

2013

MEIGS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
BYLAWS

Article I
Name and Object

Section 1: The Name of this organization shall be the Meigs 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 the public office.

Article II
Membership

Section I. Eligibility. All residents of Meigs County, Tennessee who are registered to vote in Meigs County and who believe in the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party are eligible to become members of the Meigs County Democratic Party.

Section 2: Nondiscrimination. Membership in the Meigs 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 Meigs County Democratic Party shall be vested in the Meigs County Democratic Executive Committee and on the officers of that 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 Democratic Executive Committee

Section 2: Party Responsibilities: The Meigs 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.
- (d) Supporting the efforts of the DNC, the TDP and campaigns of duly selected nominees of the Democratic Party.

Article IV
Executive Committee

Section 1: Membership: The Meigs County Executive Committee shall be composed of equal men and women (if at all possible) from each county district. If there is difficulty filling these positions with residents of a district, then they should be on an at-large basis with care to balance representation from the community. Those who become members pursuant to Article VIII, Section 8 (Officers) automatically become voting members of the Executive Committee. All Meigs County Executive Committee members serve for a two (2) year or until their successors are duly elected and qualified..

Section 2: (a) Manner of Election. The executive Committee members shall be elected at the 2 Meigs County Convention called for the purpose of electing Executive Committee members at a date determined or approved by the State Democratic Executive Committee.

(B) Ineligibility. No person who votes in a Republican Primary Election for the preceding 4 years or who does not support the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party will be eligible to serve on the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Resignations 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 Executive Committee. Any vacancies occurring in the Executive Committee may be filled by the affirmative vote of the Executive Committee members present at any regular meeting, even though less than a quorum of the Committee may be present. In the event of a vacancy, whether resulting from a resignation expulsion or failure of the party members to elect an Executive Committee member from a district, the remaining members of the Executive Committee in attendance at any subsequent meeting may fill those Executive Committee positions from members of the Meigs County Democratic Party who reside in that district (if not possible, may be an at-large member) and who meet the same requirements of a duly elected member as prescribed in Section I.

Section 5: Attendance. An Executive Committee member who fails to attend (5) consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee without an excuse satisfactory as prescribed in Section 7: (ii) to the majority of the members of the Executive Committee in attendance may be removed from the position and the position be declared vacant.

Section 6. Manner of Acting. The act of majority of the Meigs County Executive Committee members present shall be the act of the Meigs County Executive Committee unless a greater number be required by law or these bylaws.

Section 7: Sanctions of Expulsion.

(a) : Notice and Opportunity To Be Heard. The Executive Committee may vote to impose sanctions 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 votes in a local or statewide Republican Primary.

(iii) Discretionary Sanctions or Expulsions. A member may be expelled at the discretion of the Meigs County Executive for demonstrating disloyalty to the Democratic Party, either in the form of public announcement of support of a candidate of another party in a pending election,

or working for or giving financial support to any such candidate of another 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 member is given an opportunity to be heard and three-fourths (3/4) of the membership present and voting concur of discretionary sanctions or expulsion.

Section 8. Members Must Support Nominees of the Democratic Party. No person shall be a member of the Meigs County Executive Committee if he/she shall not support of the Democratic Party. Failure to support the nominees of the Democratic Party shall cause removal. Members may be removed under the 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

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

Section 1: General: All meetings of the Meigs County Democratic Party or of the Meigs County Executive Committee shall be well publicized in the media at least (7) days prior to the date of the meeting. All meeting 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 such, based upon a legal need for a closed meeting.

Section 2. Regular meetings. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held as deemed necessary by the Meigs County Democratic Party Executive Committee. As the Meigs County Democratic Party meets each month, Executive Committee Members may take care of the party business at that time.

Section 3. Special Meetings. If more that sixty (60) days have passed since the last previous meeting, and if the Chairperson has not called a meeting, any one-third (1/3) of the Executive Committee members 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. Fifty (50%) of the members of the Meigs County Democratic Party Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business. If less than a quorum is present, 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

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 must be given.

(b) All members of the Meigs 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.

(c) The Chairperson 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. The Secretary or duly appointed representative shall verify the affirmations of all attendees.

(d) The convention shall be called to order by the incumbent chair. The Executive Committee shall be elected by the Democratic Party member that are attending the convention.

(e) The officers for the Meigs County Democratic Party shall be elected by the members of the Meigs County Democratic Party that are attending the convention.

ARTICLE VII PROXIES

Section 1: No Proxies Allowed. No proxy shall be allowed at any meeting or convention of the Meigs County Democratic party.

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. Officers. The officers of the Meigs County Democratic Party shall be, chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer. All shall be elected by the members of the Meigs County Democratic Party attending the convention..

Section 2: Eligibility. Any officer or member of the Executive Committee must be a resident and registered to vote in Meigs County.

Section 3. Election of Officers. Officers shall be elected by a simple majority of the members of the Meigs County Democratic Party. 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 the election.

Section 4: Vacancies. The Executive Committee may fill vacancies in any office for any reason for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 5: Chair. The chair shall preside over any convention which may be called, and over 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 Meigs County Executive Committee members from time to time.

Section 6: 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.

Section 7: Secretary. The secretary shall keep minutes of the Meigs County Democratic Party and the Executive Committee meetings. Also of the Meigs County Democratic Party conventions..

In general the secretary shall 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 Executive Committee or chair, or which may be required by law.

Section 8: 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 monies in the name of the Meigs 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 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 Meigs County Democratic Party as he/she may be ordered by the Executive Committee;
- (d) render funds disbursed and received at the meeting of the Meigs County Democratic Party;
- (e) File reports with the Registry of Election Finance as requested in a timely fashion;
- (f) in general perform all duties incident to the office of treasurer.

Section 9: Officers Members of Executive Committee. All officers elected shall be voting members on the Executive Committee.

Section 10: Neutrality. No officer shall openly support a candidate in a Democratic Primary provided there are two or more Democrats who qualify in a Primary, so that officers neutrality to maintain party unity.

Section 11: Members Must Support Nominees of the Democratic Party. No person shall be an officer or a member of the Meigs County 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 seven (7) days prior notice to all members of the Executive Committee.

Section 12: Resignations: The resignation of any officer of the Meigs County Democratic Party shall be made in writing and shall take effect at the time specified or if no time specified, then 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 deemed 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 judgement 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 Democratic Party and Executive Committee meetings shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Invocation
3. Approval of minutes
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Report of Committees
6. Resolutions
7. Announcements
8. Unfinished business
9. New business
10. Elections
11. 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 XI
CONTRACTS AND EXPENDITURES

7

Section 1. Bill Retention, Contracts, Expenditures; on: All executive Committee members are urged to operate under an approved budget. Except in the case of an emergency for items not designated in the budget, no expenditures or bills shall be made or contracts entered into which purport to obligate the Meigs County Democratic Party unless such expenditures or contracts are authorized by a majority vote of those present at a duly called meeting at which quorum is present, except those expenditures for less than one hundred (\$100) dollars, 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. All paid bills shall be retained by the treasurer for a period of three (3) years.

Section 2: Audit. Auditors may be designated by the Executive Committee, who shall audit and examine the books of account of the Meigs County Democratic Party and shall certify to the Meigs County Executive Committee the annual balances of the books which shall be prepared at the close of the fiscal year by, or under the directions of the treasurer.

ARTICLE XII
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

The current edition of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern meetings of the Meigs County Democratic Part and Executive Committee meetings 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 Meigs County Democratic Party is a constituent party of the Tennessee Democratic Party. The Meigs County 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 Meigs County Democratic Executive Committee. In any situation where the county bylaws and the Tennessee Democratic Party bylaws conflict, the Tennessee Democratic Party bylaws shall prevail.