

CONSTITUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PART OF ROCK COUNTY

Preamble

We, the members of the Democratic Party of Rock County, adhere to the general principles of the Democratic Party. We take special interest in maintaining, preserving, improving and advancing education, the environment, natural resources, our heritage, agriculture, freedom, equality, stability, and peace.

To be a force for democracy, a political party must be a democracy. Its members must have an equal voice, one with another. Its leaders must be freely chosen by its members and must answer to them. Its program must arise from the free and full competition of ideas among its members.

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the Democratic Party of Rock County.

Article II - Purpose

It shall be the primary responsibility of the Democratic Party of Rock County to develop the fullest possible party membership in the county, to hold regularly scheduled meetings, to encourage and elect Democratic candidates for public office, to form and maintain an effective organization, to make recommendations for the Party platform, and generally, to promote the Democratic Party in the county.

Article III - Membership

Any resident of Rock County, at least fourteen (14) years of age, who generally subscribes to the principles of the Democratic Party is eligible for voting membership and shall become a member upon payment and receipt of membership dues. Such a person is automatically a member of the Democratic Party of Rock County and the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

Article IV - Election of officers

Section 1 - Membership: The elected officers of the Democratic Party of Rock County shall include a chairperson, a deputy chairperson, a vice chairperson for communications, a vice chairperson for membership, a vice chairperson for finance and fund raising, a vice chairperson for elections, a secretary, a treasurer, and three (3) trustees. Such officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year.

Section 2 - Nomination: Nomination of a candidate for county party office may be made by an appointed nominating committee or from the floor by a member. A member may self-nominate. Nomination must have prior written consent of any absent nominee. Failure to obtain such prior written consent shall invalidate the election of a person so nominated.

Section 3 - Election: Election of a county party officer shall require a majority of those members present and voting. If two or more valid candidates are nominated for an office, election for that office shall be by secret ballot. If a majority is not received by a candidate in the secret ballot, then a run-off election shall be held among the candidates receiving the two highest vote totals.

Article V - Duties and Responsibilities of Officers

Section 1 - Chairperson: The chairperson shall be the presiding officer at all meetings and shall act as the administration head of the organization. The chairperson shall have the power to appoint special ad hoc committees and their chairs. The chairperson, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, shall have the power to appoint a parliamentarian, a sergeant - at arms, and a legal counsel. Such special ad hoc committees and appointees shall serve until their assignment is complete or the county chairperson's term of office expires.

Section 2 - Deputy Chairperson: The deputy chairperson shall assist the chairperson with the chairperson's duties and responsibilities. The deputy chairperson in the absence of the chairperson, shall represent the county at party meetings and functions, and shall serve as acting chairperson at county party meetings. The deputy chairperson shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the chairperson, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, when the chairperson can no longer serve. When the deputy chairperson so assumes these duties and responsibilities, the deputy chairperson becomes the chairperson for the remaining term of office, and, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, a person from the general membership willing to serve is chosen as the deputy chairperson. The deputy chairperson shall coordinate the Democratic Party of Rock County booth at the Rock County Fair. The deputy chairperson shall perform an annual inventory of the Democratic Party of Rock County property, materials and supplies, and submit said inventory report at a general membership meeting prior to April 1 of the current term of office.

Section 3 - Vice chairpersons:

Vice chairperson for communications: The vice chairperson for communications shall be responsible for the production of a newsletter on a schedule determined by the chairperson and the Executive Board, maintain regular contacts with all Rock County area media, generate such promotion and publicity as the Democratic Party of Rock County shall require for special events, and shall be available for consultation with county candidates prior to elections.

Vice Chairperson for Membership: The vice chairperson for membership shall be responsible for efforts to recruit new members and retain present members, maintain complete membership records, and supply membership application forms and other materials relating to membership.

Vice Chairperson for Finance and Fund Raising: The vice chairperson for finance and fund raising shall coordinate county party fund raising events, coordinate special activities relating to fund raising, seek new ways to raise funds for the county party, coordinate the spending of the budget with the chairperson and treasurer, assist the treasurer with the finances of the county party, and work with other officers and appointees on funding for special events.

Vice Chairperson for Elections: The vice chairperson for elections shall be responsible for recruiting candidates for state and local offices, county campaign volunteers, and candidates for officers of the Democratic Party of Rock County. The vice chairperson for elections shall also act as a liaison between the Democratic Party of Rock County and federal, state, county and local candidate campaign committees.

Section 4 - Secretary: The secretary shall be responsible for taking minutes at general meetings and Executive Board meetings. The secretary shall keep and maintain meeting minutes, business records, and all other county party records and correspondence.

Section 5 - Treasurer: 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 in accordance with the directives of either the Executive Board or the majority vote of the members. The treasurer also shall prepare such financial statements as are required by the law and forward them to the proper state, county and local officials. In addition to the customary duties of the treasurer, the treasurer shall keep a record of paid memberships in association with the

vice chairperson for membership. The treasurer's books shall be submitted annually to the trustees for audit. An additional audit of the books may be authorized at any time by a majority vote of the members.

Section 6 - Trustees: The Trustees shall audit the fiscal records of the county party, and provide advice and consent as members of the Executive Board.

Article VI - Executive Board

Section 1 - Membership: The executive Board shall consist of the elected officers of the county party, the immediate past chairperson, and such appointees the chairperson shall ask to serve. Voting members of the Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers of the county party plus the immediate past chairperson.

Section 2 - Executive Board Chairperson: The chairperson of the Democratic Party of Rock County shall be the Executive Board chairperson. In the absence of the chairperson, the deputy chairperson shall serve as the Executive Board Chairperson.

Section 3 - Immediate Past Chairperson: The immediate past chairperson merits the title Chair Emeritus and shall provide necessary information and advice to the current chairperson.

Section 4 - Meetings: The Executive Board shall meet regularly between regular county party meetings. In the event a decision needs to be rendered prior to the next regular county party meeting, the chairperson shall call a meeting of the Executive Board. Any action on urgent matters that may be taken at a meeting of the Executive Board may also be taken without a physical meeting and voted on by email.

Section 5 - Duties and Responsibilities: The Executive Board shall have the power to continue routine party business and authorize small expenditures. When a decision must be made on an important matter or expenditure before the next regular county party meeting, the Executive Board shall have the power to do so. The Executive Board shall be responsible for other duties so directed by motions passed by the general membership. The Executive Board shall report its decisions and actions to the general membership at the regular county party meeting immediately following said decisions or actions.

Section 6 - Vacancies: If a vacancy other than the chairperson occurs, the vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the term by appointment by the chairperson.

Article VII - Dues and Finance

Section 1 - Dues: Membership dues shall be determined by the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

Section 2 - Division of Dues: A portion of the membership dues received by the Democratic Party of Rock County, as determined by the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, shall be sent to the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. That portion of the membership dues remaining within the Democratic Party of Rock County may be used as the county party determines.

Section 3 - Additional Funding: Additional funding for the Democratic Party of Rock County may be solicited or earned from sources other than membership dues.

Article VIII - Meetings

Section 1 - Parliamentary Authority: The latest edition of "Robert's Rules of Order" shall be the parliamentary authority for all meetings of the Democratic Party of Rock County on all questions not covered by this constitution.

Section 2 - Monthly Meetings: Unless otherwise ordered by the Executive Board, regular meetings shall be held once per month on a day agreed upon by the members. Written or email notice of regular meetings shall be sent to the county party members and Rock County media before each meeting.

Section 3 - Lapse in Meetings: If three (3) months elapse without a meeting of the Democratic Party of Rock County, twenty percent (20%) of the county membership may petition the chairperson of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, who shall call a meeting of the Democratic Party of Rock County giving ten (10) days written or email notice.

Section 4 - Annual Meeting for Election of Officers: The annual meeting for the purpose of election of officers shall be held not earlier than November 1 and no later than December 31. At least ten (10) days written or email notice of such election must be given. Only members shall be eligible to vote. In the event the chairperson shall fail to call such an election meeting within the period specified herein, the chairperson of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin shall be authorized to call such an election meeting as soon as practicable.

Section 5 - Special Meetings: Special meetings may be called by the chairperson, the Executive Board, or upon request of any eight (8) county party members. Written or email notice of a special meeting shall be sent at least ten (10) days before such a meeting and shall contain a notice of the purpose of such meeting.

Section 6 - Quorum: Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum. A quorum shall be required for the official business to be conducted, but informal meetings may be held.

Article IX - Endorsements

The Democratic Party of Rock County shall neither endorse nor support any candidate for any elective office in a primary election unless the Democratic Party of Rock County recommends an endorsement because of extraordinary circumstances to the Administrative Committee of the Democratic Party of the Wisconsin and the Administrative Committee approves said recommendation.

Article X - Amendments

Section 1 - Proposed Amendments: Any proposed amendments to this constitution must be read at one regular meeting and referred to the Executive Board for its recommendations. Copies of the proposed amendments and the Executive Board recommendations shall be available at least ten (10) days before it is to be voted upon at the regular meeting. Electronic posting to the Democratic Party of the Rock County's website and email notice to the current general membership electronic email address list at least ten (10) days before it is to be voted upon shall be deemed to meet the copy requirement.

Section 2 - When Amending: This constitution shall be amended only at a regularly called general membership meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present and voting, providing there is a quorum.

Section 3 - Democratic Party of Wisconsin Approval: This constitution and all amendments shall be sent to the Democratic Party of Wisconsin for approval before coming effective.

Article XI - Constitutional Preference

Section 1 - Applicable Document: This constitution shall supersede any previous constitution, by-laws, or rules adopted by the Democratic Party of Rock County.

Section 2 - Conflicts: If and when this constitution is in conflict with the constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, the latter shall prevail.

April 28, 1988, Adopted at Beloit College,

October 26, 2011, Amended at Regular Meeting, Union Labor Temple, Janesville.

January 15, 2012, Administrative Committee Approval, Democratic Party of Wisconsin.