

# CONSTITUTION

## MANITOWOC COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Adopted - April 1965

Amended - November 1974

Amended - May 18, 1983

Amended - April 28, 2003

Amended - May 19, 2003

### ARTICLE I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Manitowoc County Democratic Party.

### ARTICLE II. Purpose

It shall be the primary responsibility of the county party to promote better government, to develop to the fullest possible party membership in the county, to hold regularly scheduled meetings, to encourage Democratic candidates for county and legislative offices, to form and maintain an effective campaign organization, to make recommendations for a party platform, and generally, to promote the interest of the Democratic Party in the county.

### ARTICLE III. Membership

Any resident of Manitowoc County, at least 16 years of age, who subscribes to the progressive principles of the Democratic Party is eligible for voting membership and shall become a member upon payment of dues and receipt of such dues by the county unit. Such a person is automatically a member of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

### ARTICLES IV. Organization

**Section 1.** The elected officers of the county shall include a chairperson, one or more vice-chairpersons, a secretary, and a treasurer. Such officers shall be elected for a two-year term. Such elections shall take place in the even years, beginning in 1984.

**Section 2.** Nomination of a candidate for county party office may be made by a nominating committee or from the floor by a member. Nomination must have prior consent of the nominee. Failure to obtain such prior consent shall invalidate the election of a person so nominated.

**Section 3.** Election of a county party officer shall require a majority of those members present and voting. If two or more candidates are nominated for an office, election shall be by secret ballot.

**Section 4.** The chairperson shall be the presiding officer at all meetings and shall act as administrative head of the organization. The chairperson shall have the power to appoint special project chairpersons with the consent of the Executive Committee. Such special project chairpersons shall serve until the project is completed or the county chairperson's term of office expires. The chairperson shall serve as ex officio member of all such special committees.

**Section 5.** The vice chairperson and other elected officers, in the order of their election, shall be responsible for the executive direction of the county in the event of the chairperson's absence or incapacitation.

**Section 6.** The secretary shall maintain records of the organization and issue meeting notices.

**Section 7.** The treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the organization, shall make financial reports in writing at each county meeting, and shall expend funds only in accordance with the directives of either the Executive Committee or the majority vote of the members. The Treasurer also shall prepare such financial statements as are required by law and forward them to the proper county and/or state officials. Besides customary duties of the treasurer, that officer shall keep a record of all paid memberships. The treasurer's books shall be submitted regularly to an auditor or to an auditing committee appointed by the chairperson. The office of secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person.

## **ARTICLE V. Executive Committee**

**Section 1.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of the county party and such appointed persons as the Executive Committee shall ask to serve. In addition, the outgoing chairperson shall serve for two years, if he/she is able and so desires. All Democratic county and state elected officials shall be ex officio members of the Executive Committee.

**Section 2.** The chairperson of the county party shall be the chairperson of the Executive Committee.

**Section 3.** The Executive Committee may meet regularly between county party meetings, or, in the event of a decision to be rendered prior to the regular county party meeting, the chairperson shall call, as soon as possible, a meeting of the Executive Committee. Decisions made by a majority of the Executive Committee shall be final upon approval by the membership at a regular monthly meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI. Dues and Finance**

**Section 1.** Membership dues shall be determined by the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin for any calendar year.

**Section 2.** A portion of the annual dues as set by the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin shall be sent to the State Party Treasurer. The portion of membership dues remaining within the county may be used as the party determines.

**Section 3.** Funds for the county party treasury may be solicited from sources other than membership dues.

## **ARTICLE VII. Meetings**

**Section 1.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Manitowoc County Democratic Party or its Executive Committee, regular meetings shall be held once per month on a day agreed upon by the members.

**Section 2.** When three months elapse without a meeting of the county unit, 20 percent of the county membership may petition the Congressional District Chairperson who shall call a meeting of the county giving a ten day written notice.

**Section 3.** The Annual Meeting held for the purpose of electing officers and other business shall be held no earlier than November 1 nor later than the following December 31. At least ten days' written notice of such election must be given by the secretary of the county party to each member entitled to vote and to state party headquarters. At any such election meeting, only members whose dues are paid for the year in which the election is held shall be eligible to vote. In the event the county chairperson shall fail to call such an election meeting within the period specified herein, the state chairperson shall be authorized to call such an election meeting as soon as practicable, providing always that the provisions of this section with respect to notice shall be observed by the state chairperson.

**Section 4.** Special meetings may be called by the chairperson or by the Executive Committee, or upon the "Written" request of any 25 members. Notice of a special meeting shall be given at least 10 days before such meeting and shall contain a notice of the purpose of the meeting.

**Section 5.** Ten members shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 6.** All public meetings at all levels of the Manitowoc County Democratic Party are open to all members regardless of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion or national origin.

**Section 7.** No test of membership in, or oaths of loyalty to, the Manitowoc County Democratic Party shall be required or used that has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Manitowoc County Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone, or support discrimination on the grounds of race, creed, sex, sexual orientation, color, age, religion or national origin.

**Section 8.** The time and place for all meetings of the Manitowoc County Democratic Party shall be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons.

**Section 9.** The Manitowoc County Democratic Party shall support the broadest possible voter registration without discrimination on grounds of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion or national origin.

**Section 10.** It shall be the duty of the chairperson and all other party officers by affirmative steps to encourage young people, women, and minority groups to seek election as delegates to party conventions and as members of the party to participate in all party activities.

**Section 11.** In selection of delegates to any convention or members or any committee of the Democratic Party there shall be, insofar as is possible, equal representation of the sexes.

**Section 12.** Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail.

## **ARTICLE VIII. Endorsement**

The Manitowoc County Democratic Party shall not endorse or support any candidate for elective office in any primary election.

## **ARTICLE IX. Amendments**

This Constitution shall be amended only at a regularly called meeting by two-thirds vote of all members present and voting, provided there is a quorum. Intention to amend must be presented to the two previous regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

## **ARTICLE X. Constitutional Precedence**

**Section 1.** This constitution shall supercede any previous motions or rules to the contrary made by the county party.

**Section 2.** If and when it shall appear that this Constitution is in conflict with the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, the latter shall prevail.

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