

## **Bylaws of the Washington County Democratic Party**

### **Article I. Name**

The name of this committee shall be the Washington County Democratic Party.

### **Article II. Objective**

The objective of this organization shall be 1.) to promote the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party and 2.) to aid in the election of Democratic nominees to public office.

### **Article III. Membership**

All residents of Washington County, Tennessee, regardless of race, creed, age, or sex are eligible to become members of the Washington County Democratic Party. For the purposes of voting for election of officers and executive committee members, only those persons who are members of the Democratic Party, residents of Washington County, eighteen years of age or older, and registered to vote shall be entitled to vote in the election.

Section 1. Should any person's vote during the election be challenged by any member of the party, then the Chairman shall appoint a credentials committee of three (3) persons to examine the credentials of the contested voter to determine if they are qualified to vote. The decision of the credentials committee shall be final as concerns the eligibility of any voter.

### **Article IV. Powers and Responsibilities**

Section 1. The government and direction of the Washington County Democratic Party are vested in this organization, subject to the laws of the State of Tennessee and the rules of the Tennessee Democratic Executive Committee.

Section 2. Among the responsibilities of the Party are:

- A. The Officers, the Executive Committee members, and members of this organization shall support the nominees of the Democratic Party.
- B. The Officers and the Executive Committee members shall plan and conduct all county meetings and conventions
- C. Records shall be kept of all Party meetings and business. A complete list of all officers and Executive Committee members shall be forwarded to the Chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Party with ten (10) days of an election.
- D. The Officers and the Executive Committee members shall constitute a voting membership of the Washington County Democratic Party for all purposes other than the election of officers and zone chairman which shall be conducted according to the provisions set forth herein.

### **Article V. Officers**

Section 1. The officers of the Washington County Democratic Party shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected by a mass meeting of the

Washington County Democratic Party for a two- (2) year term, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. An officer shall not be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the position for which he/she is elected. The Chair shall be the chief executive of the Party and shall preside at all meetings, appoint committees as set forth in the Bylaws and direct all other functions under the Party rules. The Secretary shall record the minutes and actions of the Democratic Party at all meetings and shall preserve the same for use by the Party. Additionally, the Secretary shall issue and publish notice of all meetings. The Treasurer shall hold and manage all funds that are collected for use of the Chair in event of his/her inability or unavailability to act within the county when necessary.

Section 2. Additionally there shall be eight (8) zone chairmen elected by a simple majority of the persons representing the precincts in said zone. The elections for zone chairmen shall be held in conjunction with the mass meeting for the election of Officers set forth in Section 1 above. Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part of this set of Bylaws sets forth the zones and precincts contained therein. The zone chairmen shall serve for a two (2) year term, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. A zone chairman shall not be eligible to serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the position for which he/she is elected.

Section 3. The officers shall be elected by a simple majority of the Washington County Democratic Party at a well publicized meeting called for the purpose of election of Officers. In the event a majority is not achieved, a run-off election will be held until a majority prevails with the low-vote-getter being dropped from the next ballot. Said election shall be held within a time frame established by the Tennessee State Democratic Party. Zone Chairmen elections shall be held at the same time immediately following the election of officers. The Zone Chairmen shall be responsible for coordinating the precincts in their zone, notifying each precinct chairman of all meetings and organizing fundraisers and special events for their zone.

## Article VI. Executive Committee

Section I. The Washington County Democratic Executive Committee shall be elected from the Washington County voting precincts and shall consist of a precinct chair, committeeman and committeewoman from each county precinct for a term of two (2) years. The Executive Committee shall include all elected and appointed Democratic Officials in the county, including the Administrator of Elections and those serving on the Election Commission and all past Chairmen of the county Party, and they will be voting members.

Section 2. The Executive Committee members shall be elected at a county convention called for the purpose of electing Executive Committee members and Officers. Among the provisions for the convention are:

- A. The convention shall be well-publicized in the local media, i.e. fourteen-days (14) notice shall be given;
- B. All voting age residents of Washington County who can attest they are bona fide Democrats, are eligible to vote at the convention and to be a candidate for the Executive Committee
- C. Separate elections will be held for each Executive Committee position after the convention is divided into precincts. Each precinct shall elect its officers and report to the Chairman of the

party the results of the precinct election. Precinct officers shall be responsible for organizing and advising members of the Democratic Party who reside within their precincts. They shall provide proper notice of all meetings, form committees for work during elections, raise funds for use by the Party, and do all other things directed by the Chair.

- D. A plurality shall prevail for each election. In the case of a tie, a run-off between those tied shall be held to decide the winner.
- E. Method of voting shall be decided by the convention before the balloting begins;
- F. The precinct elections shall be held immediately prior to the election of zone chairmen and officers as provided for above.

Section 3. The Executive Committee at the next regular meeting shall fill vacancies. Should an individual office holder move from the precinct, die, or resign, or should the individual member not comply with the responsibilities of his/her office, the precinct in which the office holder serves shall, within thirty (30) days of notice from the Chair, hold a meeting to elect a replacement. If the Executive Committee has not received notice within forty-five (45) days that a replacement has been elected by the precinct, then the Executive Committee, at its option, shall appoint an individual to fill the vacant position until the next election.

#### Article VII. Meetings

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held four (4) times a year, in January, April, July and October, or when called by the Chair or one third of the Executive Committee members if said meetings are deemed necessary.

Section 2. A vote by the majority present at any meeting shall be sufficient for the transaction of business.

Section 3. Neither proxies nor voting-by-the-unit rule shall be allowed at any meeting of the Executive Committee.

#### Article VIII. Committees

Section 1. The Chair may establish committees, as it deems appropriate for the operation of the Party. There shall be three (3) standing committees consisting of: (a) Candidate Search Committee; (b) Fund-Raising Committee; (c) Events Committee. Each committee shall be chaired by an officer other than the Chairman and shall be made up of members of the Executive Committee and zone chairman.

#### Article IX. Candidate Selection Process

Section 1. The Party shall determine at a meeting of the Executive Committee whether to select its candidates for public office by either a county convention or a primary. Should the Executive Committee determine that a primary shall be held, the Executive

Committee shall comply with laws of the State of Tennessee concerning primary elections as well as the regulations set forth by the State Democratic Party.

Section 2. Should the Party determine that they would hold a convention for the selection of candidates, said county convention shall be well publicized in the local media at least fourteen (14) days prior to the convention. The State Democratic Party shall provide rules of the implementation of the delegate selection process. The number of members shall be determined in advance of the county convention based to the extent possible upon a ratio of the vote for each precinct to the total vote in such county for the Democratic candidate for governor in the preceding general election.

#### Article X. Resolutions

Section 1. All proposed resolutions must be submitted to the chair at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to a meeting. Emergency resolutions may be brought before the body by consent of two-thirds majority of those present.

#### Article XI. Parliamentary Procedure

Section 1. The current edition of Robert Rules of Order, Newly-Revised shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws and any special rules of order which may be adopted.

#### Article XII. Amendments

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended or constituted by a two-thirds vote of those members present of the Executive Committee at any meeting of this organization called for the purpose of amending these Bylaws.

#### Article XIII. Fund-raising

All fund-raising events conducted within the county for any county, state and/or federal offices in the name of the Washington County Democratic Party shall be conducted in a manner that provides that one-fourth of all funds raised shall be deposited in the county party treasury.

Should any section of the within Bylaws not be approved by the State Democratic Party, then said section shall be stricken with the remaining provisions staying in effect until the next meeting at which time Bylaws may be amended.

ADOPTED BY A MASS MEETING DULY CONVENED ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2007 AT JONESBOROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL, WASHINGTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE.

**NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS PLEDGE OF ACCEPTANCE FOR THE ADOPTED BYLAWS**

We hereby witness the acceptance of the newly adopted bylaws of the Washington County Democratic Party. We have agreed to abide by these bylaws while serving as an officer of the Washington County Democratic Party.

Matt Gross Chair 3-24-07  
Officer Matt Gross Date

Adam Wickson Vice-Chair 3/24/07  
Officer Date

Shirley Poff Secretary 3/24/07  
Officer Shirley Poff Date

Austin Treasurer 3/24/07 HA  
Officer JAMES G. AUSTIN Date

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Officer Date

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Officer Date