

# **BYLAWS OF THE SAGINAW COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

**This set of SCDP rules acts as the Bylaws of our organization**

## **ARTICLE I – NAME**

This organization shall be known as the “Saginaw County Democratic Party,” hereafter referred to in these rules as the SCDP.

## **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the philosophy of the Democratic Party and work for the election of Democratic candidates who support that philosophy.

## **ARTICLE III – STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

The rules of the Michigan Democratic Party (MDP) and the provisions of the statutes of the State of Michigan, and all amendments which may thereafter be made to said statutes, are hereby incorporated into these rules.

In the event any of these rules shall be found to be inconsistent with the provisions of said statutes or other applicable laws, the provisions of said statutes shall prevail; and these rules shall be separable so that the invalidity of any portion thereof shall not affect the remainder.

## **ARTICLE IV – FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES**

- Section A** All public meetings of the SCDP at all levels shall be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance or disability.
- Section B** No tests for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the SCDP 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 actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance or disability.
- Section C** The SCDP, on all levels, shall support the broadest possible participation without discrimination on grounds of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, economic status, religion, ethnic identity, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, physical appearance or disability.
- Section D** The SCDP shall publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of SCDP officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of those procedures shall be done in such a fashion that all prospective and current members of the SCDP will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedure in time to participate in each selection procedures at all levels of the SCDP organization.

- Section E** The SCDP shall publicize fully and in such a 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 SCDP. Such publication shall be done in a timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within the SCDP will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.
- Section F** Proportional voting shall be used in the election of delegates and alternates to any Convention, and members of the County Executive Committee. Proportional voting for membership on the County Executive Committee is used when there are competing slates involved.
- Section G** All rules and bylaws of the SCDP at all levels shall be consistent with the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party and shall be available on request in writing to any member of the SCDP.
- Section H** The unit rule is prohibited at all levels of the SCDP. (The unit rule requires all members of a group to individually affirm that they support the vote of the majority of their group in balloting that extends beyond their own group. This requirement forces certain individuals to have their vote used for a purpose which they do not support.)
- Section I** No rule shall be adopted at any level of the SCDP which would require a person to cast a vote or be recorded as voting contrary to that person's judgment.

#### **ARTICLE V – SCDP MEMBERSHIP**

- Section A** The membership of the SCDP shall include any resident of Saginaw County who is a registered MDP member for a minimum of 30 days, and has joined the SCDP by filling out our membership form. Precinct delegates, candidates, and elected officials are exempt from the thirty-day advance MDP membership requirement. However, precinct delegates, candidates, and elected officials must be a member of the MDP in order to vote at any convention, caucus, or meeting of any unit of the MDP at any level. "Elected officials" refers to only county, state, or federal offices. "Candidate" refers to the most recent Democratic nominee for such an office. A current MDP member who is not a resident of Saginaw County may become a member of the SCDP by filling out our membership form, and after 30 days have passed from the time of application, that person shall enjoy all the privileges of membership except serving on the SCDP Executive Committee.
- Section B** All members shall be entitled to participate in the activities of this organization.
- Section C** All rights not specified, reserved, or given to the precinct delegates or officers and executive committee by law or these rules shall be vested in the regular membership.
- Section D** The members of the SCDP shall be the ultimate decision-making body in the SCDP between County Conventions.
- Section E** The members of the SCDP must also be members of the MDP to vote at any SCDP Meeting (per MDP Rules, Article 4B).

## **ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS**

- Section A** The SCDP shall meet on the second Thursday of each month commencing at 7:00 pm, unless otherwise specified by the Chair for a particular meeting. A written notice of pending meeting dates and locations shall be mailed or electronically distributed to each member of record at least quarterly.
- Section B** Special meetings of the SCDP may be called by the County Chair or a written request stating the purpose for such meeting and signed by at least ten regular members in good standing. Five days written notice shall be given notifying the members of the place, time, and purpose of the meeting.
- Section C** A quorum for a meeting of the SCDP shall consist of at least one officer and fifteen other SCDP members.
- Section D** All meetings of the SCDP shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order (latest edition) in all matters not covered by the rules of the MDP or these rules.
- Section E** A roll call of the Executive Committee Members shall be made and recorded in the minutes of each meeting.
- Section F** No secret voting is allowed at any meeting of the Democratic Party.
- Section G** If a vote at a SCDP meeting seems close, the Chair may opt to have a more formal type of vote used. The order of formality is voice vote, show-of-hands vote, and rising vote. Any member may question an announced vote result and move for a more formal vote to be taken and counted. If anyone supports that member by seconding the motion, a more formal vote will be taken.

## **ARTICLE VII – SCDP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- Section A** In each even numbered year within 20 days following the November election, the delegates to the fall County Convention shall convene at the call of the County Chair to select a number of persons equal to the number of candidates for County offices and State Legislative offices, who, together with the candidates shall constitute the Executive Committee for the SCDP.
- Section B** Elected members of the SCDP Executive Committee shall be members in good standing of the SCDP.
- Section C** The members of the SCDP may, by law, vote to expand the membership of the committee.
- Section D** The Executive Committee shall fill a vacancy in any of its offices. The following procedure shall be used once a vacancy has been declared at a regular meeting by the Chair:
- (1) The Chair shall call a meeting of the Executive Committee within thirty (30) days to fill the vacancy.
  - (2) The Secretary shall mail or send an electronic communication notice to all Executive Committee members notifying them of the meeting to fill the vacancy at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII – SCDP OFFICERS**

**Section A** Each even numbered year, within 30 days following the convening of the fall County Convention, the County Executive Committee shall meet to select the SCDP officers for the ensuing two years. The officers shall be elected individually in the order given below as follows:

- (1) County Chair.
- (2) County Vice Chair (Must be of the opposite sex than the Chair)
- (3) County Second Vice Chair (All of the above shall not be of the same race).
- (4) County Secretary
- (5) County Treasurer

**Section B** Four unexcused absences per term of office by any SCDP officer shall be grounds for automatic removal from office.

## **ARTICLE IX – STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Section A** Standing committees of the SCDP shall be as follows:

- (1) Membership
- (2) Events
- (3) Legislative
- (4) Bylaws/Policies
- (5) Communications
- (6) Finance

**Section B** The SCDP Chair may establish ad-hoc committees as needed.

**Section C** The SCDP Chair will appoint members to serve on all committees with the approval of the membership and shall serve as a member Ex-officio of all committees.

**Section D** In even-numbered years (when we elect a president or a governor), the SCDP Chair shall appoint an ad-hoc Resolutions Committee to suggest planks for inclusion in the MDP Platform.

## **ARTICLE X – RESOLUTIONS**

**Section A** Resolutions are to be introduced under new business.

**Section B** Resolutions may be passed with a majority vote, except for resolutions critical of a party member, in which case a two-thirds vote is required for passage.

**Section C** Resolutions critical of a Party member must be submitted in writing to the officers and to the person who is the subject of the resolution fourteen (14) days before the meeting when it is to be introduced.

## **ARTICLE XI – ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- (1) Roll Call of Officers and Executive Committee.
- (2) Approval of agenda.
- (3) Guest Speakers
- (4) Reading and approval of minutes of previous meeting.
- (5) Financial Reports.
- (6) Communications, Announcements, and Introductions
- (7) Committee Reports.
- (8) Unfinished Business.
- (9) New Business.
- (10) Members' Comments
- (11) Adjournment

## **ARTICLE XII – RULES CHANGE PROCEDURES**

**Section A** Upon adoption, a copy of these rules shall be made available to each member of the SCDP and a copy filed with the State of Michigan Democratic Party.

**Section B** The SCDP shall make and maintain a list of party policies. These policies may be modified by a majority vote of the membership at any regular party meeting, provided prior notice is given at the previous meeting and disseminated through the party list serve at least 14 days prior to the regular meeting at which the action is to be taken.

## **ARTICLE XIII – DISSOLUTION**

**Section A** The SCDP may be dissolved in accordance with procedures as specified in Article XII of these rules amending same.

**Section B** In the event of dissolution, the assets of the SCDP after all debts, obligations and liabilities have been paid and discharged, shall be donated to the MDP.

**These rules were last amended at the SCDP's regular membership meeting on June 8, 2017.**