

# TROUSDAL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY BYLAWS

## ARTICLE I. NAME AND OBJECTIVE

SECTION 1: The name of this organization shall be the Trousdale 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 Trousdale County, Tennessee, who are registered to vote in this county, are eligible to become members of the County Democratic Party.

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

## ARTICLE III. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- a. Planning and conducting all county meetings and district meeting
- 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 person elected from each county ward provided each such ward represents an equal number of voters in the county; if no candidate is will to represent a word, then and in that event all representation should be at-large. Representation should be balanced if possible among women and men.

SECTION 2: Manner of Election. The Executive Committee members shall be elected at a district meeting called for the purpose of electing Executive Committee members. The election shall be held in March of odd-numbered years.

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. Any vacancies occurring in the Executive Committee may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Executive Committee members 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, expulsion or failure of any ward to elect its Executive Committee members, the remaining members of the Executive Committee in attendance at any subsequent meeting may fill those Executive Committee positions from members of the Trousdale County Democratic Party who reside in that ward and who meet the same requirements of a duly elected member.

SECTION 5: Attendance. An Executive Committee member who fails to attend 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
  1. 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.
  2. 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) for the following reasons:
  1. 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.
  2. If he/she has 5 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:
    - i. illness;
    - ii. family illness or death;
    - iii. business; or
    - iv. Out of town.
- c. Discretionary Sanctions or 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 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 V.  
MEETINGS

SECTION 1: General. All meetings of the 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. 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 indicated based upon a legal need for a closed meeting.

SECTION 2: Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held Quarterly, or when called by the Chair or by one-third (1/3) of the Executive Committee members.

SECTION 3: Special Meetings. If more than ninety 90 days have passed since the last previous meeting, and if the Chairperson 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. .

SECTION 4: 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.

SECTION 5 District 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 district meeting.

ARTICLE VI.  
CONDUCT OF DISTRICT MEETING

SECTION 1: District Meeting. The provisions for the holding of the county district meeting shall be as follows:

- (a) The district meeting shall be well publicized in the local news media. At least fourteen (14) days' prior notice must be given.
- (b) All members of the 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 district meeting and to be candidates for the Executive Committee.
- (c) Separate elections shall be held for each Executive Committee position.
- (d) The district meeting shall be called to order by the incumbent Chair of the Trousdale County Democratic Executive Committee. The district meeting shall nominate at least one person from each ward. One person shall be elected from each ward. If more than one person is from each ward is nominated. The person with the highest number of votes from that ward will prevail in the election. In the case of a tie, a runoff between those tied shall be held to decide the winner. If no one accepts the nomination for an individual ward, nominations for an at large representative will be called for. The incumbent Chair of the Trousdale County Democratic Executive Committee shall call for nominations for each Executive Committee position. After the nominations cease, the ballot is closed and the elections shall commence. Upon the completion of the election of the Executive Committee members, the incumbent Chair of the Trousdale County Democratic Executive Committee shall report the Executive Committee members who have been elected from each ward and at large representatives. The district meeting shall then adjourn, as its business has been completed.

ARTICLE VII.  
PROXIES

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

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 County Democratic Party shall be chair, vice-chair, secretary/treasurer, all of who shall be elected by the Trousdale 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 County Democratic Executive Committee present at the meeting held immediately following the district meeting. 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: Chair. The chair shall preside over any district meeting 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 5: 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 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 6: Secretary/Treasurer. The secretary/treasurer shall:

- a. keep the minutes of the Executive Committee;
- b. keep the minutes of any district meetings 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 Executive Committee;
- e. keep membership records and have general charge of membership books of the Executive Committee; 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 Trousdale County Democratic Executive Committee in such bank or other depositories as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws;
- f. keep and maintain, open to inspection by any member of the Executive Committee at all reasonable times, adequate or correct accounts of the funds and transactions of the Executive Committee, which shall include all matters required by law;
- g. disburse the funds of the Executive Committee as he/she may be ordered by the Executive Committee;
- h. if required by the Executive Committee, give a bond, to be paid for by the Executive Committee, for the faithful discharge of his/her duties, in such sum and with such corporate surety or sureties as the Executive Committee shall determine and

- i. in general perform all duties incident to the office of secretary/treasurer 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 8: 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 9: Officers 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 10: 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 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 district meeting 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 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) Secretary/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 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 fifty (50) Dollars (\$), obligating the Executive Committee maybe authorized by the chair of the Executive Committee. The secretary/treasurer shall present a monthly itemized statement of income and expenditures to Executive Committee members. All paid bills shall be retained by the secretary/treasurer for a period of 3 years.

SECTION 2: Audits. Auditors may be designated by the Executive Committee, who shall audit and examine the books of account of the 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 secretary/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 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 County Democratic Party is a constituent party of the Tennessee Democratic Party. The 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 Trousdale County Democratic Executive Committee. State Party rules take precedence over the bylaws of the County Democratic Party.