

BLOUNT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1.:The name of this organization shall be the Blount County Democratic Party (BCDP).

SECTION 2. Purpose: The purpose 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 Blount County, Tennessee, who are registered to vote in this county are eligible to become members of the BCDP.

SECTION 2. Nondiscrimination: Membership in the BCDP shall not be denied because of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, creed, age, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, educational status, physical disability, mental disability, economic status or socio-economic status.

SECTION 3. No fees, dues or monetary contributions of any form shall be required or coerced from members, Executive Committee or Officers.

ARTICLE III. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- a) Planning and conducting all county meetings and conventions of the BCDP:
- b) Keeping and maintaining records of all BCDP meetings and business;
- c) Supporting the duly selected nominees of the Democratic Party
- d) Adoption of a Blount County Party Platform

ARTICLE IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

- (a) Two representatives of different gender from each Blount County Commission District (seats A

and B), except that the district with the largest Democratic vote in the most recent Tennessee gubernatorial election shall be entitled to an additional representative (C). Each district may also elect corresponding alternate representatives (A, B, C). Each alternate shall have one vote only when the corresponding (A, B, or C) representative is absent or that position is vacant. The Executive Committee shall demonstrate gender equity in the election of district representatives and alternates as outlined in Article VI (Conduct of Convention) or other provisions of these By-laws.

(b) A representative of the Democratic Women's Club of Blount County, the Blount County Young Democrats, and the Maryville College Democrats, if selected by each organization. Each representative shall have one vote;

(c) The Immediate Past Chair of the BCDP Executive Committee. The Immediate Past Chair shall have one vote;

(d) In addition, those officers elected pursuant to Article VIII, Sections 2 and 8 shall be voting members of the BCDP Executive Committee;

(e) Any person may serve in more than one capacity on the BCDP Executive Committee if duly elected or selected. However, any such person shall have only one vote;

(f) All members of the Executive Committee, including its officers, must be members of the BCDP;

(a) The Chair shall vote only in the case of a tie vote.

SECTION 2. Manner of Election: The Executive Committee District Representatives and Alternate District Representatives shall be elected at a county convention called for the purpose of electing Executive Committee members, as specified in Article VI. The election shall be held at a date determined by the State Democratic Executive Committee.

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: 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 district 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 BCDP who reside in that district and who meet the same requirements of a duly elected member.

SECTION 5. 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 6. Reasons for Removal of a District Representative, Alternate District Representative, or other member from the Executive Committee:

(a) Nonattendance at Executive Committee Meetings:

(i) Upon motion of a District Representative, or the Chair, that another District Representative be considered for removal from the Executive Committee for failure to attend three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled meetings of the Executive Committee, said motion shall be added to that month's Executive Meeting agenda as 'New Business';
or

(ii) Should a District Representative fail to attend six (6) consecutive regularly scheduled meetings of the Executive Committee, the Chair shall put forth a motion at the sixth missed meeting that said District Representative be removed from the Executive Committee; then

(iii) Provided that the motion passes, the motion for removal shall be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee for consideration with proper notice being given pursuant to Section 7 below. This subsection (a) shall apply only to District Representatives.

(b) Running for Political Office as Other Than a Democratic Party Candidate: in the event that any member of the Executive Committee qualifies for political office as an Independent or as a candidate for any political party other than the Democratic Party in opposition to a duly qualified Democratic nominee, the Chair shall put forth a motion for said member's removal from the Executive Committee. Provided that the motion passes, the motion for removal shall be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee with proper notice being given pursuant to Section 7 below;

(c) Demonstrated Disloyalty to the Democratic Party: In the event that any member of the Executive Committee exhibits a pattern of nonattendance or demonstrates a disloyalty to the Democratic Party in either the form of a public announcement of support for a candidate of another party in a pending election or by working for or giving financial support to any such candidate who is running against a duly nominated candidate of the Democratic Party, said member may be considered for removal from the Executive Committee at the request of another member or by a motion put forth by the Chair. Provided that the motion passes, the motion for removal shall be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee with proper notice being given pursuant to Section 7 below.

SECTION 7. Procedures for Removal of a District Representative, Alternate District Representative, or other member from the Executive Committee: A member of the Executive Committee shall only be removed from the Executive Committee for the reasons provided in Section 6 of this Article and only upon strict adherence with the procedures specified herein:

(a) Provided that a motion to proceed with the removal of a member of the Executive Committee has passed at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee, written notice shall be given to all Executive Committee members at least three (3) weeks in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee that said removal will be considered at the next regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting;

(b) The member being considered for removal must be given written notice of same at least three (3) weeks in advance of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee at which a decision on removal will be made. This notice shall include the time and place of the Executive Committee meeting at which same will be decided. Said member shall be given an opportunity to be heard on the issue of his/her removal;

(c) The Executive Committee shall not remove a member except upon the aye vote of two-thirds (2/3) of a quorum of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. General: All meetings 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 when legal counsel advises otherwise).

SECTION 2. Regular Meetings: Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held monthly, unless otherwise voted upon by the Executive Committee. However, in no case shall regular meetings of the Executive Committee be held less frequently than quarterly.

SECTION 3. Special Meetings: If more than sixty (60) days have passed since the last previous Executive Committee meeting and the Chair has not called a meeting, any twenty-five percent (25%) of its members may call a meeting by notifying all members in writing at least seven (7) days prior to such a meeting. If fewer than sixty (60) days have passed since the previous Executive Committee meeting, any thirty percent (30%) of its members may call a special meeting provided seven (7) days prior written notice is given to all members. Any notification of a meeting must include time and location.

SECTION 4. Quorum:

(a) Forty percent (40%) of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If less than a quorum is present, a majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting;

(b) A quorum shall be calculated from a fraction, the denominator of which shall be the sum of all serving Officers; District Representatives; Article IV, Section 1(b) representatives; and

the Immediate Past Chair. In addition, any serving Alternate District Representative shall be added to the sum in the denominator if, and only if, there is no corresponding District Representative serving. If a person holds more than one position in the Executive Committee (e.g., as Officer and as District Representative), that person shall only count as one in the sum of the denominator. The numerator of the fraction shall be the sum of all Officers; District Representatives; Article IV, Section 1(b) representatives; and the immediate Past Chair who are present at the meeting. In addition, any Alternate District Representative present shall be added to the sum of the numerator if, and only if, either the corresponding District Representative is not present or there is no serving corresponding District Representative. As with the denominator, any person holding more than one position in the Executive Committee shall only count as one in the sum of the numerator.

SECTION 5. Convention Meeting: A regular meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held without other notice than this bylaw immediately after, and in the same location 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) day's prior notice must be given;

(b) All members of the BCDP who attest they are bona fide Democrats by execution of affidavits or affirmations to that effect are eligible to vote at the convention and to be candidates for the Executive Committee. A bona fide Democrat is defined as an individual whose record of public service, actions, accomplishment, public writings and/or public statements affirmatively demonstrates that he or she is faithful to the interests, welfare and success of the Blount County Democratic Party, the Tennessee Democratic Party and the Democratic Party of the United State..One must be present at the convention in order to vote. Provided the requirements above are met, one need not be present to be a candidate for the Executive Committee;

(c) The convention shall be called to order by the incumbent Chair of the Executive Committee. The convention shall then divide into sub- conventions, each with a caucus or sub-convention to be held for each Commission District. In each sub-convention, a chair shall be selected and that chair shall then call for nominations for each District Representative and Alternate District Representative. After the nominations cease, the ballot is closed and the elections shall commence. Each sub-convention shall elect its District Representatives and Alternate District Representatives as specified in Article IV, Section 1 (a). 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;

(d) Upon the completion of the election of the District Representatives and Alternate District Representatives, 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, The newly elected Executive Committee shall meet immediately, pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2 and elect officers.

**ARTICLE VII.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTING PRACTICES**

SECTION 1. No Proxies Allowed: No proxy shall be allowed on any vote,

SECTION 2. Unit Rule: No voting by the unit rule shall be allowed,

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 BCDP shall be a chair, vice-chair, second vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer, all of whom shall be elected by the 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 Executive Committee 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 ail officers and Executive Committee members shall be forwarded by the Secretary 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, following the procedures presented in Article IV, section 4.

SECTION 4.: 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 the chair and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee.

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, have all the powers of the chair, and be subject to all the restrictions orl 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. Second Vice-Chair: in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair or in the event of their death or inability or refusal to act, the Second Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the chair, have all the powers of the chair, and be subject to all the restrictions on the chair. He/she shall perform all duties incident to the office of second vice-chair and such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Chair or by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 7. 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) 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 8. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall (a) have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds and securities of the BCDP from any source whatsoever, and deposit all monies in the name of "Blount 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 and correct accounts of the funds and transactions of the BCDP, which shall include all matters required by law; (c) disburse the funds of the BCDP as he/she may be ordered by the Executive Committee (two signatures being required on any check); (d) render to the Chair and Secretary, or to the Executive Committee, whenever required or requested, a financial statement in a form satisfactory to them and an accounting of all transactions of the BCDP; (e) perform all of the duties incident to the office of treasurer and such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Chair or Executive Committee; and (f) 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 determines.

SECTION 9. Officers as Members of the Executive Committee: Nominees for office need not be members of the Executive Committee prior to election. Any officer elected by the Executive Committee who is not already a member of the Executive Committee shall, upon his/her election as an officer, become a voting member of the Executive Committee. Any elected officer who is already a member of the Executive Committee need not give up his/her other position(s) on the Executive Committee. However, any such officer shall have only one vote.

SECTION 10. Neutrality: No officer shall openly support a candidate in a Democratic Primary, so that the officers present neutrality to maintain party unity. However, an officer may openly support a candidate in a Democratic Primary for so long as that candidate remains unopposed in that primary.

SECTION 11. Officers Must Support Nominees of the Democratic Party: All officers shall support nominees of the Democratic Party. Failure to support the nominees of the Democratic Party shall be cause for removal, as provided for in Section 13 of this article.

SECTION 12. 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.

SECTION 13. Removal from Office: Upon the motion of an Executive Committee member or the Chair, and for good cause shown, the removal of an officer shall be initiated in the same manner as that of a District Representative, Alternate District Representative, or other member of the Executive Committee, as specified in Article IV, Sections 6 and 7.

**ARTICLE IX.
COMMITTEES**

SECTION 1. Committees Appointed By Chair: The Chair may establish committees composed solely of Executive Committee members or including both Executive Committee members and others, as he/she deems appropriate.

SECTION 2. Term of Office: Each member of a committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Chair, 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 Chair whenever, in his/her judgment, the best interest of the Party shall be served by that removal.

SECTION 4. Platform committee:

(a) The purpose of this committee is to propose a Blount County Democratic Party Platform.

(b) In November of odd years, The Chair shall nominate members of the BCDP as a committee sub-chair and as committee members to a Platform Committee. The committee must include at least three persons 50% or more of which are not officers. The executive committee must approve the nominated persons by majority vote at a business meeting. The Chair may propose additional members to this committee, subject to the percentage 50% not being officers requirement, and the executive committee may approve at a business meeting,

(c) The proposed platform is adopted by the BCDP upon a 2/3 affirmative at any meeting of the Executive Committee, provided that the exact wording of the proposed changes shall be incorporated in the notice of the meeting sent at least fourteen (14) days prior to such meeting to all members. Changes to the BCDP Platform may be made at any meeting of the Executive Committee provided that the exact wording of the proposed changes shall be incorporated in the notice of the meeting sent at least fourteen (14) days prior to such meeting to all members.

**ARTICLE X.
CONDUCT OF BUSINESS AT MEETINGS**

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

- (a) Call to order,
- (b) Pledge of Allegiance,

- (c) Moment of Silence,
- (d) Roll call,
- (e) Approval of the minutes of previous meeting,
- (f) Treasurer's report,
- (g) Report of committees,
- (h) Resolutions,
- (i) Announcements,
- (j) Old business,
- (k) New business,
- (l) Elections,
- (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/Receipts: Unless budgeted otherwise, no expenditures or bills shall be made or contracts entered into which purport to obligate the BCDP unless such expenditures or contracts are authorized by a majority vote of those present at a duly called meeting of the Executive Committee at which a quorum is present, except that those expenditures for less than five hundred Dollars (\$500.00) may be authorized by the Chair of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall present a monthly-itemized statement of Income and expenditures at each Executive Committee meeting. All receipts shall be retained by the Treasurer for a period of two (2) years.

SECTION 2:

- (a) Auditors may be designated by the Executive Committee, who, if designated, shall audit and examine the books of account of the BCDP 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 Treasurer.

ARTICLE XIII. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The current edition of Roberts 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 that may be adopted. The Chair, at his

or her discretion, may appoint a parliamentarian for the Executive Committee, to serve at the pleasure of the Chair. The parliamentarian need not be a member of the Executive Committee. All decisions by the parliamentarian concerning parliamentary procedure shall be binding upon the Executive Committee unless overruled by a majority vote of the Executive Committee with a quorum present.

ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended or substituted by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the total elected Executive Committee membership at any meeting of the Executive Committee, provided that the exact wording of the proposed changes shall be incorporated in the notice of the meeting sent at least fourteen (14) days prior to such meeting to all members.

ARTICLE XV RULES

The Blount County Democratic Party is a constituent party of the Tennessee Democratic Party. The BCDP Executive Committee is an organization created by the Tennessee Democratic Executive Committee, with the Tennessee Democratic Executive Committee having full authority over the BCDP. Tennessee Democratic Party rules take precedence over the bylaws of the Blount County Democratic Party.

Amended March 14, 2019

