV Section 1: MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

All **eligible** Athens County Democrats elected at partisan elections to represent some or all Athens County residents shall be members of the Executive Committee unless he/she declines. These currently include Athens City, county, state and federal legislative and executive offices, and Democratic State Central Committeepersons. They do not include non-partisan village or board of public affairs, township, or board of education offices.

Amended by the Athens County Democratic Party Executive Committee on March 25, 2015

Alan Trout

George W. Bain

CHAIR

SECRETARY