

CARROLL COUNTY, OHIO DEMOCRATIC
Central & Executive Committee

*Constitution
and By-Laws*
Ratified 2/8/2021

Thomas Postlethwait, Chair

Terri Ossler, Vice-Chair

Paula Puch, Secretary

Linda Peoples, Treasurer

Constitution and By-laws of the Carroll County Democratic Party

Preamble

We, the Democrats of Carroll County, one of eighty-eight counties in the great State of Ohio, united in common purpose, hereby rededicate ourselves to the principles which have historically sustained our party. Recognizing that the vitality of the nation's political institutions has been the foundation of its enduring strength, we acknowledge a political party that wishes to lead must listen to those it would lead; a party that asks for the people's trust must prove that it trusts the people it would lead; and a party which hopes to call forth the best our nation can achieve must embody the best of the nation's heritage and traditions.

The Founders of the Democratic Party, set forth the reasons for the creation of this country and expresses the basic tenets of democratic government:

1. That all persons are created equal.
2. That all persons are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. That among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.
3. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among people deriving their just-powers from the consent of the governed.

What we seek for our nation, we hope for all people: Individual freedom in the framework of a just society and political freedom in the framework of meaningful participation by all citizens. Bound by the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and By-Laws of the National and Ohio Democratic Parties, aware that a party must be responsive to be worthy of responsibility, we pledge ourselves to be open, honest, and to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of a society of free people. Under God, for these ends and upon these principles, we do establish and adopt this Constitution and By-Laws of the Democratic Party of Carroll County, Ohio.

Article 1 Name and Organization as prescribed by ORC 3517.01

Section 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be The Carroll County Democratic Central and Executive Committee, more commonly known as the Carroll County Democratic Party. It shall be composed of the Central Committee whose members are elected to represent the Democrats of their precinct, and an Executive Committee to include all Central Committee members, plus elected County Democrat officials and At-large members selected to represent different party constituencies.

Section 2 - Membership

Section 2a: Membership in this party shall be open to all residents of Carroll County in the State of Ohio who support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, and the Constitution, By-laws, and the principles of the Carroll County Democratic Party. No person may be a member or may vote on any motion, resolution, nomination, or election at any caucus, convention, meeting or conference of the Carroll County Democratic Party who does not meet the aforesaid qualifications or who is a member of any other political party at that time.

Section 2b: Any person who meets the membership requirements of Article 1. Section 2, is eligible for the election to party office, except as hereinafter limited. There shall be no minimum age requirement for party office save where prescribed by law.

Section 2c - In the event that any person's qualifications as a member of the Carroll County Democratic Party or eligibility for the party office must be determined, the same challenge procedure shall be followed to determine his or her qualifications as provided by the Election Laws of Ohio.

Section 3 - Party Unity

Section 3a: All members of the party, candidates for office, party officers, party committees and organizations, and elected Democratic officials shall support the principles of the Carroll County Democratic Party.

Section 3b: All members of the party, candidates for office, party officers, party committees, and organizations, and elected Democratic officials shall support the endorsed candidates and issues of the Democratic Party in General Elections.

Section 3c: Any member of the party, candidates for office, party officer, party committee, organization, or elected Democratic official who fails to support (a) and (b) above may be asked to resign from any elected or appointed party position upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Central Committee. Further, said members cannot seek party office for one (1) year from the date of the vote of the Central Committee. Failing the resignation of said member, the Central Committee shall remove him or her from the office upon the affirmative vote of the majority of the members.

Section 4 - Constitution and By-Laws

Nothing herein shall conflict with the Constitution of the United States of America, the laws of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, and the Ohio and National Democratic Party Constitutions and By-Laws. Any matter which conflicts with any of the aforesaid shall be of no force and effect. All constitutional provisions and laws of the United States and the State of Ohio are hereby incorporated by reference and made part hereof. Each clause of this Constitution and By-Laws shall be considered separately and the illegality or unenforceability of any clause shall not affect any other clause.

Article 2: Central Committee as prescribed in ORC 3417.02 and .03

Section 1- All members of the Central Committee shall be elected by a direct vote of the members of the Democratic party in each precinct. Candidates' names shall be placed on the official ballot IN PRIMARY ELECTION under laws established by the Ohio Secretary of State. Persons receiving the highest number of votes in each precinct shall collectively comprise the Carroll County Democratic Central Committee and will serve a four (4) year term.

Section 2. Vacancies in the Central Committee ORC 3517.05
Vacancies in any precinct shall be filled by nominations from the floor by any Central Committee member and a majority vote of the Central Committee. These members must meet the same requirements and fill the remainder of the unexpired elected term.

Section 3: Responsibilities of the Central Committee members

Each Central Committee member has the following responsibilities:

- *vote in every Democratic primary/general election
- *attend Executive Committee meetings
- *recommend poll workers as needed to represent their precinct
- *assist people in their precincts to become regular, informed voters
- *support Democrat candidate campaign activities including phone calls, door to door, yard sign locations and poll watching in their precincts
- *support Democratic party activities, events, and fundraising efforts and candidates
- *be an active and enthusiastic Democrat

Section 4- Arranging the Central Committee as prescribed by the ORC 3517.04

Section 4a: Officers:

i. The committee is led by a Chairperson, a Vice Chair, Secretary, and a Treasurer. Each Officer shall hold the same office in the Executive Committee and be selected at the Organizational Meeting as described in Article 2; Section 4b(i)

ii. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chair, the Central Committee shall meet to choose a successor within thirty (30) days of the existence of such vacancy. In the event of a vacancy in the offices of Treasurer or Secretary, the Chair shall appoint a successor to serve until the next regular or special meeting of the Central Committee at which time the position(s) will be filled by a majority vote of members present at the duly called and convened meeting.

iii. Duties of each Officer:

The Chair- Shall call to order and preside over any meetings of the Central and Executive Committee as provided for by state law and perform all the other duties prescribed by statutes. (ORC 3517.0) The Chair shall direct all operations of the Carroll County Democratic Party and shall report to the committee on party activities at each regular meeting. The Chair shall perform all duties usually exercised by The Chair including but not limited to the appointment of committees as he/she deems necessary to carry on the work of the party.

The Vice-Chair- Shall perform all the duties of the Chair in his/her absence. In the case of death, resignation, or any other reason creating a vacancy in the position of Chair, the Vice-Chair will serve until a replacement is selected. The Vice-Chair is a member of all committees.

The Secretary- Shall keep the official minutes of all meetings and shall send notices to all the members of any special meetings, the next organizational meeting, in addition to all regular meetings. He/she shall keep and be the custodian of all of the permanent books, records, and correspondence, handle the correspondence of the Executive Committee; and as required by law shall file with the office of the Secretary of State of Ohio and the Ohio Democratic Party a copy of the Constitution within 30 days of adoption or amendment; and shall file with the office of the Secretary of State and local Board of Elections a list of members of the Central and Executive Committees and officers with thirty days of their election or appointment and to be aware of appointments and expirations of members' terms ORC 3517.06

Treasurer- Shall receive and deposit all funds: pay bills owed by the Central Committee; file all financial reports required by law. ORC 3517.11

Section 4b- Meetings: In addition to the biennial meeting prescribed by law of the Central Committee, there shall be other meetings of the Central Committee as may be called by The Chair. All meetings are open to the public and no secret ballot shall be cast for any reason. No proxy voting shall be permitted. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all proceedings.

i. Organizational Meeting: The membership-elect of the Carroll County Central Committee shall meet to elect officers and administer the oath of office to duly elected Central Committee members not earlier than six (6) nor later than fifteen (15) days following the date of the certification of the official results of the primary election as determined by the Carroll County Board of Elections. A suitable time, place, and stated purpose is to be named by the immediate Past Chair of the Central Committee and notices shall be sent to each member-elect by the immediate Past Secretary of the Central Committee either by mail or electronic submission at least five (5) days prior to any such meeting. A copy of that notice shall be posted in the Board of Elections office.

Election of Officers of the Central Committee as directed by ORC 3517.04. The meeting shall be called to order by the retiring Chair of the Central Committee, or in the case of absence of the retiring Chair, the retiring Secretary shall call the meeting to order. A temporary Chair and Secretary shall be chosen and the committee shall proceed to organize by the election of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer and such other officers as the rules provide. The Chair and Vice-Chair elected must be of opposite genders.

Procedure: The temporary secretary shall call the roll and determine the number of eligible voting members present. Nominations will be taken from the floor, upon a motion to close nominations, ten minutes of time is permitted to caucus among precinct members prior to a vote on any candidate or issue. The temporary Secretary will conduct the roll call vote and announce the results to the temporary Chair. This procedure will be followed for each Officer selected.

ii. Regular Meetings are meetings held on a regular schedule at a predetermined location and time to discuss and deliberate all pertinent matters of the Carroll County Democrats and the Central Committee.

iii. Special meetings may be called by the County Chair or the Secretary with a written petition signed by no less than twenty (20) percent of the Central Committee members and stating specifically the purpose for which the meeting is sought. The Secretary shall mail Central Committee members written notice of the call for the special meeting to be held no earlier than Fifteen (15) days nor later than thirty (30) days after the giving of the notice.

iv. Quorum: A quorum of any Central Committee meeting shall consist of at least fifty (50) percent of the eligible body members that occupy a precinct seat.

Article 3-Delegation of an Executive Committee as prescribed in ORC 3517.03

The Central Committee shall elect an Executive Committee that shall have the powers granted to it by the Central Committee, and provided to it by law. The Executive Committee shall manage the affairs of the Carroll County Democratic Party, carry out the general policies of the party organization and promote the best interests and ideals of the democratic party and perform all party duties as required by statute.

Section 1- Membership and Organization of the Executive Committee

Section 1a: Membership of the Executive Committee shall consist of all Democrat Central Committee Precinct members, including those elected and those selected by the Central Committee to fill vacancies and also all countywide Democrat non-judicial officials. In addition, the Executive Committee may appoint up to fifteen (15) additional At-Large or Special Interest members as it deems fit to represent organized labor, education, minorities, and other interests, broadly representative of the various elements of the party. They shall be appointed based upon having demonstrated an interest in and a commitment to the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party.

i. Duties and Responsibilities of Executive Committee Members

Refer to Article 2, Section 4, duties and responsibilities of Central Committee members. In addition, Executive Committee members should:

- *adequately represent and advocate for the interest they represent
- *serve as at large members, integral in all precincts.

Section 1b: Officers - The Officers of the Carroll County Democratic Central Committee, for the purposes of these by-laws, shall serve as the officers for the Executive Committee.

i. Duties of Executive Committee Officers

Refer to Article 2, Section 4a(iii) Duties of the Central Committee officers

ii. Vacancies that occur in any officer's position of the Executive

Committee for any reason shall be filled by a majority vote of Central Committee members present at any duly called and convened meeting.

Section 1c: At-Large Members

i. Open to all residents of Carroll County who support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Ohio and the Constitution and By-laws of the Carroll County Democrat Party.

ii. Must be a registered Democrat and eligible to vote.

iii. The At-Large position can be filled by nomination from a Central Committee person or a citizen presenting the proper qualifications and interests to the Central Committee. Nominees shall be invited to present themselves, qualifications, and interests to the Central Committee at a convened meeting before a majority vote of acceptance can be taken.

iv. After making a statement of commitment to the Carroll County Democratic Party, the At-Large member will:

- a. Serve under the same requirements as the Executive Committee and may be removed from membership under the same rules.
- b. Can participate in any discussion during any regular or special meeting of the Executive Committee.
- c. May be appointed to a special committee of his/her choice by the Chairperson, may cast a vote regarding issues while in the special committee.
- d. Not be permitted to vote on agenda items before the Central Committee during a regular or special convened meeting.
- e. At-large members will serve a two-year renewable term.

Section 2: Responsibilities

Section 2a: Meetings of the Executive Committee

- i. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly, with no fewer than four regular meetings occurring in one year (12 months). All meetings shall be open to the public. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all meetings.
- ii. Special meetings may be called by the Chair, or any member of the Executive Committee with signatures of 6 members, citing specific purpose, with notification to all members occurring at least five days prior to the meeting. The notification may be by direct mail or electronic transmission.
- iii. Voting: All votes of the Executive Committee shall remain open and no secret balloting is permitted. No proxy voting is permitted.

Section 3 - Limitations on Officers and members

No member or officer may obligate the party, Central or Executive Committees in any agreement, political, financial, or any other form without being granted the authority by a majority vote of the proper committee and properly recorded.

Section 4 - Board of Elections as directed in ORC 3501.07 The Executive Committee shall recommend appointments to the Carroll County Board of Elections in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and any other applicable law.

Section 5 - Vacancies in elected office as directed in ORC 305.02 The Central Committee shall act in the event of vacancies in County offices held by Democrats in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and any other applicable law.

Article 4- Amendments

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a majority of vote of the members of the Central Committee at any duly called and convened meeting. Amendments proposed under this section must be submitted in writing and copies thereof made available to members of the said Committee at a reasonable time prior to the meeting.

Section 1 - Previous Constitution and By-Laws

This Constitution and By-Laws supersede any and all other previous Constitutions and By-Laws of the Carroll County Democratic Party and shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

1st reading 09/14/2020

2nd reading 10/12/2020

3rd reading 02/08/2021

Ratified 02/08/2021

Presiding Chairman: Thom Potholawat

Attests Secretary: Paula D. Puch