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**BYLAWS OF THE
CARROLL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

**ARTICLE 1
NAME AND OBJECTIVE**

- Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the Carroll County Democratic Party.
- Section 2. Object. 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. The Executive Committee of the Carroll County Democratic Party shall choose the nominees of the Democratic Party for all local partisan elections.

**ARTICLE 2
MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1. Eligibility. All residents of Carroll 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 Carroll County Democratic Party.
- Section 2. Nondiscrimination. Membership in the Carroll County Democratic Party shall not be denied because of race, color, sex, religion, age, and disability or ethnic origin.
- Section 3. Dues. Voluntary annual dues shall be \$10.00 per member and are payable to the Treasurer.

**ARTICLE 3
POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Section 1. Governance. The governance and direction of the affairs of the Carroll County Democratic Party shall be vested in the Carroll County Democratic Executive Committee (the "Executive Committee") and in officers of the Carroll 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 Carroll County Democratic Party shall have the following responsibilities:
- (a) Elect nominees for the party at Caucus
 - (b) Planning and conducting all county meetings and convention.
 - (c) Keeping and maintaining records of all Democratic Party meetings and business.
 - (d) Supporting the duly selected nominees of the Democratic Party.

**ARTICLE 4
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- Section 1. Membership. The Executive Committee shall be composed of men and women members of the Carroll County Democratic Party (set out in Article 2) elected at large from within the county. Members shall be elected with an equal number of men and women when possible. Terms shall be two (2) years.
- Section 2. Members Must Support Nominees of the Democratic Party. No person shall be a member or an officer of the Executive Committee if he/she shall not support nominees of the Democratic Party.

against a duly nominated candidate of the Democratic Party. The Executive Committee shall not impose discretionary sanction or 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 5 MEETINGS

- Section 1. General. All meetings of the Carroll 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 meetings shall be held at convenient times and locations, and shall be open to the general public and media representatives.
- Section 2. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at least annually, or when called by the Chair or by one-third (1/3) of the Executive Committee members.
- Section 3. Special Meetings. If more than sixty (60) days have passed since the last previous meeting, and if the Chairperson has not called a meeting, any one-third (1/3) of the members may call a meeting by notifying all members at least seven (7) days prior to such a meeting. If fewer than sixty (60) days have passed since the last previous meeting, one-third (1/3) of the members may call a special meeting provided seven (7) days prior notice is given by mail to the membership. Any notification of a meeting must include time and location.
- Section 4. Quorum. Five percent (5%) 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.
- Section 5. Convention Meeting. A regular meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held without other notice than this bylaw immediately after, and at the same place as the county convention (Article 3, Section 2).
- Section 6. Conduct. The regular order of business at Executive Committee meetings shall be as follows: (a) Call to Order; (b) invocation; (c) roll call; (d) approval of the minutes of previous meeting; (e) Treasurer's Report; (f) reports of sub-committees; (g) resolutions; (h) announcements, (i) unfinished business; (j) new business; (k) elections; (l) adjournment.

ARTICLE 6 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. It is anticipated by these by-laws that such convention shall be held every 2 years in odd numbered years and at a date determined by the State Executive Committee.
 - (b) All members of the Carroll 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.
 - (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.
 - (d) The convention shall be called to order by the incumbent Chair of the Carroll County Democratic Executive Committee. Persons seeking to become members of the Executive Committee shall so indicate. If fewer than 251 persons seek membership to the Executive

4

Committee, then each candidate's name shall be presented to the membership and voted on separately. If more than 251 persons seek membership to the Executive Committee, then there shall be a call for nominations for each Executive Committee position beginning with one male and one female for each voting precinct (22 precincts at the time of adoption of these by-laws) and the remaining positions filled at large, electing an equal number of men and women when possible. After the nominations cease for each position, the ballot is closed and the elections shall commence. When more than one person is nominated for a position, a plurality shall prevail for each election.

ARTICLE 7 VOTING

- 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. Votes shall be public except in the discretion of the Chair and then by secret ballot.
- Section 4. Specific procedures for nominating caucus shall be as follows:
1. In the event that the first vote for any office does not yield a winner with 50% plus 1 vote, then the field of potential candidates shall be narrowed to three. If after the second vote a candidate does not receive 50% plus 1 vote, the field shall be narrowed to two candidates, and the committee shall vote until a winner is selected.
 2. The ballots for the different offices will be placed in envelopes that will be handed out to each member when they are signed in. Ballots will be color coded and clearly marked with the office the ballot is for. Any ballot submitted that is the wrong color will not be counted.
 3. Each member shall sign in when entering the building. Membership shall be confirmed from the membership list. The sign in sheet shall contain an affirmation that the member is a bona fide Democrat and that they are eligible to vote at the convention.
 4. Committee members shall be seated by district. Only committee members shall be allowed to sit in the area designated for committee members. The seating for each district is to be clearly marked.
 5. The Chairman is to appoint individuals to count ballots. Each candidate or their representative may observe the counting of ballots.

ARTICLE 8 OFFICERS

- Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Carroll County Democratic Party shall be chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer, all of whom shall be elected by the Carroll County Executive Committee for a two (2) year term beginning in odd years, 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 Carroll 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.

**ARTICLE 10
CONTRACTS AND EXPENDITURES**

Section 1. Contracts; Expenditures; Bill Retention. 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 called meeting at which a quorum is present, except those expenditures for less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), obligating the Executive Committee may be authorized by the chair of the Executive Committee. The treasurer shall present an itemized statement of income and expenditures to Executive Committee members at all regular and/or called meetings. All paid bills shall be retained by the treasurer for a period of three (3) years.

Section 2. Audits. Auditors may be designated by the Executive Committee, who shall audit and examine the books of account of the Carroll 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 by, or under the direction of, the treasurer.

**ARTICLE 13
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES**

The current edition of Roberts 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 14
AMENDMENTS**

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

**ARTICLE 15
RULES**

The Carroll County Democratic Party is a constituent part of the Tennessee Democratic Party. The Carroll 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 matters over the Carroll County Democratic Executive Committee. If there be any conflict between these bylaws and the bylaws of the Tennessee Democratic Party, the bylaws of the Tennessee Democratic Party prevail.

Adopted: 22 March, 2011

John a. Mann
Chair

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Secretary