



**GARRETT COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC
CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

Constitution and ByLaws of the Garrett County Democratic Central Committee

Adopted April 26, 2021

Article I – Authority and Purpose

Section 1. The Garrett County Democratic Central Committee is constituted as the governing body of the Democratic Party in Garrett County under the authority of the Democratic State Central Committee of Maryland, and shall exercise all of the powers, rights and privileges granted it under the Constitution and Laws of Maryland, and the Constitution and ByLaws of the Maryland Democratic Party.

Section 2. The Garrett County Democratic Central Committee (the Committee) shall promote the election of the nominees of the Democratic Party in Maryland and Garrett County. The Committee shall conduct the business, organize the activities, and foster the growth of the Democratic Party in Garrett County.

Article II – Membership of the Committee

Section 1. The Committee shall consist of eight (8) members elected at-large by the Democratic voters of Garrett County in the party's Gubernatorial primary. Central Committee members shall be elected by a process that recognizes three gender categories: female, male and non-binary. Elections shall ensure that no one gender category shall exceed 50 percent of the committee's total membership. A committee shall be considered gender balanced as long as variance between men and women in the group does not exceed one (1). In the case of gender non-binary, they shall not be counted as either a male or female, and the remainder of the committee shall be equally divided as practicable.

Section 2. Members shall serve a term of four years, or until their successors qualify. It shall be the duty of members to attend all meetings of the County Committee, and of the Democratic State Central Committee of Maryland. No one shall be elected or remain a member who is not a bona fide resident of and a registered Democrat in Garrett County.

Section 3. Any additional members selected in addition to the basic eight (8) shall be identified as “associate” members. The Committee may choose to appoint a Student Member (high school or college) as an associate member. Associate members shall not be voting members and can be removed from the Committee for any reason with a majority vote of the voting members of the Committee.

Section 4. By a majority vote of the Committee, appointed (not elected at the time of the Gubernatorial primary) members may be accorded full privileges to vote and hold office as members of the Committee.

Article III – Responsibilities of Members

Section 1. It shall be the duty and responsibility of each member of the Committee to work in the interests of the Maryland Democratic Party, the Garrett County Democratic Party and their nominees.

Section 2. A member of the Committee may be considered disqualified for office, and may be removed as a member upon conviction of a felony, or by openly supporting or endorsing a candidate for public office of another political party or an independent candidate who is opposed by a Democratic candidate for the same office, or for malfeasance or misfeasance in office.

Section 3. A member of the Democratic State Central Committee of Maryland may be considered to have resigned by virtue of their regular failure to participate in the activities and affairs of the Maryland Democratic Party at the local or state level.

- A. Failure to participate shall be defined as failure to attend a majority of regular meetings of the Committee during a one year period.
- B. A member may be declared to have resigned by the Committee pursuant to the participations standard set forth in Article III, § 5B, of the ByLaws of the Maryland Democratic Party. Such members may appeal their removal following the procedure set forth in Article III, § 6H, of those ByLaws.
- C. A member may resign from the Committee by submitting a letter of resignation giving thirty days notice, with the Committee accepting the resignation at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Article IV – Meetings

Section 1. Within twenty (20) days of the Gubernatorial primary at which the members of the Committee are elected, the retiring chairperson shall call a meeting of the newly elected Committee at a place within Garrett County for the purpose of assuming office, and of organizing the new Committee. If, after twenty (20) days have elapsed, the retiring chairperson

has not called a meeting, any three newly elected members may call a meeting by notifying the other newly elected members by mail of a time and place within Garrett County for a meeting of the new Committee, provided that it shall not be fewer than seven days prior to the postmark of the notice.

Section 2. The Committee shall hold at least six regular meetings in any full calendar year. The time and place shall be determined by the Chairperson, unless otherwise agreed by the Committee.

Section 3. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson, or by any four (4) members. Special meetings may not be called for the purpose of electing officers of the committee or amending this Constitution.

Section 4. The general authority for the rules of procedure of the Committee shall be those contained in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except when they shall conflict with the Constitution or ByLaws of Maryland, the Constitution or ByLaws of the Maryland Democratic Party, or the Constitution, ByLaws or rules of the Committee.

Section 5. The number of members required for a quorum for the conduct of business shall be fifty percent (50%) of the whole number of current members of the Committee.

Section 6. All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public. The Committee may vote to enter an executive session to discuss qualifications of persons to be recommended for appointment to any position for which the Committee is making a selection or recommendation, however voting on such selections or recommendations shall be done in public and outside of the executive session.

Article V – Officers

Section 1. There shall be elected from the membership of the Committee a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers shall be elected by a majority of the Committee to a one year term from September to September, or until their successors qualify. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by election at the next regular meeting of the Committee after the vacancy is announced.

Section 2. The Chairperson shall be the chief executive officer of the Committee, and shall generally supervise its activities. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Committee, and shall exercise the customary powers and duties of that position. The Chairperson shall have the authority to create and appoint special and ad hoc committees.

Section 3. The Vice-Chairman shall serve as the acting chairperson during the absence, inability or disability of the Chairperson, and, in the event of a vacancy, until a successor is elected and qualifies. The Vice-Chairperson shall have such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson or the Committee.

Section 4. The Secretary shall be responsible for recording and preserving the minutes of the

meetings of the Committee. The Secretary shall have custody of all books, papers, records, and other official documents of the Committee. The Secretary shall maintain current copies of the Committee's Constitution and membership list, and supply the same to the Maryland Democratic Party, and other State officials as necessary.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall keep accounts of all monies received or raised by the Committee and shall deposit those monies and other valuables in the name of the Committee in such depositories and banks within Garrett County as the Committee may designate. The Treasurer shall not expend or disburse any money of valuable thing, or incur any liability whatsoever, except with the authority of the Committee, or with its prior approval in a budget. The Treasurer shall prepare and present financial reports for the regular meetings of the Committee. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amounts as may be determined by the Committee, the cost to be paid by the Committee.

Article VI – Filling Vacant Elective Offices

Section 1. From time to time the Committee may be empowered or required by law or the Constitution and ByLaws of the Maryland Democratic Party to fill a vacant public or party appointed or elective office.

Section 2. In such an event, the Committee shall ensure that reasonable public notice is given concerning the vacancy. Such notice shall include the procedure for filling the vacancy, the qualifications and requirements for candidates to fill the vacancy, and the date(s) on which the Committee will meet to interview candidates and make the selection.

Section 3. That portion of any meetings held by the Committee for the purpose of voting to fill such a vacancy shall be open to the public, and votes for the purpose of filling the vacancy shall be conducted by roll call of the members.

Article VII – Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by any member of the Committee by distributing written copies to all members present at any regular meeting of the Committee and mailing written copies to all members not present, at least ten days prior to the next regular meeting. It may be amended by the favorable vote of two-thirds of the whole number of members of the Committee, at the next regular meeting of the Committee after the amendment is proposed.

Section 2. This Constitution and ByLaws shall be reviewed on at least the two year anniversary of the date of last review or amendment, whichever is later.

History

1. Constitution and ByLaws reviewed and amendments proposed and reviewed February 12, 2007, revisions considered April 11, 2007 and revisions unanimously adopted June 13, 2007 by unanimous vote of the Garrett County Democratic Central Committee. James R. Stanton, Chair Zelma Neary, Vice-Chairman Patricia Duck, Secretary Wayne Caple, Treasurer William Aiken, Member Timothy Duck, Member Doris Goldsborough, Member.
2. Reviewed and adopted 2010.
3. Reviewed, amended, and adopted September 9, 2019. Judy A. Carbone, Chair; Patrick Hunt, Vice-Chair; Jeff Hovis, Secretary; Regina Holliday, Treasurer; and Lindsay Pack, Stephanie Pack, Gary Wakefield, Sheila Buckley, Members.
4. **Reviewed, amended, and adopted April 26, 2021. Judy A. Carbone, Chair; Patrick Hunt, Vice-Chair; Jeff Hovis, Secretary; Robert Spear, Treasurer; and Sheila Buckley, Betty Pritee, and Erin-Ruth Natividad, Members.**