

**Rules of the  
Democratic Party of Blair County  
With All Amendments As of  
May 12, 2014**

**Statement of Principles**

The Democratic Party of Blair County is committed to serving the best interest of all the people of the county and to providing the broadest possible base of participation in the affairs of the party. Consistent with this philosophy, the Democratic County Committee of Blair County pledges as part of the rules governing the Democratic Party of Blair County the following principles:

All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party are open to all members of the Democratic Party, regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, ethnic identity, economic status, sexual orientation or gender identity.

No test of membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Democratic Party shall be required or used that have the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone, or support discrimination on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, ethnic identity, economic status, sexual orientation or gender identity.

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

The Democratic Party 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 county Democratic Party. Such publication should be done in a timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within the county may have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.

## **Rule I**

### **Party Organization**

**Section 1** The representatives and authoritative bodies of the Democratic Party of Blair County shall consist of:

- A. County Committee
- B. County Executive Committee

**Section 2** Only duly registered and enrolled Democratic electors shall be eligible to serve as members or officers of any of the committees provided for by Section 1 of this rule.

- A. No person shall be eligible to serve as a member or officer of any Democratic Committee as provided in Section 1 of this rule who:
  1. Holds a political appointive office of profit under an administration, city, county, state, or national opposed to the Democratic Party (except positions of a judicial character or those appointed by the Courts of Notaries Public or Commissioners of Deeds or those whose original appointment to said position was made by a Democratic administration or attained through a merit system or who are currently protected by a merit system or a collective bargaining contract):
  2. Has entered into an agreement with opponents of the Democratic Party to support such opponents:
  3. By voice, vote, financial support or otherwise has, within two (2) years, supported a candidate in a general or special election opposed to the duly nominated candidate of the Democratic Party in that election, except as provided in Paragraph C of this section.
- B. No person shall be eligible as a candidate for this office of Chair or Vice Chair of a County Committee or as a member of a State Committee who:
  1. Has been a registered member of any other political party at any time during the two (2) years preceding the primary election in every gubernatorial year;
  2. Holds an elective position guaranteed by law to the minority party except that this prohibition shall not apply to Jury Commissioners nor shall it

apply in any county in which the Democratic Party is the majority party in voter registration as certified for the general election in which the official was last elected to that position, nor shall it apply in any county in which the County Chair or Vice Chair is elected by the Democratic voters in a primary or special election.

- C. Those Democratic candidates who cross file for an office in which cross filing is permitted by law and those persons supporting such candidates are exempt from Paragraph A of this section.

**Section 3** In case any member or officer of any Democratic Committee is accused of being disqualified under any of the provisions of Section 2 of this rule, the County committee is empowered, after full hearing by such committee of all the evidence submitted to it for an against the member or officer so accused, and if it finds the charge sustained by the evidence, to remove from office the person so accused. Any ruling of the County Committee may be appealed to the State Executive Committee if such appeal is made in writing within thirty (30) days from the date on which such ruling in handed down.

- A. Hearings held by the State Executive Committee shall be conducted by a hearing officer appointed by the State Chair and all parties shall be encouraged to present evidence in support of or defense against the alleged violations. Representation by counsel shall be permitted.
- B. If the charges are sustained by the evidence, the Executive Committee may, by majority vote, remove from office or from membership the person so accused.
- C. In such case the vacancy so created shall be filled in the manner provided by these rules or by the rules of the Committee, as the case may be.

**Section 4** Each of the committees provided for by Section 1 of this rule is authorized and empowered to create and establish such advisory and auxiliary committees and bodies for advisory and campaign purposes as it may deem advisable.

## **Rule II**

### **County Committee**

**Section 1** The general supervision, regulation and direction of the affairs of the Democratic Party in Blair County shall be vested in the County Committee and all other committees shall be subordinate to it and under its direction.

**Section 2** The Democratic voters of each election district of Blair County shall elect at the spring primary election in each gubernatorial year, two (2) members to the County Committee, who shall be duly registered and enrolled Democratic voters of such election district. The said members of the County Committee shall have charge of the Democratic organization in their respective districts and hold office for the term of four years.

**Section 3** The County Committee shall consist of the members of the State Committee from Blair County and of the County Committee members from the various election districts of Blair County. All elected officials who are registered Democrats shall be considered ex-officio members of the County Committee. It shall meet not later than the fourth Wednesday following the spring primary election in such gubernatorial year, or as soon thereafter as possible, at such time and place as the County Chairperson shall designate by written notice to all the members, and shall organize by the election by majority vote a County Chairperson who shall be Chairperson of the County Committee and two Vice Chairpersons, one resident of and representing the Blair County portion of each State Assembly District. The Vice Chairperson from the same assembly district as the Chairperson shall be of the opposite sex from the Chairperson. The County Chairperson and Vice Chairperson need not be members of the County Committee at the time of their election, but shall be ex-officio members thereof after their election. Said officials shall hold office for the term of four years and until their successors are elected. Vacancies for the office of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be filled by the County Committee for the unexpired term. If after the first ballot for the office of Chairperson or Vice Chairperson no nominee has the majority of the votes, the vote shall be announced to the membership and a second ballot shall be taken. Balloting shall continue until one nominee receives a majority of the votes. However, if there are only two nominees on any ballot and a tie results, the tie shall be broken by the drawing of the lots and the winner shall be declared elected to the office concerned. The drawing of lots shall be under the supervision of the State Chairperson at a time and place to be set by him.

**Section 4** The County Chairperson, upon election, shall appoint a Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and a Sergeant-at-Arms. Said appointees need not be members of the County Committee at the time of their appointment, but shall be ex-officio members thereof after their appointment. The County Chairperson shall also have the authority to appoint such other officers and committees as may be necessary to carry on the work of the County Committee. Outgoing officers shall surrender all documents pertaining to their office to their successor.

**Section 5** The Chairperson of the County Committee shall preside at all meetings of the County Committee and of the County Executive Committee, and shall be entitled to vote therein on all questions. He shall conduct all county campaigns by and with the advice of the County Executive Committee and subject to the approval of the County Committee.

**Section 6** The position of first and second Vice Chairpersons shall rotate every four (4) years starting as follows:

- i. 2014, first (1st) Vice Chair from the 79th Assembly District, second (2nd) Vice Chair from the 80th Assembly District;
- ii. 2018, 1st 80th, 2nd 79th;
- iii. 2022, 1st 79th, 2nd 80th;
- iv. 2026, 1<sup>st</sup> 80<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> the 79<sup>th</sup>;
- v. 2030, 1<sup>st</sup> the 79<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> the 80<sup>th</sup>;

And so on in the same rotation. In the absence of the Chairperson, the first Vice Chairperson shall serve as Chairperson. If neither the Chairperson nor the first Vice Chairperson is able to serve in the above mentioned instances, the second Vice Chairperson shall act as Chairperson, etc.

**Section 7** All elections of Committee officers under these rules shall be conducted by voice or standing vote.

**Section 8** In the case of a vacancy in the office of County Committee member from any election district of the county, caused by death, resignation, failure to elect at the spring primary election, or otherwise, the County Executive Committee member of the election district, if any, shall appoint a qualified Democratic voter of said district to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term, except that during the period of the time intervening between the primary election at which County Committee members are elected, and the reorganization meeting of the County Committee, no vacancies existing in the county committee shall be filled; but all such vacancies shall be filled as soon as possible after the reorganization meeting. It shall be the duty of the County Committee Secretary to notify or certify to the County Board of Elections of any such appointments.

**Section 9** Regular meetings of the County Committee, in addition to the organization meeting, shall be held twice each year, once before the primary election and once before the November election. A schedule of yearly meetings shall be determined by the Chairperson and Executive Committee and approved by the County Committee. Special meetings may be called by the County Chairperson at any time and shall be called by the County Chairperson or Vice Chairperson at the request of fifty (50) members. If the Chairperson shall fail to call such a meeting within five (5) days after receiving such a written request, the members making the request may themselves call the meeting. Members of the County Committee shall be given ample email or written notice (if a person does not have email) five (5) days of all meetings of the County Committee.

**Section 10** Any member of the County Committee who is unable to attend in person a meeting of the Committee may appoint by proxy a Democratic Elector Resident in the same election district and not already a member of the Committee, who shall have power to attend

such meeting and vote thereat as the representative of such absent member. Any such proxy shall be in writing, signed by the absent member giving the same, and attested by the signature of a witness.

**Section 11** A quorum shall be defined as those members present at a meeting.

**Section 12** Meetings of the County Committee shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, unless otherwise provided by these rules.

**Section 13** Within thirty (30) days after the election of the County Chairperson the corresponding secretary of the County Committee shall certify to the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the State Committee the name of the person elected Chairperson.

### **Rule III**

#### **County Executive Committee**

**Section 1** In addition the Executive Committee shall consist of all State Committee members from the county, the County Chairperson, the Vice Chairpersons from the 79<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> districts, the Corresponding Secretary, the Recording Secretary, the Treasurer, the Parliamentarian, and the Sergeant-at-Arms. In addition, the Blair County Democratic Club, the Blair County Young Democrats, and the Blair County Democratic Women's Federation shall elect a representative to the Executive Committee. These representatives shall be elected by the membership of their respective organizations. Organized Labor will name an ex-officio member to the executive committee. The members of the County Executive Committee need not be members of the County Committee.

**Section 2** The County Executive Committee shall act in an advisory capacity to all other committees, and shall perform such other functions as may be conferred by these rules or otherwise delegated to it by the County Committee. It shall meet monthly. It may also meet at the special call of the County Chairperson or of any five members of the committee. A majority of its members shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 3** The County Executive Committee shall have power to fill all vacancies happening or existing on the county ticket by reason of death, withdrawal, failure to nominate at the primary election, calling of a special election, or other cause, and which shall not be filled at a primary election under the law, and shall have authority to make and certify a nomination.

**Section 4** Meetings of the County Executive Committee shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise provided by these rules.

### **Rule IV**

## **Nomination and Recommendation Conventions**

**Section 1** Within two (2) weeks prior to the first day fixed by law for circulating nomination petitions prior to each primary election, or as soon thereafter as practicable, the County Committee may hold a meeting, at the call of the County Chairperson, for the purpose of selecting candidates to be recommended to the Democratic voters for nomination for the ensuing primary election for each public office for which nominations are to be made thereat in the county at large or in any congressional, senatorial, or representative district within the county. In the case of any such district not including the entire county, the election shall be made by the members of the County Committee from the district in question.

**Section 2** It shall be the duty of the County Chairperson to cause nomination petitions to be circulated and filed in the proper offices on behalf of the candidates selected in accordance with the provisions of the rule.

### **Rule V**

#### **Amendments**

**Section 1** These rules may be amended at any meeting of the County Committee by the affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the members present, provided written notice of such proposed amendments was mailed to all the members at least thirty (30) days previous to the meeting at which action is to be taken.

Approved the Twelfth Day of May 2014, by a majority vote of the Democratic Committee lawfully and legally called and assembled.