

RULES

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

OF KENT COUNTY

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**RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OF KENT COUNTY**

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party is and always has been the party of the people; and
WHEREAS, it is the belief of the Democratic Party of Kent County that this party should be open to all interested persons so as to allow for meaningful participation by all of its members;

WHEREFORE, the following standards, previously adopted by the Democratic Party of Kent County, are adopted as a part of these Rules.

A. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party are open to all members of the Democratic Party of Kent County regardless of race, gender, age, color, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, physical disability, economic status or philosophical persuasion. Any person regardless of race, gender, age, color national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, physical disability, economic status or philosophical persuasion who is a registered Democrat and supports the purposes of the Democratic Party may participate fully in any party meeting and shall be elected to any party office in accordance with applicable party rules and statutes.

B. No test of membership, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Democratic Party of Kent County shall be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, age, color, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, physical disability or economic status.

C. The time and place for all public meetings of the Democratic Party of Kent County on all levels should be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings must be held in places accessible to all party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.

D. The Democratic Party, on all levels, shall support the broadest possible registration without discrimination on grounds of race, gender, age, color, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, physical disability, economic status or philosophical persuasion.

E. The Democratic Party of Kent County shall publicize fully and in such manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of these procedures shall be done in such fashion that all prospective and current members of the Democratic Party of Kent County will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedures at all levels of the Democratic Party organization.

F. The Democratic Party of Kent County shall publicize fully and in such manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications for all officers and representatives of the Delaware Democratic Party. Such publication shall be done in timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within Kent County will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.

RULES

1.0. Name, Purpose and Membership.

1.1 Name. The organization shall be known as the Democratic Party of Kent County. Membership shall be open to all registered Democrats of Kent County.

1.2 Quorum. No less than a simple majority of any party body shall constitute a quorum for any business.

1.3 Affirmative Action and Delegate Selection Plan. To further the goals of the Preamble and the delegate selection rules of the Democratic National Committee, the most current affirmative action and delegate selection plan adopted by the Delaware Democratic State Committee is hereby declared as Rule 1.3 of these Rules.

1.4 No Proxies. No voting by proxy shall be permitted at any Kent County Convention, any caucus or committee thereof, or any meeting of the Kent County Executive Committee.

2.0. Party Organization and Structure for Kent County

2.1 Organization of Kent County Committee

A. The Democrat Party of Kent County shall be organized on the basis of a County Committee and District Committees.

B. The County shall have an executive committee which consists of the County Officers and the district chairs of each Representative District in the County.

C. These rules shall govern the operation of the County committee and the structure of the District committees.

D. The Kent County organization shall consist of a County Chair, two Vice Chairs (gender balanced), a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

E. The Democratic Party of Kent County Executive Committee shall meet at least nine times per year. The dates and places of said meetings shall be announced to all members of the Democratic Party of Kent County Executive Committee and shall be provided on request to any registered Democrat. A meeting may be called upon the request of the County Chair.

F. The Democratic Party of Kent County shall have a Convention not less than 60 days prior to the State Convention.

2.2 Removal. Members and officers of the County Committee may be removed for due cause by a majority vote of the County committee, after a hearing before said committee. These rules provide for an appeal to the state Democratic committee or other authorized committee of the State Democratic Committee.

2.3 District Committees. The fundamental organization of the Democratic Party of Kent County shall be based on the Representative Districts established by the State Legislature.

A. District Committee. Each district shall have a District Committee.

B. Organization and Election.

1. Local Rules. Each district committee shall be organized and its members shall be elected in accordance with these rules.

2. Rules. Each District shall promulgate rules by vote of the members of its district committees for the governance of the Democratic Party within its jurisdiction; provided, however, that such rules are not contrary to the provisions contained herein. Within thirty days after adoption or amendment of such rules, the subdivision chair shall cause a copy of the same, reflecting any amendments, to be distributed to every member of such District committees, to the County Chair, and subsequently, to any registered Democrat in said District on request.

C. Finances. The rules of the District shall provide procedures for the management of the funds of the district committees and for financial reports to the district committees. All financial records of a district committee shall be available for inspection by any district committee member in said subdivision, region or district, and the County Chair.

D. Terms. The rules of each subdivision shall provide that in any year after the enactment of these rules, each member of a district committee shall be selected in the first four months of the year after a presidential election for a term of four years.

E. Residence; Party Activity. Except in the case of vacancies, members of the local committee shall be registered Democrats in the election district in which they reside and which they will represent, and shall not have been registered members of any other political party for one year prior to their election.

F. Vacancies. Vacancies in a district committee shall be filled with persons meeting the requirements of these rules by a majority of the members of the committee; provided, however, that such persons need not reside in the election district which they shall represent but must be registered Democrats in the representative district which they shall represent.

G. Vacancy in Office of the District Chair. The Vice Chair shall become acting Chair when the Chair is unable or unwilling to perform those duties. If the Chair is unable to complete his or her term of office, the Vice Chair shall succeed to the office of Chair.

H. Officers of District Committees. At its first meeting after the election of committee members, each District Committee shall elect a chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer, which officers shall be registered Democrats and residents of the district. Said election of election district committee persons and Representative district officers shall be no later than ninety (90) days before the State Democratic Convention. The district chair shall represent his or her district on the Democratic Party of Kent County Executive Committee and shall have a full vote in all matters pertaining to the District Committee.

I. Endorsement of Delegates by Committee Prohibited. The State Committee, and the respective committees of any political subdivisions, including the Representative or other District Committees, shall not propose or endorse any candidate for delegate or alternate to the State Convention.

Each chair shall, immediately following the meeting at which the district officers are elected and thereafter whenever requested by the County Chair, provide the County Chair a list of the names and addresses of the members and officers of the District Committee, and shall promptly inform the County Chair of any changes in that list. The names and addresses of all delegates and alternates to the State Convention shall be provided on request by the County Chair. Once the list is submitted there shall be no changes permitted.

J. Block Leaders. Any member or officer of the district committee may at any time propose the appointment of block leaders to assist in registration drives and voting drives. The committee shall approve the block leaders by a majority vote.

K. Meetings. The District Committee shall meet at least nine times per year. The dates and places of said meetings shall be announced to all members of the District Committee and shall be provided on request to any registered Democrat. A meeting may be called upon the request of the District Chair.

L. Removal. Members and officers may be removed for due cause by a majority vote of the local committee, after a hearing before said committee. The rules of a subdivision may provide for an appeal to the executive committee or other authorized committee of such subdivision.

M. Associate Members. Members of the District Committees may at any time after the election of officers propose associate members who shall meet the requirements of these rules for members. The committee shall approve membership by a majority vote.

2.3.1. Delegates and Alternates to the State Democratic Convention.

A. Qualifications. Each delegate and alternate to the State Convention shall be elected by the committee members of each Representative District who are elected in the year after a Presidential election, in the manner provided for in the rules of each District. The subdivision chairs shall certify in writing to the State Chair the names, addresses and districts of the delegates and alternates of each Representative District in their District by April 15 of such year. Delegates and alternates shall have been registered Democrats in Kent County for at least six months prior to their election and residents of the State Representative Districts which they represent; except that any person who was ineligible to register within the previous six months because of age may be a delegate or alternate if said person is a registered Democrat having so registered in Kent County at least 30 days prior to said convention.

B. Alternates. Alternates shall succeed to the status of voting delegates in the order of votes received by such alternates in the delegate primary. The alternate receiving the highest primary vote shall be designated as first alternate; the alternate receiving the second highest primary vote shall be designated second alternate, and so forth. In districts in which no delegate primary is held, designation of the order of succession of alternates shall be determined by the Representative District Committee Chair prior to the convening of the State Convention. Alternates shall succeed to the status of delegates in the absence or incapacity of delegates.

C. Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy caused by the absence or incapacity of the delegate and all alternates in any representative district, the designation of a delegate and alternate shall be determined by the Representative District Committee, if possible prior to the convening of the State Convention.

D. No Unit Rule. Each delegate (or alternate if voting) may cast his or her own vote and shall not be bound to cast a vote in accordance with the majority decision of the Representative or Convention District of which he or she is a member.

3.0 Filing For County and District Offices

A. Filing Fee. Filing fees for candidates for District, County or Countywide office and members of the General Assembly shall be set by the County Executive Committee, subject to the statutes of the State of Delaware.

B. Payment. Each person, before filing his or her name as a candidate, shall pay the amount of the filing fee to the Treasurer of the County Committee.

C. Withdrawal of Candidates. In the event a candidate wishes to withdraw before the primary, he /she may do so as provided by law or as approved by the Chairman of the County Committee.

D. Filling Vacancies. In the case of death, resignation, or removal of any candidate subsequent to a nomination, the County Committee, if there be no law of the State governing same, shall select someone to fill the vacancy for the office who shall be subject to all the rules and regulations of the Party as a regular filed candidate.

E. Endorsement and Use of Funds in a Primary Election. The County and District Committees may endorse candidates and make expenditures on their behalf in primary elections.

4.0 Grievance

A. A grievance procedure is hereby established to resolve any disputes arising under the Rules of the County Committee. Any member of the Kent County Democratic Party may file a grievance in writing, with the County Chair within ten (10) days of the occurrence of the aggrieved event.

B. The Grievance Committee will be a 3-member Committee comprised of the County Parliamentarian, and two (2) individuals elected at the County Convention for terms lasting through Presidential election cycles. The Grievance Committee must convene within 7 calendar days of receipt of a grievance by the State Chair. After a hearing on that day, the Committee shall tender a written decision to the complaining individual within 30 days of the receipt of notice, except that the State Chair may set an earlier deadline if reasonably possible and necessary to address the grievance. Any decision of the Grievance Committee is final, and not subject to appeal, as to any Committee decisions regarding matters of County Party political business, organization of the County Party, or any other matters falling within the purview of these Rules.

5.0. Kent County Convention.

5.1 Powers of the Kent County Convention. The supreme power of the Democratic Party of Kent County is vested in the County Convention of delegates.

5.2 Composition of the Kent County Convention.

A. The County shall be divided into Representative Districts.

B. At the Kent County Convention, each Representative District Officer and each Election District Committee person of each Representative district in Kent County shall be a voting delegate.

C. The County Convention shall be held not less than 60 days prior to the State Convention.

D. At the Convention the delegates shall elect by majority vote of those present a County Chair, 2 Vice Chairs (gender balanced), a Treasurer, and a Secretary.

E. The County Chair shall appoint a judge to oversee the election of officers. Once a Chair is elected he shall take over the balance of the election with the judge providing rulings on nominations and voting.

F. At the convention, the County Treasurer shall present the Democratic Party of Kent County treasurer's report as of that date, prior to the election of the new County Treasurer.

G. At the convention the delegates shall elect representatives to the State Democratic Executive Committee.

H. The State Chair shall notify the Kent County chair in writing of the number of delegates and alternates allotted to each Representative District for the State Convention. The County chair shall in turn likewise notify his or her district chairs, prior to district elections.

5.3 Order of Business. The County Convention shall be chaired by the incumbent County Chair, until his or her successor is elected. The order of business shall be:

(1) Call to order by the County Chair.

- (2) Convention called to order.
- (3) Recess for District Caucus, if necessary.
- (4) Nomination and election of Kent County Chair.
- (5) Assumption of duties by newly-elected County Chair.
- (6) Report of the Treasurer.
- (7) Election of Vice-Chairs, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- (8) Election of at-large representative to the State Democratic Executive Committee.
- (9) Miscellaneous business.
- (10) Adjournment to reconvene at the call of the Kent County Executive Committee.

6.0. Democratic Party of Kent County Executive Committee.

6.1 General. The direction and general management of the Democratic Party of Kent County shall be vested in a committee to be known as the Kent County Democratic Executive Committee, the officers of which shall be elected at the Kent County Democratic Convention.

6.2 Composition of the Democratic Party of Kent County Executive Committee.

A. The Committee shall consist of:

1. The County Chair.
2. County Vice-Chairs.
3. ~~County Treasurer~~
4. County Secretary;
5. The District Chairs of each Representative District.
6. At Large Representative to the State Democratic Executive Committee.

*Vacancies among the District representatives shall be filled pursuant to the rules of the District.

6.3 Standing Committees.

A. Finance Committee. There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of the County Treasurer, who shall serve as Chair, the treasurer of each subdivision (or region if a subdivision has elected to subdivide itself), and two members appointed by the State Chair.

B. Candidate Support Committee. There shall be a Candidate Support Committee consisting of persons who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the State Chair, to recruit, support and train candidates.

C. County Grievance Committee. There shall be a County Grievance Committee as established for the purposes under Rule 4.0.

C. Other Committees. The County Chair may appoint additional committees at his or her discretion.

6.4 Duties of Officers of the County Committee.

A. Chair. The Chair of the Democratic Party of Kent County shall preside at all meetings of the committee, preside at all Kent County conventions and special conventions, serve as ex-officio member of all committees of the State Committee and have and exercise the usual powers and duties of Chairman or Chairwoman.

B. Vice Chairs: Vacancy in Office of the Democratic Party of Kent County Chair. The Vice Chair of the opposite gender of the Chair shall become acting Chair when the Chair is unable or unwilling to perform those duties. If the Chair is unable to complete his or her term of office, the Vice

Chair of the opposite gender shall succeed to the office of Chair, with the remaining Chair serving as an alternate.

C. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a complete and permanent record of all the acts and proceedings of the Democratic Party of Kent County and any Convention. Such records shall be maintained by the County Chair and shall be open for inspection by any registered Democrat.

D. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall keep records of all income and expenses of the Democratic Party of Kent County, and shall report such finances to each regular meeting of the Democratic Party of Kent County Committee.

6.5 Removal of Officers of the Democratic Party of Kent County. Any officer of the Democratic Party of Kent County may be removed only by a two-thirds vote of the Democratic Party of Kent County Executive Committee at two successive meetings. If an officer, other than the Chair, is removed or resigns or for any reason including incapacity or otherwise, is unable to serve out their term, the Democratic Party of Kent County Executive Committee shall elect a replacement for such officer, who shall serve until the Kent County Convention held under Rule 5.0. If such replacement already holds an office of the County Committee, a replacement shall also be chosen for such office, who shall serve until the County Convention held under Rule 5.0.

7.0. **Candidate Vacancies.**

7.1 Kent County Elections. If after the deadline for an individual to file notification of candidacy for any office that is to be filled by partisan election, other than a statewide office, there is no Democratic candidate for such office, or in the event of the need for a special election for any such office, the candidate for such office shall be named under these rules. If such subdivisions rules provide no procedure for filling such vacancies, the County chair shall call a meeting within the time provided by law for such vacancy to be filled, giving notice to all district committee members who would be entitled to vote for such office at a general election, at which meeting the candidate shall be chosen by a majority vote of the district committee members present. If the voters for such office reside in more than one subdivision, the chair of the subdivision in which the majority of the voters for such office reside shall call a meeting within the time provided by law for such vacancy to be filled, giving notice to all district committee members in each subdivision who would be entitled to vote for such office at a general election, and shall give notice of the meeting to the other subdivision chair, at which meeting the candidate shall be chosen by a majority vote of those district committee members present and voting.

8.0. **Party Procedure.**

8.1 Roberts Rules of Order. When not otherwise stated, Roberts Rules of Order, as most recently revised, shall govern any proceedings of any convention or meeting of the Democratic Party of Kent County.

8.2 Amendment of County Rules. No rule herein contained can be altered or amended except by a three-fourths affirmative vote of all the committee people present.

8.3 Distribution of Rules. Within 30 days after adoption of these Rules or any amendment thereof, the County Chair shall cause a copy of same, as amended, to be distributed to the State Chair, every district chair, to every officer of the Democratic Party of Kent County Executive Committee, and subsequently, to any registered Democrat on request.

8.4 Effective Date of Amendments. Unless stated otherwise in the motion proposing their adoption, amendments to these rules shall become effective immediately upon their adoption at a Kent County Convention.

8.5 Amendment of Affirmative Action and Delegate Selection Plan. Rule 1.3 may be adopted and amended from time to time between State Conventions by majority vote of a quorum of the State Committee.