

**BY LAWS OF THE
SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1: The name of this organization will be the Sullivan County Democratic Party.

SECTION 2: The purpose of this organization will be to promote the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party and to aid in the election of Democrats and Democratic nominees for public office.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: Eligibility. All residents of Sullivan County, Tennessee, who are registered to vote in this county, are eligible to become members of the Sullivan County Democratic Party and all those members of the Sullivan County Young Democrats under the age of 18 years will be non-voting associate members.

SECTION 2: Nondiscrimination. Membership in the Sullivan County Democratic Party will not be denied because of race, color, sex, religion, age, disability or ethnic origin.

**ARTICLE III.
POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

SECTION 1: Governance. The governance and direction of the affairs of the Sullivan County Democratic Party will be vested in the Sullivan County Democratic Executive Committee (the "Executive Committee") and in officers of the Sullivan County Democratic Party, as hereinafter set forth in these bylaws, subject to the laws of the state of Tennessee and such rules as may be established by the Tennessee State Democratic Executive Committee.

SECTION 2: Party Responsibilities. The Sullivan County Democratic Party will have the following responsibilities:

- a) Planning and conducting all county meetings and conventions.
- b) Keeping and maintaining records of all Democratic Party meetings and business.
- c) Supporting the duly selected nominees of the Democratic Party.

ARTICLE IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1: Membership. The Executive Committee will be comprised of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and eight individuals, who will be elected at-large, but representation should be balanced by gender and reside in different parts of Sullivan County if possible. All members of the Executive Committee must be members of the Democratic Party, as defined in Article VI, who resides in Sullivan County.

SECTION 2: Manner of Election. The Executive Committee members will be elected at a County Convention called for the purpose of electing Executive Committee members at a date determined by the State Democratic Executive Committee.

SECTION 3: Resignations. The resignation of any member of the Executive Committee will be made in writing and will take effect at the time specified therein, or if no time is specified, then it will take effect upon receipt of such resignation by the Chair or Secretary.

SECTION 4: Vacancies. A vacancy will be filled by nomination from the membership. Any vacancies occurring in the Executive Committee may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Executive Committee members present at any regular meeting, even though less than a quorum of the Executive Committee exists. Any new member of the Committee must reside in Sullivan County and meet the requirements of these bylaws.

SECTION 5: Attendance. An Executive Committee member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee, without an excuse satisfactory, as prescribed in Section 7, to the majority of the members of the Executive Committee in attendance, may be removed from the position and the position will be declared vacant.

SECTION 6: Manner of Acting. The act of a majority of the Executive Committee members present will be the act of the Executive Committee, unless a greater number be required by law or by these bylaws.

SECTION 7: Sanctions or Expulsion

- a) Notice and Opportunity to be heard. The Executive Committee may vote to impose sanctions on, or expel a member, but only if written notice is given that the issue will be taken up at the meeting prior to the meeting on which such action is voted. The member in question must be given written notice, and an opportunity to be heard.
- b) Automatic Expulsion. A member of the Executive Committee will automatic forfeit his/her membership in said committee (and the position will be declared vacant) for the following reasons:
 - i. In the event he/she qualifies for political office as an Independent or representing any political party other than Democratic Party and opposes a duly qualified Democratic nominee.
 - ii. If he/she has four (4) unexcused absences during a term. An absence is excused if notice is given to the Chair or the Secretary prior to the start of the meeting and the reason for the absence is one of the following:
 1. Illness;
 2. Family illness or death;
 3. Business; or out of town
- c) Discretionary Sanctions or Expulsions. A member may be expelled in the discretion of the Executive Committee if a pattern of non-attendance is established, even if such absences are excused. Sanctions may be imposed against a member, or he/she may be expelled in the discretion of the Executive Committee, for demonstrating disloyalty to the Democratic Party, either in the form of a public announcement of support of a candidate of another party in a pending election, or by working for or giving financial support to any such candidate running against a duly nominated candidate of the Democratic Party. The Executive Committee will not impose discretionary sanctions or expel a member, unless and until such a member is given an opportunity to be heard and three-fourths (3/4) of the membership present and voting concur in a discretionary sanction or expulsion.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

SECTION 1: General. All meetings of the Sullivan County Democratic Party or of the Executive Committee will be publicized prior to the date of the meeting. Officers and members of the Executive Committee, or any committee, may participate in a meeting of the Executive Committee, or any committee, by means of conference telephone or similar

communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other, and such participation in a meeting shall constitute presence in person at the meeting. All meetings will be held at convenient times and locations, and will be open to the general public and media representatives (except where legal counsel otherwise indicated based upon a legal need for a closed meeting).

SECTION 2: Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee will be held on the third Thursday of each month (other than December) at 7:00 p.m., or when called by the Chair or by one-third (1/3) of the Executive Committee members.

SECTION 3: Special Meetings. If more than sixty (60) days have passed since the last previous meeting, and if the Chairperson has not called a meeting, any two (2) members may call a meeting by notifying all members at least seven (7) days prior to such a meeting. If fewer than sixty (60) days have passed since the last previous meeting, five (5) members may call a special meeting provided seven (7) days prior notice is given by mail to the membership. Any notification of a meeting must include time and location.

SECTION 4: Quorum. Thirty percent (30%) of the members of the Executive Committee will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the Executive Committee. If less than a quorum is present at a meeting of the Executive Committee, a majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting.

SECTION 5: Convention Meeting. A regular meeting of the Executive Committee will be held without other notice than this bylaw immediately after, and at the same place as, the convention.

ARTICLE VI CONVENTION

SECTION 1: Biennial Reorganization Convention:

- a) A Biennial Reorganization Convention of the membership of the Sullivan County Democratic Party will be held at the time and date specified by the Tennessee Democratic Party. The purpose of the Reorganization Convention is to elect Officers and adopt the County Bylaws as prescribed by the Tennessee Democratic Party.
- b) The Reorganization Convention will have ultimate authority and absolute power over all affairs of the County Party pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws.
- c) All members of the Sullivan County Democratic Party who are registered voters in the county, and who attest they are bona fide Democrats by execution of affidavits or affirmations to that effect, are eligible to be Voting Delegates at the Reorganization Convention and to be candidates for the Executive Committee and vote.
- d) The number of properly authorized Voting Delegates in attendance at the Convention will constitute a quorum.

SECTION 2: Preparation for the Reorganization Convention:

- a) Prior to the calling of the Biennial Convention, the Chair, in cooperation with the Executive Committee will appoint the following committees:
 - i. Credentials and Rules Committee: Committee to present rules for approval to be used in conducting the Reorganization Convention and to settle grievances.
 - ii. Bylaws Committee: Committee to review the Bylaws and recommend changes and adoption at the Reorganization.

SECTION 3: Holding Reorganization Convention. The provisions for the holding of the Biennial County Reorganization Convention will be as follows:

- a) The Reorganization Convention will be publicized in the local news media. At least 14 days prior notice must be given.
- b) All members of the Sullivan County Democratic Party who are registered voters, and who attest they are bona fide Democrats by execution of affidavits or affirmations to that effect, are eligible to vote at the convention and to be candidates for the Executive Committee and vote.
- c) The Chairperson, prior to voting, will appoint an adequate number of credentials committee members to assure that only bona-fide Democrats are present for the voting process. The Secretary or duly appointed representative will verify the affirmations of all attendees.
- d) Proxy voting is prohibited. Only bona fide Democrats in attendance at the Reorganization Convention will be permitted to vote.
- e) The Reorganization Convention will be called to order by the incumbent Chair of the Sullivan County Democratic Executive Committee. After the nominations cease, the ballot is closed and the elections will commence.
- f) Separate elections will be held for Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The at-large members will be elected in twos, with a man and a woman if possible. A plurality will prevail for each election. In the case of a tie, a runoff between those tied will be held to decide the winner.
- g) The Reorganization Convention will then adjourn, as its business has been completed.

ARTICLE VII. SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY OFFICES

SECTION 1: Prior to December 15th, in the event one or more candidates have expressed their intention to seek the Democratic Party's nomination for a county office, the Democratic County Committee in a meeting called for the specific purpose, will determine whether there will be a party primary, a party convention or a caucus to decide contest in question.

SECTION 2: When a party primary is not held, a county Democratic convention or caucus will be held in time to place the nominated candidates on the election ballot.

SECTION 3: At such county convention, each precinct will be entitled to the official representation as follows:

One delegated voting member and one alternate delegated voting member for each twenty-five (25) votes cast in that precinct for the Democratic nominee for President in the preceding presidential election. The names of the member delegates and alternate will be certified to the credentials committee and any individual so chosen found not to be in good standing, as defined herein will be stricken and such vacancy will be filled by next succeeding alternate member. The Executive Committee will determine the number of votes to which each precinct is entitled from the official results of the Presidential election provided by the Sullivan County Election Commission.

SECTION 4: The Executive Committee may decide by a quorum vote to forego primary elections in favor of a nomination caucus. The purpose of such caucus shall be to establish nominees representing the Democratic Party for county-wide constitutional offices. The rules governing such caucuses are as follows:

- a) The Executive Committee, including officers of the Sullivan County Democratic Party , shall be the sole nominating authority in such caucus.
- b) The nomination of each candidate for office shall be determined by a majority vote of a quorum of members present at such caucus of the Sullivan County Democratic Party Executive Committee and officers.
- c) Each candidate for nomination shall affirm in writing their loyalty to the Democratic Party.
- d) Each candidate for nomination shall be interviewed by The Executive Committee and party officers for the purpose of establishing that person’s qualifications, party loyalty and ethical fitness to serve in the office that he/she seeks.

SECTION 5: Except as provided in this Section, the Chairman of the Executive Committee shall not support nor campaign for any Democrat seeking the nomination of the Democratic Party for a local, state, or national office until such Democrat becomes the official nominee. Other Officers and Committee Members, as individuals, may, and are encouraged, to support Democratic candidates of their choice in a Democratic Primary. Before any primary election, the Executive Committee may permit the Chairman to support a candidate in that primary election. In order to participate in a Presidential Primary, each person must, including any Member of the Executive Committee, to declare his or her support for a candidate.

SECTION 6: Members of the County Executive Committee who will not or cannot support the nominee of the Democratic Party, county, state or national, must resign their office.

SECTION 7: Any member of the County Executive Committee who is requested to resign will have the, right to appeal as specified in Article IV, Section 7.

SECTION 8: The use of proxies at any meeting of the Democratic Party of Sullivan County, Tennessee, is forbidden.

SECTION 9: All petitions seeking nomination for political office from the Sullivan County Democratic Party are required to be members of said party as defined by these bylaws and will be subject to challenge.

SECTION 10: If it is impossible under these bylaws to select a candidate by primary or convention, a candidate can be chosen by any other method adopted by 51 % of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII.

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, will govern this organization in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the and any specials rules of order which may be adopted.

ARTICLE IX.

The constitution and bylaws governing the organization and administration of the Democratic Party of Sullivan County will be subject to amendment at any meeting of the county committee by a majority of all twelve members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X. COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: Committees Appointed by Chairman. The Chairman may establish committees, to be composed solely of Executive Committee members or partly Executive Committee members and partly others, as is deemed appropriate.

SECTION 2: Term of Office. Each member of a committee will serve at the pleasure of the person or entity creating the committee, but no longer than until the next convention or until the committee is terminated.

SECTION 3: Removal of any Member of the Committee. Any member of any committee may be removed by the person or persons authorized to appoint such member whenever, in their judgment, the best interest of the Party will be served by that removal.

ARTICLE XI. BUSINESS AT MEETINGS

The regular order of business at Executive Committee meetings may, subject to the discretion of the Chairman, be as follows:

- a. Call to Order
- b. Reading and approval of the minutes of previous meeting
- c. Treasurer's report
- d. Reports of committees
- e. Resolutions
- f. Unfinished business
- g. New business
- h. Elections (if necessary)
- i. Announcements
- j. Adjournment

ARTICLE XII. CONTRACTS AND EXPENDITURES

SECTION I: Contracts: Expenditures. No, expenditures or bills will be made or contracts entered into which purport to obligate the Executive Committee unless such expenditures or contracts are authorized by a majority vote of those present at a duly called meeting at which a quorum is present except those expenditures for less than one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00), obligating the Executive Committee may be authorized by the chair of the Executive Committee. The treasurer will present a monthly itemized statement of income and expenditures to Executive Committee members.

ARTICLE XIII. RULES

The Sullivan County Democratic Party is a constituent party of the Tennessee Democratic Party. The Sullivan County Democratic Executive Committee is an organization created by the State Democratic Executive Committee, with the State Democratic Executive Committee having full authority in all matters over the Sullivan County Democratic Executive Committee. Any conflict between the county bylaws and the bylaws of the Tennessee Democratic Party, the bylaws of the Tennessee Democratic Party bylaws prevail.

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