

Cumberland County Democratic Party Bylaws

Article I Name and Object

Section 1: Name. The name of this organization shall be the Cumberland County Democratic Party.

Section 2: Purpose. The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party.

Article II Membership

Section 1: Eligibility. All residents of Cumberland County, Tennessee who are registered to vote in this county, are eligible to become members of the Cumberland County Democratic Party.

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

Article III Powers and Responsibilities

Section 1: Governance. The governance and direction of the affairs of the Cumberland County Democratic Party shall be vested in the Cumberland County Democratic Executive Committee (the "Executive Committee") and in the officers of the Cumberland 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 Cumberland County Democratic Party shall have the following responsibilities:

- (a) Planning and conducting all county meetings and conventions.
- (b) Keeping and maintaining records of all Democratic Party meetings and business.
- (c) Supporting the duly selected nominees of the Democratic Party.

Article IV Executive Committee

Section 1: Membership. The Executive Committee shall be composed of a man and a woman elected from each county district plus those who become members pursuant to Article VIII, Section 8 (Officers). Additional members may be added where, because of distances between precincts, additional representation would assist the Party is being more equally geographically represented, or where the Party feels the need to have the assistance of additional members.

Section 2. Manner of Election. The Executive Committee members shall be elected by a caucus held by a recognized Democratic Club in that district. If there is not a recognized Democratic Club in a district, Executive Committee members will be elected at-large at a County Convention. In that case a nominating committee will be asked to bring forward names of at least one woman and one man from each district and nominations from the floor will also be accepted. The district caucuses and County Conventions will be held in March or April of odd numbered years as specified by the State Democratic Executive Committee. In addition to the elected members of the Executive Committee, both the Cumberland County Democratic Women and the Cumberland County College Democrats shall be entitled to elect one member to serve on the Executive Committee. *Added to*

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 no time is specified, then it shall take effect upon receipt of such resignation by the Chair or Secretary.

Section 4: Vacancies. A vacancy shall be filled by nomination from the membership of the Executive Committee.

Section 5: Attendance. An Executive Committee member who fails to attend two consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee, without an excuse satisfactory to the majority of the members of the Executive Committee in attendance, may be removed from the position, and the position shall be declared vacant.

Section 6: Executive Committee Members Must Support Nominees of the Democratic Party. No person shall be a 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.

Article V Meetings

Section 1: General. All meetings of the Cumberland County Democratic Party or of the Executive Committee shall be well-publicized in county-wide media at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 2: Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. or when called by the Chair or by one-third of the Executive Committee members.

Section 3: Quorum. A majority of the seated members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

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 Cumberland County Democratic Party who are registered voters, and who attest that they are bona fide Democrats by execution of affidavits of affirmation to that effect, are eligible to vote at the convention and to be candidates for the Executive Committee.

(c) The convention shall be called to order by the incumbent Chair of the Cumberland County Democratic Executive Committee.

(d) Method of voting shall be decided by the convention before balloting begins.

(e) After the convention is convened, the Chair shall call for nominations for each Officer position. After the nominations cease, the ballot is closed and the elections shall commence.

(f) Once the Officers are elected, the Chair shall recognize the Executive Committee members selected through District Caucuses of recognized Democratic Clubs, and representatives of the Cumberland County Democratic Women and the Cumberland County College Democrats.

(g) The Chair will then call for nominations for each remaining Executive Committee position. Only persons present at the Convention are eligible for nomination and election. After the nominations cease, the ballot is closed and the elections shall commence.

Article VII Proxies

Section 1: No proxies allowed. No proxy shall be allowed at any meeting of the Cumberland County Democratic Party or the Cumberland County Executive Committee.

Article VIII Officers

Section 1: Officers. The officers of the Cumberland County Democratic Party shall be Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected at the county convention for a two (2) year term, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

Section 2: Chair. The Chair shall preside over any convention which may be called and over the meetings of the Executive Committee.

Section 3: Vice-Chair. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair.

Section 4: Secretary. The secretary shall keep the minutes, see that all notices are duly given and in general perform all duties incident to the office.

Section 5: Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for, all funds, and deposit all such monies in the name of the Cumberland County Executive Committee in such bank selected by the Executive Committee and in general perform all duties incident to the office.

Section 6: Officers and Must Support Nominees of the Democratic Party. No person shall be an officer 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.

Article IX Committees

Section 1: Committees appointed by the Chair. The Chair may establish committees, to be composed solely of Executive Committee members.

Section 2: Term of office Each member of a committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Chair, but no longer than until the next convention or until the committee is terminated.

Article X Conduct of Business at Meeting

The regular order of business at Executive Committee meetings shall be as follows:

- (a) Call to order
- (b) Roll call
- (c) Approval of the minutes of previous meeting
- (d) Treasurer's report
- (e) Report of committees
- (f) Announcements
- (g) Old business
- (h) New business
- (i) Adjournment

Article XI Resolutions

Section 1: Notice. All proposed resolutions must be submitted to the Chair at least one week prior to a meeting. Emergency resolutions may be brought before the body by consent of two-thirds majority of those present.

Article XII Parliamentary Procedure

Section 1: Rules of procedure. The current edition of *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly-Revised* shall govern this organization 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 XIII Amendments

Section 1: Procedures for amendment. These By-laws may be amended or substituted by a two-thirds vote of the total membership of the Executive Committee at any meeting of this organization called for the purpose of amending these By-laws.

Section 2: Adoption by Convention. These By-laws must be adopted by the County Convention at the same time that Officers and Executive Committee members are

elected. Changes may be proposed by the Executive Committee and adopted at the Convention.

To be adopted at County Convention, April 4, 2009

