

Monroe County Democratic Party By-Laws

Article I Name and Object

- Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Monroe 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 Monroe County, Tennessee who are registered to vote in this county and who believe in the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party are eligible to become members of the Monroe County Democratic Party.
- Section 2: **Nondiscrimination.** Membership in the Monroe County Democratic Party shall not be denied because of race, color, sex, religion, age, disability or origin.

Article III Powers and Responsibilities

- Section 1: **Governance.** The governance and direction of the affairs of the Monroe County Democratic Party shall be vested in the Monroe County Democratic Party's 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 Monroe County Democratic Party Executive Committee shall have the following responsibilities:
- (A) Planning and conducting all county meeting and convention.
 - (B) Keeping and maintaining records of all Democratic Party meetings and business.
 - (C) Supporting the duly selected nominees of the Democratic Party.
 - (D) Recommend and appoint County Election Commissioners.

- (E) Specify either primary or democratic caucus, for each election cycle.

Article IV

Executive Committee

Section 1: Membership. The Executive Committee shall be composed of:

- (A) Four (4) District Chairs, one each to be elected from the four Monroe County Commission Districts;
- (B) One (1) member designated by the Monroe County Democratic Women's Club;
- (C) One (1) member designated by the Monroe County Young Democrats;
- (D) In addition, those officers elected pursuant to Article VIII, Section 1 shall be voting members of the Executive Committee;
- (E) Any person may serve in more than one capacity on the Executive Committee if duly elected or selected. However, any such person shall have only one vote;
- (F) The Chair shall vote only in the case of a tie vote.

Section 2: Manner of Election. The four (4) District Chairs who shall be Executive Committee members shall be elected at District a District level convention.

- (A) District conventions to be called by the Chair of the Monroe County Democratic Party, no later than three (3) weeks after the County convention.
- (B) Each district will hold a convention with the purpose of electing officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer).
- (C) The Vice Chair who shall be of opposite sex from the Chair and shall have voting rights in the absence of the Chair.
- (D) Only citizens residing within said district may vote for their District Chair
- (E) Once elected, the District Chair will have the discretion to appoint or hold elections for Precinct Chairs for each Precinct within his/her district.
- (F) Rights and regulations for each District, their officers and Precinct Chairs will be outlined within the District level by-laws not to supersede the Monroe County Democratic Party By-Laws.

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 or expulsion the remaining members of the Executive Committee in attendance at a subsequent meeting may fill those Executive Committee positions from members of the Monroe County Democratic Party.

Section 5: Attendance. An Executive Committee member, who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meeting 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 the Democratic Party or opposes a duly qualified Democratic nominee.
- (ii) If he/she has three (3) un-excused 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.

(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 a simple majority of those present and voting concur in discretionary sanctions or expulsion.

Section 8: The District Chair(s) shall either appoint or elected the precinct chair(s) in his/her district. The precinct chair(s) do not have a vote on the Executive Committee, unless they serve in a dual capacity as a District Chair or District Representative.

Article V Meetings

Section 1: **General Meetings.** General Meetings are defined as the following:

- (1) dinners;
- (2) rallies;
- (3) trainings;
- (4) meet and greets;
- (5) "pot-lucks";
- (6) or any special functions.

All General Meetings of the Monroe County Democratic Party shall be well publicized in countywide media at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the meeting. All general meetings shall be held at convenient times and location, and shall be open to the general public and media representatives.

Section 2: **Regular Meetings.** Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held when called by the Chair or by two-third (2/3) of the Executive Committee members.

Section 3: **Special Meeting.** If more than sixty (60) days have passed since the last previous meeting, and if the Chair has not called a meeting, two thirds (2/3) of the Executive Committee may call a meeting by notifying all members at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. Any notification of a meeting must include time and location.

Section 4: **Quorum.** Sixty-six percent (66%) 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: **Convention 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 convention.

Article VI

Conduct of 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 Monroe County Democratic Party who are registered voters, and who attest they are bona fide Democrats by execution of affidavits or affirmations to the effect, are eligible to vote at the convention and to be candidates for the Executive Committee.
- (C) The Chair, prior to voting, shall appoint an adequate number of Sergeants-at-Arms to assure that only bona-fide Democrats are present for the voting process.
- (D) Separate elections shall be held for each Officer position, and voted on by all members present.
- (E) Officers shall be elected by a simple majority of the voters present. A complete list of all officers shall be forwarded to the Chair of the Tennessee Democratic Party within the time specified by the Tennessee Democratic Party Reorganization Requirements.

Article VII

Proxies

Section 1: **No proxies allowed.** No proxy shall be allowed at any meeting of the Executive Committee.

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

Section 3: **Open Voting.** All votes shall be public and shall not be by secret ballot.

Article VIII

Officers

Section 1: The officers of the Monroe County Democratic Executive Committee shall be the County Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. All members shall be elected for a two (2) year term.

Section 2: **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 members from time to time.

Section 3: **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 4: **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 Executive Committee;
- (E) Keep membership records and have general charge of membership books of the Executive Committee; 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 5: **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 Monroe County Democratic Party in such bank or other depositories as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions or these bylaws;
- (B) 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;
- (C) Disburse the funds of the Executive Committee 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 accounts of all his/her transactions as Treasurer, and a financial statement in a form satisfactory to it, showing the condition of the Executive Committee;
- (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.

Section 6: **Neutrality.** No officers shall openly support a candidate in a Democratic primary, so that the officers present neutrality to maintain party unity.

Section 7: **Members 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 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 8: **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 with 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 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.

Article X Parliamentary Procedures

The current edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern meeting 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 XI 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 by laws.

Article XII Rules

The Monroe County Democratic Party is a constituent party of the Tennessee Democratic Party. The Monroe 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 Monroe County Democratic Executive Committee. Any conflict between the county bylaws and the bylaws of the Tennessee Democratic Party, the bylaws of the Tennessee Democratic Party prevail.