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Bylaws adopted September 19, 2005

BYLAWS OF THE ANTRIM COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

PRINCIPLES:

The Antrim County Democratic Party establishes and adopts these rules based on the following principles:

The principle of people – serving social justice, civil liberty and the common good

The principle of democracy – working for accessibility of all political and governmental processes, and for the full participation of all elements of society in those processes

The Antrim County Democratic Party supports the broadest possible participation in its meetings, activities and membership without limitation or discrimination on any basis.

Meetings of the Antrim County Democratic Party are publicized fully, broadly, and with timely notice, as are qualifications and selection procedures for party officers and representatives.

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND PURPOSE

This organization is named the Antrim County Democratic Party, and has the following purposes:

1. to help define the philosophy of the Democratic Party, and to promote that philosophy;
2. to identify people who share the philosophy of the Democratic Party and the principles outlined in these bylaws, to connect them with organizations that support those philosophies and principles, and to coordinate and support the activities of such organizations;
3. to find, encourage, endorse and support candidates for federal, state, county, township, and village office who have the greatest potential to further the philosophy of the Democratic Party;
4. to develop, endorse and support issues most likely to further the principles and philosophy outlined in these bylaws;
5. to provide a continuing organization able to conduct effective township and county campaigns;
6. to communicate effectively with county residents about political issues that impact them;

7. to develop a credible and active presence in community service and political responsibility for matters affecting county residents.

ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

A. Any member of the Michigan Democratic Party, on completion of the local application, becomes a member of the Antrim County Democratic Party (the ACDP).

B. A qualified and registered elector who is not a member of the Michigan Democratic Party can become a member by completing and filing the MDP membership form with State headquarters, or with an officer of the ACDP.

C. An elector who is registered to vote in Antrim County, who supports the purposes of the ACDP and who wants to participate in promoting those purposes, becomes a member of the ACDP on completion of the local application.

D. To be a member of the Executive Committee, or to vote on Executive Committee matters, an individual must be a member of both the Michigan Democratic Party and the ACDP.

E. To vote at a convention or an Executive Committee meeting, a participant must be a member of the Michigan Democratic Party for at least thirty days prior to that convention or meeting. Precinct delegates, and the candidates and elected officials defined as “automatic members” in ARTICLE 3A, must be members of the MDP to vote at a convention or Executive Committee meeting, but may join at that meeting.

ARTICLE 3: ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE AND JURISDICTION

A. ***County Conventions.*** The purposes of the County Conventions are to elect eligible individuals to serve on the ACDP Executive Committee and to represent the ACDP by serving as delegates to State conventions. Members of the County Conventions are: (1) Democratic Party precinct delegates who were elected in the most recent fall primary election, and (2) Democratic Party candidates for county-wide office, the State House, State Senate, and U.S. House who were elected or nominated in the most recent fall primary election for those offices. In these bylaws, the county-wide, State House, State Senate, and U.S. House candidates are referred to as automatic members.

B. *County Committee.* The County Committee is the total organization of the ACDP. Membership is defined in Article 2 and includes the precinct delegates and the automatic members. The purpose of the ACDP is to support and promote the objectives of the Democratic Party in Antrim County. Members of the ACDP fully participate in matters of events, fund raising, publicity, hospitality, get-out-the-vote, and like activities. In addition, the ACDP oversees the actions of the Executive Committee. Reconsideration of any action taken by the Executive Committee can be initiated within 30 days of the action taken, by a two-thirds vote of all the elected members of the ACDP. Elected members of the ACDP are the Democratic Party Precinct Delegates, and the automatic and Convention-elected members of the Executive Committee. In these bylaws, the County Committee is referred to as the ACDP. Between meetings of the ACDP, the Executive Committee (defined in ARTICLE 3 C.) has the authorities and responsibilities of the ACDP.

C. *Executive Committee.* The Executive Committee consists of the automatic members, plus a number of people equal to twice the number of automatic members. The additional members are elected by the County Convention. The purpose of the Executive Committee is to establish and manage the organization and activities of the Democratic Party in Antrim County. Only the Executive Committee votes on matters of policy, procedure, election and tenure of officers and members, appointment of standing and special committees and their chairs, issue support and other political and official business. A two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee members present is required to reaffirm any action that the County Committee (the ACDP) has formally returned to the Executive Committee for reconsideration.

ARTICLE 4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SELECTION AND TENURE

A. In even numbered years, the Antrim County Democratic Party Chair convenes a meeting of the County Convention to elect the Executive Committee. This meeting is held within 20 days of the November general election and is called the Fall County Convention. The Executive Committee elected in this convention serves for the two years beginning the following January 1.

B. Within 30 days of the Fall County Convention, the newly elected Executive Committee meets. In this meeting, the Executive Committee elects a temporary chairperson and a temporary secretary as the first order of business. The temporary officers then preside over the election of the Executive Committee Officers who serve as officers of both the Executive Committee and the ACDP for the two years beginning the following January 1. The Officers are: (1) Chair; (2) Vice Chair who is a member of the opposite sex to the Chair; (3) Secretary; and (4) Treasurer. All Officers are elected from

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among the members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee has the authority to elect additional officers and delegates which its members judge to be proper and necessary to carry out the purposes of the ACDP, as well as to fill vacancies in any of its offices that may occur.

C. An Executive Committee member or officer may be removed from office for cause. A recommendation for removal is initiated by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee members present. A written notice outlining the basis for such action is then sent to all members of the Executive Committee at least two weeks prior to a special meeting which is called specifically for the purpose of considering the removal recommendation. In the special meeting, a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee members present is required for final action on removal cases.

ARTICLE 5: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The ***Chair*** presides at all Executive Committee and ACDP meetings, and has all the duties and responsibilities that are usual to the position, and that may be required by the Executive Committee or the ACDP. The Chair recommends committees and appoints committee chairs, subject to the approval of the majority of the Executive Committee members present at the meeting. The Chair is an ex-officio member of all committees.

B. The ***Vice Chair*** assists the Chair in carrying out the duties of the Chair, and temporarily assumes all the duties of the Chair in his/her absence.

C. The ***Secretary*** keeps the accurate and official record of the proceedings of the meetings of the Executive Committee and the meetings of the ACDP. He/she keeps and preserves all the records, correspondence and property of the organization, and promptly delivers all those records and effects to any newly elected Secretary. The Secretary assures that all meetings of the organization are publicized fully, broadly and with timely notice, and assures that the minutes of the prior meeting are distributed to members of the Executive Committee in advance of the next meeting.

D. The ***Treasurer*** is responsible for the financial records, receipts, and disbursements of the organization, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. The funds are banked and are drawn upon only by checks signed by two of the four officers of the Executive Committee, at least one of whom must be the Treasurer or the Chair. A dollar limit on a financial commitment is established by the action of the Executive Committee, above which the advanced authorization of the Executive Committee is required. The Treasurer makes financial reports to the Executive Committee and to the ACDP as requested. The Treasurer delivers the financial records and control of the funds to any newly elected Treasurer within 30 days of that election.

ARTICLE 6: MEETINGS

The Executive Committee meets monthly. A quorum of the Executive Committee is one-third of the membership. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the Chair or by a majority vote of the quorum. The ACDP meets at least quarterly. A quorum of the ACDP is the number of vote-eligible members present. At least 5 days' notice is given of the date, time and place of all meetings. Emergency meetings may be called with 48 hours' notice. The notice of a special meeting includes the purpose. Notices are given by telephone, mail, fax, email, or other appropriate media.

ARTICLE 7: AUTHORITY OF BYLAWS

Questions of authority, membership, privilege, duties, and organization not covered in these bylaws are resolved by reference to the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party. Questions of procedure covered neither by these bylaws nor the Rules of the Michigan Democratic Party, are resolved by reference to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE 8: AMENDING BYLAWS

Proposals for change to these bylaws are referred to the Rules and Bylaws Committee which reports its recommendation to the next regular, or special, meeting of the ACDP. A written notice outlining the proposed change is sent to all members of the ACDP at least two weeks prior to the meeting. A two-thirds vote of the members present at the meeting is required to adopt a proposed amendment.

ARTICLE 9: DISSOLUTION

The Antrim County Democratic Party is a non-profit organization. Upon its dissolution, all of its assets and property revert to the Michigan Democratic Party. No asset is distributed to any ACDP member except for reimbursement of actual expenses previously authorized by the Executive Committee.

