

**Hamilton County Democratic Central Committee**  
**2016 RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
**OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**



Adopted 4/20/16 by Hamilton County Democratic Party Central Committee

**PREAMBLE**

The purpose of the Hamilton County Democratic Party shall be the election of candidates to local, state and national office and the promotion of the goals and principles of the Democratic Party as defined by the Ohio Democratic Party (see attached). The Democratic Party shall be open to all and due regard shall be taken to insure that appointment to Party bodies reflects the diversity of the Democratic Party.

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**COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

**Article I: Membership+**

- A. The Hamilton County Central Committee shall be composed of the Central Committee persons elected at the Primary Election in even numbered years from each precinct in Hamilton County in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3517.03, and those appointed to fill vacant precincts by the Central Committee or the Executive Committee.
- B. Between meetings of the Central Committee, vacancies in the Central Committee shall be filled by appointment of the Hamilton County Executive Committee.
- C. Appointed Central Committee members shall be eligible to vote after their appointment has been approved by the Central Committee or the Executive Committee and, once appointed shall serve the same term and have the same powers as if they had been elected.

**Article II: Meetings**

- A. The organizational meeting of the Central Committee shall take place in accordance with the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 3517.04.
- B. All other meetings shall be held at the call of the Chair of the Central Committee.

**Article III: Officers**

- A. The officers of the Central Committee shall be:
  - 1. One (1) Chair or Co-Chairs who agree to run and serve together.
  - 2. Five (5) Executive Vice-Chairs, one of whom, of opposite gender of the Chair, shall be designated as First Executive Vice-Chair to act in place of Chair.
  - 3. A Secretary.
  - 4. A Treasurer.
- B. The above officers shall collectively constitute an Officers Council which shall meet no less than six times per year.

**Article IV: Election of Officers**

- A. All officers shall be elected at the biennial organizational meeting of the Central Committee.

- B. Voting in the Central Committee and all Democratic Party bodies shall be either by voice, standing or roll call.
- C. In conformance with Democratic National Committee and Ohio Democratic Party Rules secret ballots are not permitted as a method of voting in any party body.
- D. Paper ballots signed by those casting the ballot and available for public inspection may be used when voting on endorsement-related motions in field races where more than one candidate may be elected, such as in a Cincinnati City Council race.

**Article V: Powers of the Central Committee**

- A. The Central Committee shall exercise all powers granted to it by the statutes of the State of Ohio.
- B. The Central Committee shall delegate all of its powers to the Hamilton County Executive Committee except those expressly reserved to it by Ohio law.
- C. The obligations to elect successors to county wide elected executive offices to which democrats had been elected and which become vacant due to the death or resignation of the office holder shall be reserved to the Central Committee.

**Article VI: Dual Capacity of Officers**

- A. The officers of the Central Committee shall be the officers of the Executive Committee.

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**COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Article VII: Membership**

- A. The Hamilton County Executive Committee shall be limited to 200 members.
- B. The Executive Committee shall be composed in part of all duly elected Cincinnati Ward Chairs and the District Chair of each City, Village and Township, as well as all Democrats elected as members of Congress, County Executive Officers, Mayors, Township Trustees, State Legislators, other elected state officials, Cincinnati City Council members and State Central Committee members.
- C. The balance of the members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the Chair(s) of the Central Committee after consultation with others. Such appointed members need not be members of the Central Committee. Appointments shall give due regard to representatives of organized labor and other groups allied with the Democratic Party as well as the diversity of the Party.

**Article VIII: Meetings**

- A. The organizational meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held within thirty (30) days following the biennial organizational meeting of the Central Committee at the call of the Chair(s) of the Central Committee.
- B. Additional meetings may be held at the call of the Chair(s) of the Executive Committee.
- C. Meetings may also be called upon the written request signed by twenty-five (25) members of the Committee stating the purpose thereof. Upon receipt of the request, the Chair(s) shall call a meeting of the Committee within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of the request, giving at least five (5) days' notice to the members of the Committee which notice shall also state the purpose of the meeting.

**Article IX: -Duties of Officers**

- A. The duties of the Chair(s) shall include:
  - 1. The Chair(s) may designate one of the Executive Vice-Chairs to conduct meetings in his/her /their absence and to perform such other duties as the Chair may designate.
  - 2. The Chair(s) shall resolve, decide and determine any disputes, objections or protests which may arise concerning the legality of the election of County Central Committeepersons, Ward, City, Village and Township Chairs.
  - 3. The Chair(s) shall appoint such committees as are necessary to fulfill the purpose of the Hamilton County Democratic Party as stated in the Preamble.

B. The duties of the Secretary shall include:

1. The Secretary shall keep a record of the minutes of the proceedings of meetings of the organization and shall prepare a summary for electronic distribution.
2. The Secretary shall give notice as required in these rules and regulations of any and all meetings.
3. The Secretary shall generally do and perform the duties ordinarily required to be done and performed by such an officer.

C. The duties of the Treasurer shall include:

1. The Treasurer shall keep a true and accurate account of all money, valuables or credits received by the Treasurer or coming into possession of the Treasurer or control belonging to this organization, together with the character, amount and to whom made, of any and all disbursements. And with the assistance of an accountant or fiscal officer shall render a full true and accurate account of the financial condition of this organization when requested by the Chair(s) and annually to the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall also file all reports required by state and federal law.

**Article X: Powers**

- A. The Executive Committee shall exercise all powers granted to it by statute and those delegated to it by the Central Committee.

**Article XI: Procedure**

- A. Voting in the Executive Committee shall be either by voice, standing or roll call.
- B. Members must be present to be entitled to vote. No proxy voting shall be permitted.
- C. Those Members attending a meeting shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business except when a statute provides otherwise.

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**DISTRICT CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

**Article XII: Definition**

- A. Each City, Village and Township shall have a Central Committee composed of the Central Committee persons of the respective city, village or township.

**Article XIII: Meetings**

- A. Following the organizational meeting of the County Central Committee, each district committee and each City of Cincinnati ward shall conduct an election of officers within 30 days and report those officers to the County Party.
- B. All other meetings shall be held at the call of the Chair of the District Central Committee.
- C. Meetings may also be called upon the written request signed by ten percent (10%) of the members of the Committee stating the purpose thereof. Upon receipt of the request, the Chair shall call a meeting of the Committee within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of the request, giving at least five (5) days' notice to the members of the Committee which notice shall also state the purpose of the meeting.

**Article XIV: Officers and Their Election**

- A. The officers of each District Central Committee shall be as follows:
  1. A Chair, or Co-Chair.
  2. Such other officers as determined by the members of the District Central Committee.
- B. The officers shall be elected at the organizational meeting of the committee.

Article XV: Powers and Duties

- A. Each District Central Committee may make nominations or issue endorsements of candidates and issues for public office solely within that district.
- B. Each District Central Committee shall also adopt rules and regulations regarding all other matters relating to the affairs of the Democratic Party within that District, which may provide for a District Executive Committee whose members may include non members of the District Central Committee.

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**ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

Article XVI: Ward Chairs

- A. Following each biennial meeting of the County Central Committee, the Central Committee persons elected in each ward of a city shall meet and elect a Ward Chair.
- B. The Ward Chair shall be responsible for directing the political activity of the Democratic Party for that ward.

Article XVII: Democratic Clubs

- A. Wherever possible, each ward of the City of Cincinnati, and each other city, each village and each township shall have a Democratic Club whose membership shall consist of the chair, all Central Committee persons and all other Democrats who desire to participate in the activities of the club.
- B. The County Executive Committee, to the extent possible, shall prescribe the rules and regulations under which all clubs shall operate.
- C. Each club shall determine the amount of annual dues for its membership.
- D. The objectives of all clubs shall be:
  - 1. To increase membership by interesting local citizens in the goals and principles of the Democratic Party.
  - 2. To maintain interesting and informative programs at club meetings.
  - 3. To raise funds for the payment of outside workers on election day through continuing fund-raising, raffles, social events, etc.
  - 4. To train precinct committee persons and those who will in the future, become precinct committee persons.
  - 5. To assist in the registration of Democratic voters.

Article XVIII: Miscellaneous Provisions

- A. The County Executive Committee may authorize the formation of other Democratic committees and/or clubs within the county such as a steering committee, college clubs, women's clubs, etc.
- B. In the event of a vacancy in the office of ward or district chair, the Central Committee persons of the respective area shall meet upon two (2) days written notice to elect a new chair. The meeting shall be called by and chaired by the Chair(s) of the County Executive Committee or his/her designee.
- C. These rules and regulations may be amended by vote of a majority of the members of the County Executive Committee at a meeting called for that purpose by the Chair(s) of the Executive Committee.
- D. These rules and regulations replace and supersede all prior rules and regulations of the Democratic Party of Hamilton County, Ohio.
- E. Robert's Rules of Order shall apply to all Central and Executive Committee meetings.
- F. For any position for which an Executive Committee recommendation is required by law, 30 days notice shall be provided of such a position opening prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee at which a recommendation will be made.

## The Ohio Democratic Party Principles

*Adopted 8/29/98*

As the Ohio Democratic Party, we are proud to adopt these principles based on our belief in an Ohio that values opportunity and equality for all its citizens, and respects both the self-reliance of individuals and the benefits of teamwork, to meet the challenges of a fair and just society.

To that end:

- We believe that the best government is one that is efficient, yet understanding – a government that is based not on systems or bureaucracies, but on people, ideas and values.
- We believe there is no substitute for fair and equal representation and strong public participation in a government chosen by election.
- We believe in a government that stands on the side of Ohio’s families – that listens, understands and addresses their concerns.
- We believe that all Ohioans reap benefits when we, as a state, meet our challenges together. We believe in the equality of all Ohio citizens and condemn any discrimination.
- We believe in a society that strengthens Ohio’s families and protects our children.
- We believe in the rights of all Ohioans to achieve economic security and find affordable housing, to seek good jobs at a livable wage, and protection for our workers in a growing, robust economy.
- We believe in a society that puts the health, safety and prosperity of its citizens first, one that promotes excellence in education, choices in quality health care and a healthy environment for all Ohio citizens.
- We believe in a society that values community and protects all Ohio citizens from violence and crime.
- We believe in a society that respects our elders, who deserve the right to retire with the resources they need and have earned to support themselves in their golden years.
- And we believe in pursuing these ideals with honesty and integrity, with respect for the freedoms that we in Ohio are proud to call our own.