

CONSTITUTION OF THE BENTON COUNTY IOWA DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

As amended on xxxxx,xx, 2019

Article I - Title

The name of this organization shall be the Benton County Iowa Democratic Central Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Benton County Democrats.

Article II – Aims and Purposes

Section 1. The purpose of this organization shall be to perpetuate a representative, effective, and responsible Democratic Party organization; advance the interests of the Democratic Party at the county, congressional district, state, and national levels, to sustain and advance the principles of social justice and democracy; and to uphold civil rights, civil liberties, and constitutional government.

Section 2. This organization shall be primarily concerned with the election of Democrats at the county level. Additionally, the organization shall be responsible for assisting the election of state legislators whose districts cross county lines, serving as a liaison with the Congressional District and the Democratic State Central Committee.

Article III – Authority

Section 1. The Benton County Democrats is an independent Democratic Party Committee. The Benton County Democratic Convention, held biennially, shall be the supreme governing body of this organization. Nothing in this constitution shall abrogate the Constitution of the Iowa Democratic Party or the Code of Iowa.

Section 2. The highest ruling authority of the Benton County Democrats between biennial conventions shall be the precinct committee members.

Section 3. Between membership meetings, the highest ruling authority shall be the Executive Board.

Section 4. Between Executive Board meetings, the highest ruling authority shall be the Chair.

Section 5. No expenditures shall be disbursed between membership meetings except in an emergency. Maximum disbursements between membership meetings shall not exceed \$50.00 and must be reported at the next membership meeting. This section shall not prevent the membership from authorizing prior approval of routine expenditures.

Article IV – Membership

Section 1. Membership in this organization shall consist of those who were elected at their precinct caucus, in even numbered years, to serve as precinct committee members.

Section 2. All elected officials who represent Benton County.

Section 3. A copy of this constitution shall be available to each member.

Section 4. A revised list of all members shall be available to each member.

Section 5 Members may be removed from the County Central Committee for non-residency, inattention to duty, incompetence, or support of a candidate for public office who is running against a candidate nominated by the Democratic Party.

Section 6. Vacancies on the Committee shall be filled as soon as possible from alternate precinct committee persons. An alternate precinct committee person may also serve as a substitute at a regular meeting if the elected committee member is unable to attend. If no alternate precinct committee persons are elected at the precinct caucuses, the vacancy shall be filled from a pool of County Democrats nominated by one or more members of the Central Committee. The term of office of alternate County Central Committee members elected to fill a vacancy pursuant to this Section shall serve until a successor is elected and qualified. Any action to fill a vacancy of a member must be by majority vote of the County Central Committee at an official meeting provided that due notice of such election was previously given.

Article V – Executive Board

Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officials who represent Benton County and the Officers of the Benton County Democrats.

Article VI – Officers

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall consist of a chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, and other officers as may be determined.

Section 2. The chair shall preside at meetings and have general charge over the affairs of the organization.

Section 3. The vice-chair shall assume the duties of the chair in the absence of the chair and assist the chair in the discharge of their duties. In the event the chair is unable or unwilling to serve, the vice-chair shall assume the office as chair until a new chair is elected at the next scheduled meeting.

Section 4. The secretary shall have custody of all books, records, and papers of the organization, except those specifically required to be in the possession of the treasurer. The secretary shall be responsible for maintaining attendance records and minutes.

Section 5. The treasurer shall have custody and keep account of all moneys of the organization and provide a financial report at each meeting. The treasurer shall be responsible for all reports required by law. Immediately after the election of officers, or at any time there is a change in the office of treasurer, the chair presiding at the meeting shall appoint a committee to audit the books and report at the following general meeting.

Section 6. Officers shall be elected at the biennial organization meeting of the County Central Committee which shall be held in odd numbered years between March 1 and April 1. Each term of office shall begin immediately following the election and continue for two years. In the event any officer is unable or unwilling to serve, a new officer shall be elected at the next meeting after the vacancy occurs.

Article VII – Meetings

Section 1. The Benton County Democrats shall meet at least once every three months at a time and place agreed upon by the membership. The Chair or a majority of the Executive Board may call special meetings as deemed necessary and shall call a meeting within fifteen days (15) upon receipt of written petition of twenty percent of the total membership. Items of business shall be noted in the call.

Section 2. The secretary shall mail (postal or electronic) notice of all meetings to each member and officers of the Committee at least seven (7) days before the date set for each meeting.

Section 3. All meetings of the organization shall be open to the public.

Section 4. No business of the organization shall be conducted in the absence of a quorum, which will consist of six members.

Article VIII – Amendments

Amendments to this constitution must be presented in written form at a regular meeting of the organization and then approved by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the following meeting.

Article IX – Ratification

This constitution shall be ratified and take effect upon approval by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a regular meeting of the organization.

Passed the third reading 27 May 1997.