

THE GALLIA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
ARTICLE I  
NAME, MEMBERSHIP, AND ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

**Section 1. Name**

The name of this organization shall be The Gallia County Democratic Party.

**Section 2. Membership**

Membership in this party shall be open to all residents of the County of Gallia who support the Constitution of the United States of America, The Constitution of the State of Ohio, and the Constitution, By-Laws and principles of the County Democratic Party. No person may be a member or vote on any motion, resolution, nomination, or election at any meeting or conference of The Gallia County Democratic Party who does not meet the aforesaid qualifications or who is a member of any other political party at that time.

**Section 3. Eligibility for Party Office**

Any person who meets the membership requirements of Article 1, Section 2, is eligible for election to party office, except as hereinafter limited. There shall be no minimum age requirement for party office save where prescribed by law.

**Section 4. Qualifications**

In the event that any person's qualifications as a member of The Gallia County Democratic Party or eligibility for party office must be determined, the same challenge procedure shall be followed to determine his or her qualifications as provided by the Election Laws of Ohio.

ARTICLE II  
CONSTITUTIONS AND LAWS

**Section 1.**

Nothing herein shall conflict with the Constitution of the United States of America, the laws of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, and the laws of the State of Ohio. Any matter which conflicts with any of the aforesaid shall be of no force and effect. All constitutional provisions and laws of the United States and of the State of Ohio are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part hereof. Each clause of this Constitution and By-Laws shall be considered separately and the illegality of unenforcibility of any one clause shall not affect any other clause.

ARTICLE III  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Section 1.**

The controlling committee of the Gallia County Democratic Party shall be the County Central Committee consisting of such membership as shall be elected according to the laws of the State of Ohio. The County Central Committee shall elect a County Executive Committee which shall have such powers as are granted it by the County Central Committee, as are provided by law, and by this Constitution.

**Section 2.**

The members-elect of the party's Central Committee shall meet not earlier than six nor later than fifteen days following the date of certification of the primary election at a suitable place and time in Gallia County, to be designated by the retiring chairman of the Committee. Notice of such meeting, giving the place and time, shall be sent to each member-elect by the retiring secretary of the committee by mail. If the retiring secretary does not issue the call within the time provided by law, any five members-elect may do so. The meeting shall be called to order by the retiring chairman or secretary of if there is no such officer or if such officer is absent, then by a member of the Committee. A temporary chairman and secretary shall be chosen and the Committee shall proceed to organize by the election of a chairman, treasurer, secretary, and such other officers as the Committee by desire.

**Section 3.**

The County Central Committee shall then elect the County Executive Committee. All county, state and federal elected officials, resident of Gallia County, shall be members of the Gallia County Executive Committee except those prohibited by law.

**Section 4.**

The County Central Committee shall confer upon the County Executive Committee all power and authority of the County Central Committee and the County Executive Committee shall be authorized to act for the County Central Committee in all things pertaining to the welfare, business operation and organization of the County Central Committee and the Gallia County Democratic Party during the period of its existence which shall continue until the 15th day after the certification of the election of the next County Central Committee at a succeeding primary election. Any vacancies

which may occur in the County Executive Committee or in the County Central Committee shall be filled by a majority vote of the County Executive Committee.

**Section 5.**

The County Executive Committee shall then be called to meet immediately upon its election and shall proceed to elect its Chairman.

**Section 6.**

The County Executive Committee shall then immediately proceed to elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary and Treasurer of said Committee. The Secretary and Treasurer may be the same person.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**OFFICERS**

**Section 1.**

The Chairman's duties shall be those of chief executive officer and he shall be subject to the direction of and responsible to the County Executive Committee. The Chairman may appoint committees and other personnel as he deems necessary, subject to confirmation by the County Executive Committee. He may provide for the employment of any other office personnel necessary. All of said appointments and employees shall serve subject to the pleasure of the Chairman of the Executive Committee, except the auditing committee and the auditing committee chairman who shall serve at the pleasure of the Executive Committee.

**Section 2.**

The Vice-Chairman, in order of succession, shall act as the chairman in case of the death, resignation, incapacity, removal or absence of the chairman or his predecessor, and shall, in such event, have the same powers, duties, and responsibilities as the chairman until such time as the County Executive Committee shall properly elect a new chairman.

**Section 3.**

The secretary shall be in charge of all the official documents of the Executive Committee and of preparation of the necessary notices, minutes and other documents. He shall preserve such files and records and open them for examination at convenient and appropriate times at the request of any duly elected member of the County Executive Committee under such rules and regulations as are prescribed by said Executive Committee.

Section 4.

The treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the party and shall render up to date financial reports to each meeting of the County Executive Committee. The treasurer shall be accountable for all receipts and expenditures of the party subject to the direction of the Finance Committee. He and any other party officer or employee responsible for the handling of party funds shall be accountable, the amount to be determined to the County Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V  
STATE AND COUNTY COOPERATION

Section 1.

The Chairman of the County Democratic Executive Committee shall consult with and cooperate with the Chairmen of the eighty-eight county executive committees on all matters relating to the business of The Ohio Democratic Party in their respective counties.

ARTICLE VI  
MEETINGS

Section 1.

The County Central Committee shall meet after its election as required by law and this constitution. The County Executive Committees shall meet immediately upon its election by the County Central Committee and at least quarterly thereafter during the period of its existence. The County Executive Committee may be called to meet by the chairman or by a minimum of one-eighth of the membership of said Committee.

Section 2.

Notice of any meeting other than the original meeting of the County Executive Committee, specifying time and place, shall be sent in writing or by phone.

Section 3.

Minutes shall be taken of all meetings of the County Central Committee and the County Executive Committee.

Section 4.

The membership of those in attendance of said Committees shall constitute a quorum for conducting any business to come before the meeting.

ARTICLE VII  
FINANCE

Section 1.

The Chairman of the County Executive Committee shall report, at least once each year, the financial condition of the Gallia County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE VIII  
PARTY UNITY

Section 1.

All members of the party, candidates for office, party officers, party committees and organizations, and elected Democratic officials shall support the principles of The Gallia County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE IX  
PARTY STRUCTURE - NATIONAL GUIDELINES

Section 1.

The Gallia County Democratic Party, State Democratic Party and the National Democratic Committee shall be guided by and shall comply with the guidelines required by the Commission of Party Structure and Delegate Selection of the Democratic National Committee. At the primary selection in 1980, and similarly in every fourth year thereafter, delegates-at-large and alternates-at-large to the National Convention shall be chosen by direct vote of the electors as prescribed by Ohio Law.

Section 2.

The Gallia County Democratic Party shall seek as broad a base of support as possible in the following manner:

- A. The six basic elements of the special equal rights committee as adopted by the Democratic National Committee are hereby incorporated as follows:
  - I. All public meetings at all levels of the Gallia County Democratic Party should be open to all members of the Gallia County Democratic Party regardless of sex, race, color, creed, or national origin.
  - II. No test for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Gallia County Democratic Party shall be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of The Gallia County Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support

discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, color, creed, or national origin.

- III. The time and place for all public meetings of The Gallia County Democratic Party on all levels should be publicized fully and in such a manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Said meetings must be held in places accessible to all party members in a facility large enough to accommodate all such interested persons.
  - IV. The Gallia County Democratic Party, on all levels, shall support the broadest possible registration without discrimination on grounds of sex, race, color, creed or national origin.
  - V. The Gallia County Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such manner to assure notice to all interested parties as full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of The Gallia County Democratic Party officers and representative on all levels. Publication of these procedures should be done in such fashion that all prospective and current members of The Gallia County Democratic Party will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at all levels of The Gallia County Democratic Party Organization.
  - VI. The Gallia County Democratic Party shall publicize fully and in such manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications for all officers and representatives of The Gallia County Democratic Party. Such publication should be done in timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within The Gallia County Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for said office.
- B. The Gallia County Democratic Party shall take affirmative steps to encourage representation on the National Convention Delegations of minority groups, young people and women in reasonable relationship to their presence in the populations in the State of Ohio.
  - C. Public meetings referred to herein mean meetings to which the public has been invited.

#### ARTICLE X

The Gallia County Democratic Party adopts herein Article X of the State Democratic Constitution and By-Laws which is as follows:

## Section 1.

Each Democratic County, Central and Executive Committee in the State shall adopt a constitution and by-laws which shall comply and be consistent with the Constitution and By-laws of the Ohio Democratic Party. Each such Democratic organization shall submit a copy of said constitution and by-laws to the Chairman of the State Executive Committee by January 1, 1972. Any amendments, changes, or modifications in said constitution and by-laws shall also be immediately reported to the Chairman of the State Executive Committee.

## Section 2.

No Democratic State or County, Central or Executive Committee shall permit any rules which tend to limit participation in said organization except on the basis of residency and the general qualifications set out in Article I, Section 2, 3 and 4 of this Constitution.

## Section 3.

No Democratic candidate shall be required to contribute, lend, give or denote anything of value to any Democratic Committee or party official as a condition of his endorsement for elective office.

## Section 4.

No member, candidate, party official or Democratic elected or appointive official, acting for himself individually, or for any Democratic committee, shall request or receive any financial contribution, donation, gift, or other form of economic remuneration as a condition for securing an endorsement of any Democratic candidate for elective or appointive office.

## Section 5.

All party constitutions and by-laws, rules, regulations, membership lists, voter lists of officers or committee members minutes and other documents and platforms, must be available to every Democrat on written request.

## Section 6.

Every Democrat who desires to be a Democratic candidate for any public office shall have the right to appear before the State Executive Committee, if said office is decided in statewide election, or the County Central or Executive Committee, or such other committee as is authorized by the County Executive to make endorsements, if said office is decided on a county or district basis, at the meetings

established for such purpose, to discuss the campaign issues, and his or candidacy and any endorsements to be made by such committees.

**Section 7.**

No Democratic State or County, Central or Executive Committee shall permit the use of the unit rule in voting on any matter.

**Section 8.**

No Democratic State or County, Central or Executive Committee shall permit proxy voting on any matter.

**Section 9.**

No Democratic State or County, Central or Executive Committee shall permit election of its officers by slate.

**Section 10.**

Every vote taken by any Democratic State or County, Central or Executive Committee for the election of its officers or the endorsements or selection of persons for public office shall be in accordance with the standards set by the Charter and By-Laws of the Democratic Party of the United States.

**Section 11.**

Each County Democratic Central and Executive Committee shall be required to compile a complete list of all Democratic voters in all primary elections in its County, and shall, at the request of the Chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, transmit a copy of such list to the Chairman within sixty (60) days following the primary. The State Democratic Executive Committee shall reimburse the County for the cost of duplicate and transmitting such list, if requested.

**ARTICLE XI**

**Section 1.**

Willful and intentional conduct by any party official or party organization in violation of the Constitution or By-Laws of the Gallia County Democratic Party shall be cause for censure and such other sanctions as may be adopted by the County Executive Committee.



ARTICLE XII  
OATH OF OFFICE

Section 1.

All officers of the State and County Central Committees and the State and County Executive Committees shall be requested to take an oath of office to support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Constitution and By-Laws, and the principles of the Gallia County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE XIII  
ROBERTS RULES

SECTION 1.

Any matters regarding the conduct of the affairs of the County Central and Executive Committees, State Central and Executive Committees, and the Convention of The Ohio Democratic Party not governed by this constitution or by the convention rules or by the laws of the State of Ohio shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XIV

SECTION 1.

This Constitution supersedes any and all other previous constitutions of the Gallia County Democratic Party and shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the convention.

This Constitution may be amended by the Gallia County Central Committee at a meeting called for such purpose by a vote of two-thirds of those present. Notice of such meeting shall be given by the Secretary, at the request of the Chairman of either the Executive or Central Committee or by the written request signed by five members of the Central Committee to all members of the Gallia County Central Committee. Such notice shall be in writing and sent by ordinary mail at least five days prior to the meeting date.