

BYLAWS BEDFORD COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

ARTICLE I NAME AND OBJECT

SECTION 1: The name of this organization shall be the Bedford County Democratic Party

SECTION 2: The object of this organization shall be to promote the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party and to aid in the election of Democrats and Democratic nominees for public office.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: Eligibility. All residents of Bedford County, Tennessee who are registered to vote in this county and who believe in the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party are eligible to become members of the Bedford County Democratic Party.

SECTION 2: Nondiscrimination. Membership in the Bedford County Democratic Party shall not be denied because of race, color, sex, religion, age and disability or ethnic origin

SECTION 3: Annual Dues. Annual Dues for the Bedford County Democratic Party shall be ten dollars (\$10) per year. All memberships run for a calendar year, from January 1st until December 31st.

ARTICLE III POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION 1: Governance. The governance and direction of the affairs of the Bedford County Democratic Party shall be vested in the Bedford County Democratic Executive Committee (the "Executive Committee") and in officers of the Bedford County Democratic Party, as hereinafter set forth in these bylaws, subject to the laws of the state of Tennessee and such rules as may be established by the Tennessee State Democratic Executive Committee.

SECTION 2: Party Responsibilities: The Bedford County Democratic Party shall have the following responsibilities:

- Planning and conducting all county meetings and convention.
- Keeping and maintaining records of all Democratic Party meetings and business.
- Supporting the duly selected nominees of the Democratic Party.

ARTICLE IV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1: Membership. The Executive Committee shall be elected at-large at the county convention. It is suggested that the Executive Committee be composed of an equal number of men and women if possible, plus those who become members pursuant to Article VIII, Section 8 (Officers).

SECTION 2: Manner of Election. The Executive Committee members shall be elected at a county convention called for the purpose of electing Executive Committee members at a

date determined by the State Democratic Executive Committee.

SECTION 3: Resignations. The resignation of any member of the Executive Committee shall be made in writing and shall take effect at the time specified therein, or if on time is specified, then it shall take effect upon receipt of such resignation by the Chair or Secreta

SECTION 4: Vacancies. A vacancy shall be filled by nomination from the membership. Any vacancies occurring in the Executive Committee may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Executive Committee member present at any regular meeting, even though less than a quorum of the Executive Committee exists. In the event of a vacancy, whether resulting from a resignation or expulsion, the remaining members of the Executive Committee positions from members of the Bedford County Democratic Party who reside in Bedford County and who meet the same requirements of a duly elected member as prescribed in Section 1.

SECTION 5: Attendance. An Executive Committee member who fails to attend four (4) consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee without an excuse satisfactory, as prescribed in Section 7: (ii), to the majority of the members of the Executive Committee in attendance, may be removed from the position and the position declared vacant.

SECTION 6: Manner of Acting. The act of a majority of the Executive Committee members present shall be the act of the Executive Committee, unless a greater number be required by law or by these bylaws.

SECTION 7: Sanctions or Expulsion.

(a) Notice and Opportunity To Be Heard. The Executive Committee may vote to impose sanctions on, or expel a member, but only if written notice is given that the issue will be taken up at the meeting prior to the meeting on which such action is voted. The member in question must be given written notice, and an opportunity to be heard.

(b) Automatic Expulsion. A member of the Executive Committee shall automatic forfeit his/her membership in said committee (and the position shall be declared vacant) in the event that he/she qualifies for political office as an Independent of representing any political party other than Democratic Party and opposes a duly qualified Democratic nominee.

(c) Discretionary Sanctions of Expulsions. A member may be expelled in the discretion of the Executive Committee if a pattern of non-attendance is established, even if such absences are excused. Sanctions may be imposed against a member, or he/she may be expelled in the discretion of the Executive Committee, for demonstrating disloyalty to the Democratic Party, either in the form of a public announcement of support of a candidate of another party in a pending election, or by working for or giving financial support to any such candidate running against a duly nominated candidate of the Democratic Party. The Executive Committee shall not impose discretionary sanctions expel a member, unless and until such a member is given an opportunity to be heard and three-fourths (3/4) of the membership present and voting concur in a discretionary sanctions or expulsion.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

SECTION 1: General. All meetings of the Bedford County Democratic Party or of the Executive Committee shall be well publicized in countywide media at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the meeting. All meeting shall be held at convenient times and locations, and shall be open to the general public and media representatives (except where legal counsel otherwise indicated based upon a legal need for a closed meeting).

SECTION 2: Meetings. Meeting of the Executive Committee shall be called by the Chair or by one-third (1/3) of the Executive Committee members.

SECTION 3: Quorum. Fifty percent (50%) of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the Executive Committee. If less than a quorum is present at a meeting of the Executive Committee, a majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting.

ARTICLE VI CONDUCT OF CONVENTION

SECTION 1: Convention. The provisions for the holding of the county convention shall be as follows:

- a. The convention shall be well publicized in the local news media. At least fourteen (14) days prior notice must be given.
- b. All members of the Bedford County Democratic Party who are registered voters, and who attest they are bona fide Democrats by execution of affidavits or affirmations to that effect, are eligible to vote at the convention and to be candidates for the Executive Committee and Officers.
- c. The Chairperson, prior to voting, shall appoint an adequate number of Sergeants-at-arms to assure that only bona-fide Democrats are present for the voting process. The Secretary or duly appointed representative shall verify the affirmations of all attendees.

ARTICLE VII PROXIES

SECTION 1: No Proxies Allowed. No proxy shall be allowed at any meeting of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2: Unit Rule. No voting by the unit rule shall be allowed at any meeting of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 3: Open Voting: All votes shall be public and shall not be by secret ballot.

ARTICLE VIII OFFICERS

SECTION 1: Officers. The officers of the Bedford County Democratic Party shall be chair, vice-chair, secretary/treasurer, all of who shall be elected by the Bedford County Executive Committee for a two (2) year term, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

SECTION 2: Election of Officers. The officers shall be elected by a simple majority of the members of the Bedford County Democratic Executive Committee present at the meeting held immediately following the convention. In the event a majority is not achieved, a runoff election shall be held until a majority prevails with the low vote getter being dropped from the next ballot. A complete list of all officers and Executive Committee members shall be forwarded to the Chair of the Tennessee Democratic Party within ten (10) days after their election.

SECTION 3: Vacancies. Vacancies in any office for any reason may be filled by the Executive Committee for the unexpired portion of the term.

SECTION 4: Officers Not Required to Be Members. It is not required that the officers be members of the Executive Committee. Any officer who is elected by the Executive Committee who is not an elected member of the Executive Committee shall, upon his/her election as an officer, become a voting member of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 5: Neutrality. No officers shall openly support a candidate in a Democratic Primary, so that the officers present neutrality to maintain party unity.

SECTION 6: Members Must Support Nominees of the Democratic Party. No person shall be an officer or member of the Executive Committee if he/she shall not support nominees of the Democratic Party. Failure to support the nominees of the Democratic Party shall be cause for removal. Officers may be removed under this Section by the Executive Committee by a simple majority of those present at any regular meeting or any meeting called for that purpose after at least ten (10) days prior notice to all members of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 7: Resignations. The resignation of any officer of the Executive Committee shall be made in writing and shall take effect at the time specified therein, or if no time is specified, then it shall take effect upon receipt of such resignation by the chair or secretary.

ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: Committees Appointed By Chair. The chair may establish committees, to be composed solely of Executive Committee members or party Executive Committee members and partly others, as it deems appropriate.

SECTION 2: Term of Office. Each member of a committee shall serve at the pleasure of the person or entity creating the committee, but no longer than until the next convention or until the committee is terminated.

ARTICLE XI RESOLUTIONS

All proposed resolutions must be submitted to the chair at least one (1) week prior to a meeting. Emergency resolutions may be brought before the body by consent of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present.

ARTICLE XII CONTRACTS AND EXPENDITURES

SECTION 1: Contracts, Expenditures, Bill Retention. All Executive Committees are urged to operate under an approved budget. Except in the case of an emergency for items not designated in the budget, no expenditures or bills shall be made or contracts entered into which purport to obligate the Executive Committee unless such expenditures or contracts are authorized by a majority vote of those present at a duly meeting at which a quorum is present, except those expenditures for less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100), obligating the Executive Committee may be authorized by the chair of the Executive Committee. The treasurer shall present a monthly-itemized statement of income and expenditures to the Executive Committee members. All paid bills shall be retained by the treasurer for a period of five (5) years.

SECTION 2: Audits. Auditors may be designated by the Executive Committee, who

shall audit and examine the books of account of the Bedford County Democratic Party and shall certify to the Executive Committee the annual balances of the books which shall be prepared at the close of the fiscal year, or by the direction of the treasurer.

**ARTICLE XIII
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES**

The current edition of Robert Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern meetings of the Executive Committee in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws and any special rules of order which may be adopted.

**ARTICLE XIV
AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be amended or substituted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total membership of the Executive Committee at any meeting of the Executive Committee called for the purpose of amending these bylaws.

**ARTICLE XV
RULES**

The Bedford County Democratic Party is a constituent party of the Tennessee Democratic Party. The Bedford County Democratic Executive Committee is an organization created by the State Democratic Executive Committee, with the State Democratic Executive Committee having full authority in all matter over the Bedford County Democratic Executive Committee. Any conflict between the county bylaws and the bylaws of the Tennessee Democratic Party, the bylaws of the Tennessee Democratic Party prevail.

**NEWLY ELECTED OFFICER PLEDGE OF ACCEPTANCE FOR THE ADOPTED
BYLAWS**

We hereby witness the acceptance of these adopted bylaws of the Bedford County Democratic Party. We have agreed to abide by these bylaws while serving as an officer of the Bedford County Democratic Party.

President

Date

Vice-President

Date

Secretary/Treasurer

Date