

SCOTT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONSTITUTION

As Amended March 13, 2004

As Amended March 20, 2010

As Amended March 10, 2012

As Amended March 8, 2014

ARTICLE I: NAME

This organization shall be known as the Scott County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section 1: The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the principles and goals of the Democratic Party within Scott County, Iowa, and to elect Democrats in Scott County, the state of Iowa, and the United States of America.

Section 2: This constitution shall incorporate and adopt those provisions of the laws of the state of Iowa and the Iowa Democratic Party that are applicable to the county organization.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: All persons at least 18 years of age as of the date of the next General Election who are residents of Scott County, who support the purposes of the Iowa Democratic Party, and who are registered Democrats, or who register as Democrats at the time of their request to participate in the process in question, shall be eligible to participate as members of this organization.

Section 2: The Scott County Democratic Party Central Committee shall be composed of registered Democrats and shall consist of two (2) precinct committee members from each precinct and township within Scott County. Committee members shall be elected every two (2) years by a majority vote at their caucuses (precinct or township). Committee persons shall be voting members of the central committee.

Section 3: Committee members elected at the biennial caucuses shall serve two-year terms. The term of the Central Committee members shall be from the first Organizational Meeting (as defined by the State Constitution) after the caucus until the next Organizational Meeting.

Section 4: A precinct committee member may be removed from office for cause by a 2/3 vote of the central committee members present at a duly called meeting of the central committee, provided that written notice of the proposed removal has been sent by certified return receipt requested mail to the member by the secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Section 5: To fill a vacancy on the Scott County Democratic Party Central Committee, a notice of a special election to fill that vacancy shall be mailed to all members of the Central Committee at least ten (10) days prior to said election to request nominations.

Section 6: As provided for by the Statutes of the State of Iowa, Alternate Central Committee members may serve on the County Central Committee in place of elected Central Committee members unable to fulfill their responsibilities. Alternates shall be elected, or removed, as heretofore described for Central Committee members.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1: The Scott County Democratic Party Central Committee shall meet not less than quarterly. The Chair shall cause notice of such meetings to be mailed to each member and officer on the Committee at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Section 2: Additional meetings may be called at times determined by the county Chair.

Section 3: Upon receiving a written petition from any eight (8) central committee members, the Chair shall call a special meeting which must be held within twelve (12) days upon receipt of the petition. If the chair fails to act, any five (5) members can cause such notice to be mailed at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Section 4: A quorum shall consist of twenty-five percent (25%) of the elected members.

Section 5: All meetings of the Scott County Democratic Party Central Committee shall be open in the same manner as an agency of state government is required to hold open meetings.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers of the Scott County Democratic Party Central Committee shall be a Chair, Vice-Chairs, a Secretary, a Treasurer, *and such additional officers as may be determined by the bylaws* (italicized words added on 3-13-04). All officers upon election shall become voting members of the Central Committee. The officers' elections shall take place in odd-numbered years with terms running two years.

Section 2: The executive board shall consist of the officers.

Section 3: An officer may be removed in the same manner as other members as described in Article III, Section 4.

Section 4: To fill an officer vacancy on the Scott County Democratic Party Central Committee, a notice of a special election to fill that vacancy shall be mailed to all members of the Central Committee at least ten (10) days prior to said election to request nominations.

ARTICLE VI: DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1: The Chair shall be the chief executive officer, a non-voting, ex-officio member of all committees, and the presiding officer at all central committee and executive committee meetings.

Section 2: The first Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the chair in that officer's absence and shall serve as acting chair in the event of a vacancy in the Office of Chair until that vacancy is filled. Succession shall proceed to the second Vice-Chair, the third Vice-Chair, and the Treasurer.

Section 3: The Secretary shall have custody of all books, records, and papers of the organization; shall keep a record of all meetings and transactions; and shall be responsible for sending notices ten (10) days prior to all meetings. At each regular meeting the Secretary shall report to the Central Committee the minutes of the previous meeting, and provide copies to the Central Committee members.

Section 4: The Treasurer shall have custody of the Central Committee's funds and shall keep a record of total receipts and disbursements. At each regular meeting, there should be a written report, and there shall be an annual report at the end of the year. The Treasurer shall file all financial reports in accordance with all applicable laws. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all financial records and transaction for the committee.

ARTICLE VII: STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

Section 1: The Central Committee shall include the following standing committees: Finance, Audit, Communication, and Election.

Section 2: The Central Committee or its designee may establish committees as needed for executing the business of the Scott County Democratic Party Central Committee. The Central Committee or its designee may appoint committee chairs as needed.

Section 3: Each committee shall be composed of the chair and any volunteers. Committee chairs shall coordinate their activities.

Section 4: The Finance Committee shall include the Treasurer, shall manage any fund raising activities, and shall be responsible for preparing an annual budget.

Section 5: The Audit Committee shall audit the Treasurer's records at least once in a calendar year or whenever the Treasurer leaves office.

Section 6: The Communications Committee shall include the Secretary, shall give notice of all upcoming activities and special events and the results thereof to all local media outlets in a timely manner.

Section 7: The Election Activity Committee shall plan and implement activities inclusive of voter services, candidate services, and Get Out The Vote.

ARTICLE VIII: AUTHORITY

Section 1: Elected delegates in Convention shall be the highest ruling authority.

Section 2: Between Conventions, the highest authority shall be the Central Committee.

Section 3: Between meetings of the Central Committee, the highest authority shall be the Executive Board, subject to the will of the Central Committee.

Section 4: Between Executive Board meetings, highest authority shall be the Chairperson, subject to the will of the Executive Board and the Central Committee, and the provision of Article VI, Section 2.

Section 5: No financial obligation shall be incurred between Central Committee meetings except in an emergency. Maximum financial obligation between membership meetings shall not exceed \$50.00 without agreement between a majority of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: This constitution may be amended at the biennial convention by majority vote of accredited delegates assembled in the Convention. Proposed amendments shall be in accordance with the rules of the Convention.

ARTICLE X: BY-LAWS

Section 1: By-laws shall be in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution, shall be designed to advance the purposes of the Scott County Democratic Party Central Committee as stated in the Purpose, and shall not abridge the right of precinct caucuses, conventions, convention subcommittees, convention caucuses, and central committee subcommittees to elect their own leadership and representatives - but they may specify procedural rules, committee roles, and leadership roles to be observed by those groups within the party.

Section 2: Amendments to the by-laws may be made at any meeting of the Scott County Democratic Party Central Committee. They require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and must have been submitted in writing at the previous meeting and included with the notice of the meeting at which the amendments are to be acted upon

Section 3: The parliamentary authority shall be the rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

Ratified and adopted by the 2002 Scott County Democratic Convention, March 16, 2002.

Signed,

Susan F.F. Pamperin, Convention Chair

Karen Miller, Convention Secretary

Karl Rhomberg, Scott County Constitution Committee Chair