

Democratic Party of Ozaukee County

Constitution

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Democratic Party of Ozaukee County (hereinafter called the County Party/Council)

Article II Purpose

It shall be the primary responsibility of the County Party/Council to develop [sic] the fullest possible party membership, 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 to support the broadest possible voter registration without discrimination on grounds of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin, and generally to promote the interest of the Democratic Party in the county.

Article III. Membership

Section One. Any resident of Ozaukee County at least 16 years of age who subscribes to the principles of the Democratic Party [sic] shall be eligible for membership. No application for membership shall be rejected, however, membership may be challenged in accordance with the provisions of Article VI Section 5.

Section Two. Membership shall be accomplished by payment of dues to any unit or office of the Democratic Party. The person immediately becomes a member of the unit in the area where he resides. A member may become an honorary member at a unit in an area other than the one where he resides but he shall have no vote nor hold office in such unit nor be counted in such unit's complement.

Section Three. Every member except full time paid staff is eligible to hold an office in this organization but if at any time a member is delinquent, his office may be vacant and shall be filled by the body which originally elected or appointed him.

Section Four. A member whose dues are not paid by February 1, shall be considered delinquent. A delinquent member is automatically reinstated with all rights and privileges of membership upon payment of dues prior to the end of the calendar year.

Section Five. In no case will dues be accepted after the close of the calendar year for which they are offered.

Section Six. Every member has the right to be heard by the County Party/Council, Executive Board, or any other body or committee of this organization upon due request in accordance with the rules of procedure established by such body.

Article IV. Organization

Section One. The elected offices of the County shall include a Chairperson and one or more Vice-Chairpersons, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Such offices shall be elected for a term of two years. In addition, the County Party may provide for such additional offices.

Section Two. 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 days written notice of said election must be given by the secretary of the County Party to all paid members of record of the notice date and to State Party headquarters. At any such election meeting, only members whose dues are paid for the year in which the election is held will be eligible to vote. The membership list shall be used as the registration for the election. In the event the County Chairperson fails to call such an election within the period specified herein, the State Chairperson shall be authorized to call such an election meeting as soon as practicable providing always that the provisions of this section in respect to notice must be observed by the State Chairperson.

Section Three. Persons may be nominated from the floor or by a nominating committee. Nominations must have prior consent of the nominee. Failure to obtain consent shall invalidate the election of the one so nominated. Nominations may be reopened any time by a majority vote.

Section Four. Election of a County Party/Council officer shall require a majority of those members present and voting. If two or more candidates are nominated for an office, election shall be held by secret ballot. Votes shall be tallied by a committee including one representative chosen by each candidate for the office in question. In case of dispute, objection raised or appealed to the Administrative Committee must properly [sic] made at the meeting at which the violation occurs and a written protest must be submitted to the Administrative Committee within ten days after the election. Such officer must be [sic] paid party member prior to this election.

Section Five. The Chairperson shall be the presiding officer and shall act as administrative head of the organization. He [sic] shall have the power to appoint a Special Project Chairperson and Special Committee Chairperson with the consent of the Executive Committee. Such special project and committee chairpersons shall serve until the project is completed or [sic] the county term of office expires.

Section Six. The Vice-Chairperson of Ways and Means shall be responsible for the executive direction of the County Party/Council in the Chairperson's absence or incapacitation, and for presiding at those meetings at which the Chairperson would normally preside.

Section Seven. The Secretary shall maintain records of the organization and the office meeting notices.

Section Eight. 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 up to but not exceeding \$25 only in accordance with the direction of either the Executive Committee [*sic*] or a majority vote of the members present and voting at a legally called membership meeting. The Treasurer will prepare such financial statements as required and forward them to the proper county or state officials. Besides the customary duties of the Treasurer, the Treasurer will 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 any time during the duration of the Treasurer's yearly term of office.

Article V. Executive Board

Section One. The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers of the County Party, all unit Chairpersons, the immediate past County Chairperson (two year term upon provision of membership status maintained during said time), the statutory Committee Chairperson, and any member of the State Administrative Committee who resides in Ozaukee County. No person shall hold two positions on the Executive Board at one time. Should by the adoption of the amendment any one is holding two Executive Board positions, he must resign one position within fifteen days. In the event the seat vacated is that of Chairperson (Statutory or Unit) his Vice-Chairperson shall take his seat and serve his term of office. No holder of public office shall be on the Executive Board.

Section Two. The Chairperson of the County Party shall be the Chairperson of the Executive Board.

Section Three. The Executive Board shall meet monthly between regular County Party Council meetings.

Section Four. The Executive Board shall establish and implement all programs and operating procedures and policies of this organization in accordance with this constitution.

Section Five. The Executive Board shall be responsible for a County Staff and headquarters which will coordinate the activities of the segments of this organization.

Section Six. The Executive Board shall approve or reject all appointments made by the County Chairperson. It shall have the authority to appoint when the County [*sic*] Chairperson does not act within a reasonable period of time.

Section Seven. The Executive Board shall charter units and shall have the authority revoke a unit's charter for cause.

Article VI. County Council

Section One. The County Council shall be composed of all duly elected delagates [sic] and alternates from the units and of all members of the County Executive Board. Unit Delegates shall be determined in the following manner:

- (a) One delegate for every ten members of major faction [sic] thereof.
- (b) One delegate for every five hundred votes received by the most recent Democratic gubernatorial nominee in the unit electoral [sic] district.
- (c) All duly qualified committeemen.
- (d) Each unit is authorized to elect alternates who shall serve in the absence of the above delegates.
- (e) Delegate representation shall be revised upward at any time and shall be revised downward only as of April 1 of each year in accordance with this section.

Section Two. The County Council shall have the power to review all matters of policy and as such, shall ratify or reject all actions and appointments of the Executive Board and the County Chairperson.

Section Three. The County Council shall permanently elect the ~~The~~ [sic] County Council officers and fill vacancies in these offices.

Section Four. The County Council shall meet monthly.

Section Five. Any paid up member of this organization may file a challenge in writing with the Executive Board alleging that a member has disavowed this Constitution or the principles of this organization. The Executive Board is empowered to determine the merits of the charges and after a hearing, upon reasonable notice to the person charged, shall expel, censure or reject the charges. If the Executive Board recommends expulsion, the findings will be forwarded to State Headquarters of the Democratic Party for final determination.

Article VII. Dues and Finance

Section One. Membership dues shall be determined by the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin for any calendar year, January 1 to December 31.

Section Two. A portion of the annual dues as set by the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin shall be sent to the State Party Treasurer. The portion of membership dues remaining within the county will be used on a percentage basis between county and chartered units.

Section Three. Funds for the County Party treasury may be solicited from sources other than membership dues.

Section Four. All expenses for all committees must be approved and paid for by the county organization. Any funds raised by any committee must be turned into the County Treasury.

Article VIII. Meetings

Section One. [sic] Each body of this organization [sic] shall establish its own regular meeting [sic] dates.

Section Two. Special meetings of the County Party/Council and of the Executive Board may be called by the County Chairman or by either body while in session.

Section Three. Upon written request to the Secretary by twenty-five percent of the members of the Executive Board indicating the reason for a meeting, the Secretary shall call a special meeting and shall send out notice of such meeting within three days after receipt of the request.

Section Four. Upon written request to the secretary by ten percent of the members of the County Council/Party indicating the reason for a meeting, the Secretary shall call a special meeting and shall send out notice of the meeting within three days after receipt of the request.

Section Five. Notice of all regular meetings [sic] County Council/Party and of the Executive Board must be given at least five days prior to the date of the meeting. Notice of all special meetings of the County Council/Party and the Executive Board must be given at least five days and not more than ten days prior to the date of the special meeting.

Section Six. Ten percent of the paid members shall constitute a quorum.

Section Seven. All public meetings of the Ozaukee County/Council Democratic Party will be open to all members of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin regardless of race, color, creed, sex, or national origin.

Section Eight. Roberts Rules of Order, Revised shall be the parliamentary authority for the organization except as it may conflict with this Constitution.

Article IX. Endorsement

The Democratic Party of Ozaukee County shall not endorse or support any candidate for any elective office in any primary election.

Article X. Constitution Precedence

Section One. This Constitution of the Ozaukee County Democratic Party amended on February 13, 1975, shall supersede any previously published Constitution of the Democratic Party of Ozaukee County.

Section Two. If and when it shall appear that this Constitution is in conflict with the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, the latter shall prevail.

Section Three. In the event of a conflict between the County Constitution and that of a unit, the County Constitution shall take precedence.

Article XI. Amendments

Section One. This Constitution may be amended in the following manner:

- (a) An amendment [sic] shall be introduced in writing to the Executive Board by any member or any unit of this organization.
- (b) The amendment shall be automatically referred by the Executive Board to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.
- (c) The Constitution and By-Laws Committee shall report its findings with a recommendation to the Executive Board at its next regularly scheduled ...

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