

# PICKETT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY BYLAWS

## ARTICLE I. NAME AND OBJECT

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**SECTION 1:** The name of this organization shall be the PICKETT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

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**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.

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## ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

**SECTION 1:** Eligibility. All residents of PICKETT 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 PICKETT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

**SECTION 2:** Nondiscrimination. Membership in the PICKETT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY shall not be denied because of race, color, sex, religion, age, gender, disability or ethnic origin.

## ARTICLE III. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**SECTION 1:** Governance. The governance and direction of the affairs of the PICKETT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY shall be vested in the Pickett County Democratic Executive Committee (the "Executive Committee") and in officers of the PICKETT 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 PICKETT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY shall have the following responsibilities:

- a) Planning and conducting all county meetings and convention.
- b) Keeping and maintaining records of all Democratic Party meetings and business.
- c) Supporting the duly selected nominees of the Democratic Party.

(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 eight (8) unexcused absences during a term. An absence is excused if notice is given to the Chair or the Secretary/Treasurer prior to the start of the meeting and the reason for the absence is one of the following:
  - a. ~~illness,~~
  - b. family illness or death;
  - c. business; or 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 PICKETT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY or of the Executive Committee shall be well publicized in countywide 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.

- (e) The convention shall be called to order by the incumbent Chair of the Pickett County Democratic Executive Committee. The convention shall then divide into caucuses, divided by District. Separate elections shall be held for each Executive Committee position. One man and one woman shall be elected from each District. A plurality shall prevail for each election. In the case of a tie, a runoff between those tied shall be held to ~~decide the winner. In each caucus, a chair shall be selected and the chair~~ shall then 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 two (2) Executive Committee members, the convention shall reassemble and each District shall report the Executive Committee members who have been elected from that District. The convention 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 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:** Officers. The officers of the PICKETT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY shall be CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, and SECRETARY/TREASURER, all of who shall be elected at the biannual reorganization meeting 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 at the Reorganization Meeting present at the meeting held immediately following the convention. 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.

## ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

**SECTION 1:** Committees Appointed By Chair: The chair may establish committees, to be composed solely of Executive Committee members or party 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 X. BUSINESS AT MEETINGS

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

- a. Call to Order
- b. Invocation (optional)
- c. Pledge of Allegiance
- d. Roll call
- e. Reading and approval of the minutes of previous meeting
- f. Treasurer's report
- g. Reports of committees
- h. Resolutions
- i. Unfinished business
- j. New business
- k. Elections (if necessary)
- l. Announcements
- m. 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.** All Executive Committees 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 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 TWO HUNDRED (\$200.00) 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.

**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 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 PICKETT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY is a constituent party of the Tennessee Democratic Party. The Pickett 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 Pickett 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 bylaws prevail.