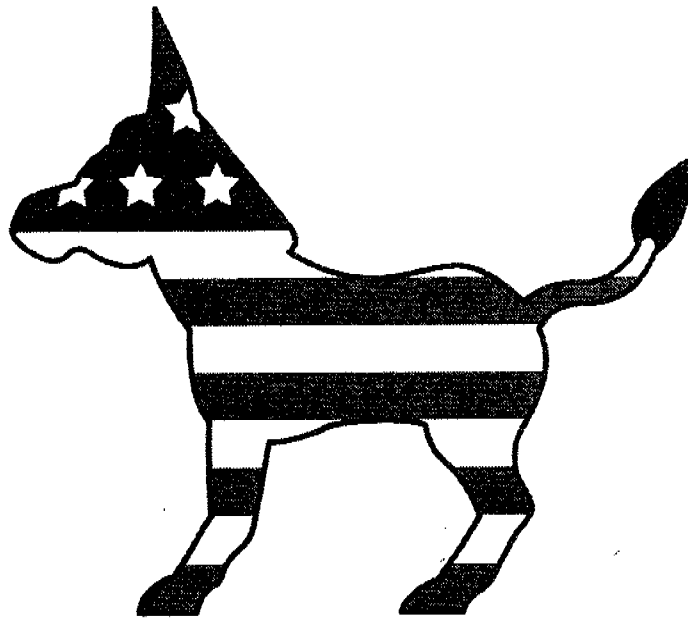


# **Sequatchie County Democratic Party**



## **By-Laws**

**THE SEQUATCHIE COUNTY DEMOCRAT PARTY BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE I.**

**NAME AND OBJECT**

**SECTION 1.** The name of this organization shall be the Sequatchie County Democratic Party. (SCDP)

**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 Sequatchie County, Tennessee who are registered to vote in this county are eligible to become members of the Sequatchie County Democratic Party.

**SECTION 2. Nondiscrimination.** Membership in the Sequatchie 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 Sequatchie County Democratic Party shall be vested in the Sequatchie County Democratic Executive Committee (the "Executive Committee") 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 Sequatchie 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 elected nominees of the Democratic Party.

#### **ARTICLE IV.**

##### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**SECTION 1. Membership.** The Executive Committee shall be composed of the County Chairman, County Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, two (2) male Directors and two (2) female Directors elected by the membership at the county convention or as otherwise specified in these bylaws.

**SECTION 2. Manner of Election.** The Officers and Directors shall be elected at a county convention called for the purpose of electing officers. The election shall be held in October of odd-numbered years.

**SECTION 3. Resignations.** The resignation of any officer 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 Chairman or Secretary.

**SECTION 4. Vacancies.** Any vacancies occurring in an Officer or Director may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Executive Committee members present at any meeting, even though less than a quorum of the Executive Committee exists. In the event of a vacancy, the remaining members of the Executive Committee in attendance at any subsequent meeting may fill those positions from members of the Sequatchie County Democratic Party who meet the requirements of the office.

**SECTION 5. Attendance.** An officer or director who fails to attend three (3) 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. 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 automatically forfeit his/her membership in said committee (and the position shall be declared vacant) for the following reasons:

(i) In the event he/she qualifies for political office as an Independent or representing any political party other than Democratic Party and opposes a duly qualified Democratic nominee.

(ii) If he/she has six (6) unexcused absence during a term. An absence is excused if notice is given to the Chairman or the secretary prior to the start of the meetings and the reason for the absence is one of the following:

- (1) illness;
- (2) family illness or death;
- (3) business; or
- (4) out of town

(c) Discretionary Sanctions or Expulsions. A member may be expelled in the discretion of the Executive Committee if a pattern of nonattendance 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 a pattern of disloyalty to the Democratic Party. The Executive Committee shall not impose discretionary sanctions, 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 any discretionary sanctions or expulsion.

## ARTICLE V.

### MEETINGS

**SECTION 1. General.** All meetings of the Sequatchie County Democratic Executive Committee shall be well-publicized in county-wide media at least seven (7) 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 (except where legal counsel otherwise indicates based upon a legal need for a closed meeting). The Bi-Annual County Convention must receive fourteen (14) days public notice.

**SECTION 2. Meetings.** Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held when called by the chairman or by one-third (1/3) of the Executive Committee members. The Chairman must call a meeting at least every ninety (90) days.

**SECTION 3. Special Meetings.** If more than ninety (90) days have passed since the last previous meeting of the Executive Committee and if the Chairman has not called a meeting, any three (3) members may call a meeting by notifying all members at least seven (7) days prior to such a meeting. If fewer than ninety (90) days have passed since the last previous meeting, five (5) 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 and be duly publicized in the county-wide media.

**SECTION 4. Quorum.** Fifty percent (50%) of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at meetings 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 from time to time.

**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 places as the convention.

**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 Sequatchie 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 officers or directors.

(c) Separate elections shall be held for each officer or director position.

(d) The convention shall be called to order by the incumbent chair of the Sequatchie County Democratic Party. (In case of the absence of the Chair or Vice Chair, any member of the Executive Committee may serve as acting Chair until new officers are elected).

After an invocation and pledge to the USA flag, the minutes of the previous Bi-Annual County Convention will be read and approved. A financial report will be given by the treasurer. The election of officers will proceed as follows:

- (A) County Chairman
- (B) County Vice Chairman
- (C) Secretary
- (D) Treasurer
- (E) Two (2) Female Directors
- (F) Two (2) Male Directors

A plurality shall prevail in the election of each officer. In case of a tie vote, the presiding officer shall break the tie.

After all officers are elected, the newly elected Chairman shall take over as presiding officer and conduct the rest of the business that may come before the convention. The other duly elected officers will take office immediately upon the adjournment of the convention.

## ARTICLE VII.

### PROXIES

SECTION 1. No Proxies Allowed. No proxy voting shall be allowed at any meeting. No absentee voting is allowed.

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

## ARTICLE VIII.

### OFFICERS

SECTION 1. Officers. The officers of the Sequatchie County Democratic Party shall be chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, two female directors and two male directors, all of whom shall be elected at the county convention called for that purpose. all officers shall serve for two (2) years or until their successor are duly elected and qualified. A complete list of all officers (Executive Committee) shall be forwarded to the Chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party within ten (10) days after their election.

SECTION 2. Vacancies. Vacancies in any office for any reason may be filled by the Executive Committee for the unexpired portion of the term.

SECTION 3. Chair. The chair shall preside over any convention which may be called and over the meetings of the Executive Committee. He/she shall perform all duties incident to the office of chair and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee members from time to time.

SECTION 4. Vice-Chair. In the absence of the chair or in the event of his/her death or inability or refusal to act, the vice-chair shall perform the duties of the chair, and, in so acting, shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions on, the chair. He/she shall perform all duties incident to the office of vice-chair and such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the chair or by the Executive Committee.

**SECTION 5. Secretary.** The secretary shall: (a) keep the minutes of the executive Committee; (b) keep the minutes of any conventions which may be held; (c) see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of law and these bylaws; (d) be custodian of the records of the SCDP; (e) keep membership records and have general charge of membership books of the SCDP; and (f) in general perform all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the chair or by the Executive Committee, or which may be required by law.

**SECTION 6. Treasurer.** The treasurer shall: (a) have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds and securities of the Party from any source whatsoever and deposit all such monies in the name of the Sequatchie County Democratic Party in such bank or other depositories as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws; (b) keep and maintain, open to inspection by any member of the SCDP at all reasonable times, adequate or correct accounts of the funds and transactions of the SCDP which shall include all matters required by law; (c) disburse the funds of the SCDP as he/she may be ordered by the Executive Committee; (d) render to the chair and secretary, or to the Executive Committee, whenever it may require or request it, an account of all his/her transactions as treasurer, and a financial statement in form satisfactory to it, showing the condition of the SCDP; (e) in general perform all of the duties incident to the office of treasurer and such other duties as, from time to time, may be assigned to him/her by the chair or Executive Committee; and (f) if required by the Executive Committee, give a bond, to be paid for by the SCDP for the faithful discharge of his/her duties, in such sum and with such corporate surety or sureties as the Executive Committee shall determine.

**SECTION 7. Directors.** Directors are to serve as advisors to the officers and as voting members of the Executive Committee. In general they are to perform all duties incident to the office of director and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the chair or the Executive Committee.

**SECTION 8. Officers 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. 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 seven (7) days prior notice to all members of the Executive Committee.

**SECTION 9. Resignations.** The resignation of any officer 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 chairman 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 partly 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.

**SECTION 3. Removal of any Member of the Committee.** Any member of any committee may be removed by the person or persons authorized to appoint such member whenever, in their judgment, the best interest of the Party shall be served by that removal.

**ARTICLE X.**

**CONDUCT OF BUSINESS AT MEETINGS**

The following order of business at Executive Committee meetings shall be used whenever possible:

- (i) Call to order
- (ii) Invocation,
- (iii) Roll call,
- (iv) Approval of the minutes of previous meeting,
- (v) Treasurer's report,
- (vi) Report of committees,
- (vii) Resolutions,
- (viii) Announcements,
- (ix) Old business,
- (x) New business,
- (xi) Elections,
- (xii) Adjournment.

**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.**  
No expenditures or bills shall be made or contracts entered into which purport to obligate the SCDP unless such expenditures or contracts are authorized by a majority vote of those present at a duly called meeting of the Executive Committee at which a quorum is present, except those expenditures for less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) obligating the SCDP may be authorized by the chairman and vice-chair. The treasurer shall present an itemized statement of income and expenditures to Executive Committee members at regular meetings and to the county convention. 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 Sequatchie 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 XIII.

### PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

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 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.**

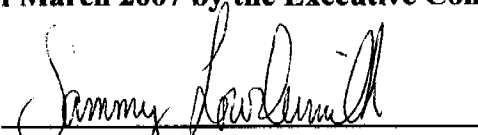
**ARTICLE XV.**

**RULES**

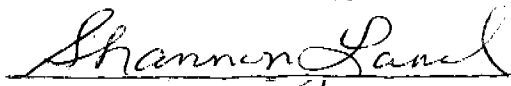
**The Sequatchie County Democratic Party is a constituent party of the Tennessee Democratic Party (TDP). The SCDP is to support the officers of TDP and to consider seriously any recommendation made to it by the TDP. The SCDP should make every endeavor to participate in and support activities sponsored by the TDP.**

**The bylaws adopted on October 23, 1993 have been amended and replaced in their entirety by the above bylaws.**

**Adopted this: 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 2007 by the Executive Committee:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Vice Chairman**

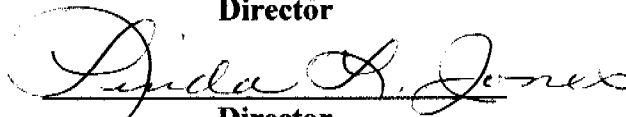
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Secretary**

  
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**Treasurer**

  
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**Director**

  
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**Director**