

BY LAWS OF THE SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

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

SECTION 2: The purpose 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 Sullivan County, Tennessee, who are registered to vote in this county, are eligible to become members of the Sullivan County Democratic Party and all those members of the Sullivan County Young Democrats under the age of 18 years shall be non-voting associate members.

SECTION 2: Nondiscrimination. Membership in the Sullivan 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 Sullivan County Democratic Party shall be vested in the Sullivan County Democratic Executive Committee (the "Executive Committee") and in officers of the Sullivan 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 Sullivan 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. PRECINCT ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1: Precinct organizations shall compose the foundation of the organizational structure of the Sullivan County Democratic Party.

SECTION 2: A precinct caucus will be held upon a call issued by the State Democratic Party and will be held at the same time as the organizational meeting. The County Chairman will publish the time and place of said caucus in all media where possible to insure that all members of the Democratic Party will be aware of said caucus.

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SECTION 3: At the above caucuses, these members of the Sullivan County Democratic Party, in attendance who are eligible to vote shall by majority vote:

A. Elect a precinct Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary for a two (2) year term for each precinct in the county. Those precincts not organized at this meeting shall be reorganized by the County Executive Committee.

B. When applicable, elect Delegates and Alternate delegates to the county convention called for the purpose of electing delegates to the Congressional District convention to be held on the second Saturday in May of even numbered years for purposes of electing Delegates to the National Democratic Convention.

SECTION 4: The quorum at all precinct meetings shall be (5) qualified Democratic voters who are residents of the precinct.

SECTION 5: Officers of a precinct shall be subject to removal from office during their elected term for the following reasons:

A. Inattention to duty.

B. Incompetency or failure to support the candidates for the office who were nominated by the County, State, or National Democratic Party.

C. Failure to maintain status as a member in good standing with the Sullivan County Democratic Party.

Any one or more of the above charges against any precinct officer must be filed in writing to the County Chairman. After receiving written notice of the above charges from the Secretary of the County Executive Committee, the accused has the right to file within five (5) days a written rebuttal of the charges. Upon request of any officer so charged the County Executive Committee shall hold a hearing on said charges at the next regular meeting. If removed from the office held by the Executive Committee having this power, the officer may appeal to the full county committee. A meeting called specifically to hear the appeal shall be required for removal of the accused.

SECTION 6: Vacancies occurring in a precinct office for any reason shall be filled by an election held in the precinct. The precinct Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or County Chairman must call a meeting for that purpose within thirty (30) days from the date of vacancy. Results of the election must be reported in writing to the County Chairman not later than ten (10) days after the election is held.

SECTION 7: The resignation of any precinct officer shall be submitted in writing to the County Chairman.

ARTICE V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1: The County Committee shall be composed of the duly elected Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of each precinct.

SECTION 2: The County Chairman shall hold:

A. An organizational meeting upon a call issued by the State Democratic Party and this shall be the same as the precinct caucus. Time and place of said meeting shall be adequately published.

B. Such additional meetings deemed necessary to carry on the business of the Sullivan County Democratic Party.

C. All meetings of the County Committee shall be open to all Democrats registered to vote in Sullivan County. Except for the organizational meeting only precinct officers shall have the right to vote on all questions coming before a County Committee meeting.

SECTION 3: The organizational meeting shall be a mass meeting of the Democrats of Sullivan County, Tennessee. All democrats present who are registered to vote in Sullivan County shall elect an Executive Committee composed of a Chairman, Deputy Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and Eight (8) Vice-Chairpersons. Two Vice Chairpersons (one male, one female) shall represent each of the four areas of the county and precincts (precincts to be divided so that long distance calling be avoided). Election shall be by simple majority from a voice vote and/or a show of hands. Unless there is only one candidate for the office, at which time election may be by acclamation. In the event of a vacancy in the Chairmanship of the Executive Committee, the Deputy Chairman shall serve out the term of the Chairman until the next scheduled election. In addition to those previously mentioned, the President of the Democrat Women's Club and the Young Democrat Organization shall be voting members of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 4: Other vacancies occurring on the Executive Committee may be filled by majority vote of the remaining officers of the Executive Committee, provided, however, that a vacancy in the office of Vice-Chairperson must be filled by a person from a list of members submitted by the precinct chairmen in the area of the county in which the vacancy occurred. All precinct chairmen involved shall be notified fourteen (14) days prior to the filling of such vacancy.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

SECTION 1: General. All meetings of the Sullivan County Democratic Party or of the Executive Committee shall be well-publicized prior to the date of the meeting. All meetings shall be held at convenient times.

ARTICLE VII. SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY OFFICES

SECTION 1: Prior to December 15th, in the event one or more candidates have expressed their intention to seek the Democratic Party's nomination for a county office, the Democratic County Committee in a meeting called for the specific purpose, will determine whether there will be a party primary or a party convention to decide contest in question.

SECTION 2: When a party primary is not held, a county Democratic convention shall be held in time to place the nominated candidates on the election ballot.

SECTION 3: At such county convention, each precinct shall be entitled to the official representation as follows:

1. One delegated voting member and one alternate delegated voting member for each twenty-five (25) votes cast in that precinct for the Democratic nominee for Governor in the preceding gubernatorial election.
2. One vote for each of the three (3) precinct officers.

SECTION 4: The delegated member and his alternate member will be chosen, when necessary, at the precinct caucus to be held on the first Friday in April of even numbered election years. The names of the member delegates and alternate shall be certified to the credentials committee and any individual so chosen found not to be in good standing, as defined herein shall be stricken and such vacancy shall be filled by next succeeding alternate member. The Executive Committee shall determine the number of votes to which each precinct is entitled from the official results of the gubernatorial election provided by the Sullivan County Election Commission.

SECTION 5: The quorum for the conduct of official business of the Executive Committee shall be six (6) qualified members which there must be present the Chairman or a Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman.

SECTION 6: A member of the Executive Committee shall automatic forfeit his/her membership in said committee (and the position shall be declared vacant) if he/she has two (2) unexcused absences during a term. An absence is excused if notice is given to the Chair or the Secretary prior to the start of the meeting 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.
5. weather;
6. any other excuses approved by the chair or secretary

SECTION 7: No member of the County Executive Committee shall campaign for any Democrat seeking the nomination of the Democratic Party of Sullivan County for a local, state, or national office until such Democrat becomes the official nominee.

SECTION 8: Members of the County Executive Committee who will not or cannot support the nominee of the Democratic Party, county, state or national, must resign their office.

SECTION 9: Any member of the County Executive Committee who is requested to resign shall have the right to appeal in accordance with the procedure for precinct officers above.

SECTION 10: The use of proxies at any meeting of the Democratic Party of Sullivan County, Tennessee, is forbidden.

SECTION 11: All persons seeking nomination for political office from the Sullivan County Democratic Party are required to be members of said party as defined by these bylaws and shall be subject to challenge.

SECTION 12: If it is impossible under these bylaws to select a candidate by primary or convention, a candidate can be chosen by any other method adopted by 51% of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII.

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, shall govern this organization in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws and any specials rules of order which may be adopted.

ARTICLE IX.

The constitution and bylaws governing the organization and administration of the Democratic Party of Sullivan County shall be subject to amendment at any meeting of the county committee by majority vote of the required quorum. A quorum is 51% of precincts in the county

represented. A notice of intent to amend must be mailed to all precinct chairmen ten (10) days in advance of the meeting.

ARTICLE X. COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: Committees Appointed by Chairman. The Chairman 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 XI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS AT MEETINGS

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

- (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) Announcements,
- (viii) Old Business,
- (ix) New Business,
- (x) Elections,
- (xi) Adjournment.

ARTICLE XII. CONTRACTS AND EXPENDITURES

SECTION 1: Contracts: Expenditures: 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 hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00), 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 Executive Committee members.

