

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CLARK COUNTY CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – Name: The name of this organization shall be the Democratic Party of Clark County.

ARTICLE II – Purpose: It shall be the primary responsibility of the county party to develop the fullest possible party membership in the county; to hold regularly scheduled meetings; to encourage Democratic candidates for county and legislative offices; to form and maintain an effective campaign organization; to make recommendations for a Party Platform; and generally, to promote the interests of the Democratic Party in the County.

ARTICLE III – Membership: Any resident of Clark County, or of any county who chooses membership in this county party, at least 14 years of age, who subscribes to the progressive principles of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW) is eligible for voting membership and shall become a member upon payment of dues and receipt of such dues by the county party treasurer or the DPW.

ARTICLE IV – Organization:

- SECTION 1. The elected officers of the county shall include a chairperson, two vice-chairpersons, a secretary and a treasurer. Such officers shall be elected for a term of one year. In addition, the county party may provide for such additional officers as it desires, such offices to be held until the next annual election of officers. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be combined.
- SECTION 2. Nomination of a candidate for county party office may be made by a nominating committee or from the floor by a member. A nomination must have prior consent of the nominee.
- SECTION 3. Election of a county party officer shall require a majority of those members voting. If two or more candidates are nominated for an office, election shall be by secret ballot.
- SECTION 4. The chairperson shall be the presiding officer at all meetings, shall act as administrative head of the organization, and shall have the power to appoint special project chairpersons, with the consent of the Executive Committee. Such special project chairpersons shall serve until the project is completed or the county chairperson's term of office expires.
- SECTION 5. The vice chairpersons shall be responsible for the direction of the county in the event of the chairperson's absence or incapacitation.
- SECTION 6. The secretary shall maintain records of the organization in accordance with all DPW guidelines and issue meeting notices.
- SECTION 7. The treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the organization, shall make financial reports in writing at each county meeting, and shall expend funds only in accordance with the directives of either the Executive Committee or the majority vote of the members. The treasurer shall also prepare such financial statements as are required by law and forward them to the proper county and/or state and/or federal officials. The treasurer shall also keep a record of all paid memberships. The treasurer's books shall be submitted to an auditor or to an auditing committee appointed by the chairperson.
- SECTION 8. All officers shall endeavor to keep and protect the property and records of the county party to the best of their ability in a secure manner according to best practices established by this county party, the DPW and any government oversight agency. At the

end of their term, all vacating officers shall turn over records and property including but not limited to minutes, government reports, leases, keys, security codes, and bank accounts to new officers within 30 days.

ARTICLE V – Executive Committee:

- SECTION 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of the county party and such appointed officers as the Executive Committee shall ask to serve. In addition, the outgoing chairperson shall serve for two years.
- SECTION 2. The chairperson of the county party shall be the chairperson of the Executive Committee.
- SECTION 3. The Executive Committee may meet regularly between county party meetings, or, in the event of a decision to be rendered prior to the regular county party meeting, the chairperson shall call, as soon as possible, a meeting of the Executive Committee. Decisions made by a majority vote of the Executive Committee shall be final.

ARTICLE VI – Dues and Finances:

- SECTION 1. Membership dues shall be determined by the DPW.
- SECTION 2. Both the county party and the DPW may collect dues for membership. All membership dues shall be divided between both entities as determined by the bylaws of the DPW.
- SECTION 3. Funds for the county party treasury may be solicited from sources other than membership dues in accordance with all finance regulations.
- SECTION 4. The county party may use all funds in its treasury in any manner it chooses in accordance with all finance regulations.

ARTICLE VII – Meetings:

- SECTION 1. Robert's Rules of Order, current edition, shall be the parliamentary authority for all meetings unless contrary to the provisions of this constitution.
- SECTION 2. Unless otherwise ordered by the Democratic Party of Clark County or its Executive Committee, regular meetings shall be held once per month at a time and place agreed upon by the members. Notice of regular meetings shall be sent to the members at least 7 days before each meeting.
- SECTION 3. When three months elapse without a meeting of the county unit, twenty (20) per cent of the county membership may petition the DPW Chairperson who shall call a meeting of the county giving a ten (10) day notice.
- SECTION 4. The annual meeting held for the purpose of electing officers and other business shall be held not earlier than November 1 nor later than the following December 31. At least ten day's notice of such election must be given by the secretary of the county party to each member entitled to vote. At any such election meeting, only members whose dues are paid for the year in which the election is held shall be eligible to vote. In the event the county chairperson shall fail to call such an election meeting within the period specified below, the state chairperson shall authorize to call such an election meeting as soon as practicable, providing always that the provisions of this section with respect to notice shall be observed.
- SECTION 5. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson or by the Executive Committee, or upon the written request of any 10 members. Notice of a special meeting shall be sent at least 7 days before such a meeting and shall contain a notice of the purpose of the meeting.

- SECTION 6. Ten members shall constitute a quorum for conducting business at any meeting. In the absence of a quorum, should there be a majority of the Executive Committee present, necessary business may still be conducted under that authority.

ARTICLE VIII – Endorsement: The Democratic Party of Clark County shall not endorse nor support any candidate for any elective office in any primary election unless such endorsement conforms to the exceptions provided for by the DPW. Any endorsements shall follow the guidelines and procedures set forth for such in the bylaws of the DPW.

ARTICLE IX – Adoption and Amendments:

- SECTION 1. Adoption of this constitution shall take place only after two successive readings at either regular county party meetings or meetings especially called with appropriate notice being sent to all members. Adoption shall be by majority vote. Amendments shall require two readings and the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members voting at the meeting called for that purpose. Notice of the meeting shall follow the same requirements as an election meeting.
- SECTION 2. A quorum for the purposes of this article shall be no fewer than 10 members or 10% of the current membership, whichever is greater.
- SECTION 3. This constitution and amendments hereto shall be sent to the DPW for approval by the Administrative Committee before becoming effective.

ARTICLE X – Constitutional Precedence:

- SECTION 1. This constitution shall supercede any previous motions or rules to the contrary made by the county party.
- SECTION 2. If and when it shall appear that this constitution is in conflict with the constitution of the DPW, the latter shall prevail.

Adopted at a regular meeting of the Clark County Democratic Party on September 15, 1983. Richard Tirk, Chairman, Steven Hemersbach, Secretary.

Presented for Amendment November 30, 2011.

Presented for Final Amendment and Approval January 17, 2012

Submitted as approved to the DPW Constitution Committee by Jordan Franklin, Chair.