

RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF BUCKS COUNTY

As amended on January 24, 2007

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***RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OF BUCKS COUNTY***

PREAMBLE

Whereas there exists a need for an organization to foster and promote the civic, social, and political goals of voters of Bucks County who desire membership in the Democratic Party and wish to participate in the promotion and election of Democratic candidates for office and the positions they espouse, the Democratic party of Bucks County is hereby constituted to promote these civic, social, and political ideas and goals,

DEFINITIONS

Elected County Committeeperson: An elected County Committeeperson is one certified as elected by the Bucks County Board of Elections or otherwise duly elected under 25 P.S., the Pennsylvania Election Code. A Committeeperson must be a registered Democrat at the time of his or her election and must remain a registered Democrat during the entirety of his or her term. The plural of Committeeperson is Committeepople.

RULE I

COUNTY COMMITTEE

Section A. At the Spring Primary Election in the year the Governor is elected the Democratic voters of each election district of Bucks County shall elect two County Committeepople who shall be duly registered and enrolled Democratic voters of such election district. The Committeepople shall have charge of the Democratic organization in their respective districts and shall hold office for the term of four years or until their successors are elected or appointed in accordance with these rules.

Section B. The County Committee shall be the authorized body of the Democratic Party of Bucks County and shall be the authorized body for all matters of party management not specifically covered by law or by these rules. It shall have full power and authority to act for the Democratic Party of Bucks County and may delegate such power and authority to committees or to representative Democratic voters of the County.

Section C. The County Committee shall consist of:

1. All elected Democratic Federal, State, and County officials elected from Bucks County.
2. The members of the State Committee from Bucks County.
3. The County Committeepople from the various election districts of Bucks County.

4. The chairs of each municipal organization and each assembly district organization.

Section D. The County Committee shall meet within thirty (30) days after the primary election in the year the Governor is elected at such time and such place as the County Chairman shall designate. Only County Committeepeople elected at that primary election and members of the State Committee from Bucks County, or their proxies, shall be allowed to cast votes for the conduct of business and the election of officers at this meeting of the Committee. All proxies shall be registered Democrats who live within the same municipality as the elected committee person. The proxy designation shall be in writing and shall include the name, address, and phone number of the designated person. At this meeting, no member may have more than one vote or proxy, and no person may cast more than one vote or proxy. The committee shall organize by electing by majority vote the following officers:

1. A Chairperson, who shall be County Chairperson;
2. A Vice Chairperson, who shall serve as Acting County Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson and who shall be of the opposite sex from the Chairperson;
3. A Secretary, who shall keep the minutes of all the meetings of the County Committee and of the Executive Board and who shall handle all correspondence of the County Committee as directed by the County Chairperson or the Executive Board.
4. A Treasurer, who shall have general supervision of the financial affairs of the County Committee, shall jointly with the County Chairperson (or the Chairperson's representative) be authorized to sign checks drawn on the bank accounts of the County Committee, and shall keep the books and accounts thereof;
5. A Comptroller, who shall, as may be from time to time directed by the County Committee or the Executive Board, examine and audit the accounts of the County Committee and any entity subsidiary or auxiliary to it, to keep records of such funds, and to report the financial situation of said accounts.

The officers of the County Committee need not be members of the Committee at the time of their election, but shall be voting members thereof after their election.

The officers shall hold office for the term of four years and until their successors are elected. Vacancies in these offices, except that of County Chairperson, shall be filled by the County Executive Board for the unexpired term. In the event of a vacancy in the office of County Chairperson, it shall be the duty of the Acting County Chairperson, or

the Secretary or Treasurer in that order if the Acting County Chairperson is unavailable or refuses to do so, to call a meeting of the County Committee within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs for the purpose of filling it.

Section E. In the case of a vacancy in the office of the county committeeperson from any election district of the county, caused by death, resignation, failure to elect at the Spring Primary Election or otherwise, the County Chairperson, after consultation with the remaining committeeperson of the election district, if any, shall appoint a qualified Democratic elector of said district to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term, except that no vacancies shall be filled from the period of time intervening between the Primary Election at which County Committee members are elected, and the reorganization meeting of the County Committee.

Section F. 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 one hundred (100) members.

Section G. 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 municipality and not already a member of the Committee, who shall have the power to attend such meeting and vote thereat as the representative of the absent member. Any such proxy shall be any instrument in writing, signed by the member giving the same. The form of proxies for the purposes of attendance and voting at meetings of County Committee may be prescribed by the County Chairperson. If so prescribed, forms for proxies at County Committee meetings shall be mailed to members of County Committee at least ten (10) days before the meeting at which the proxies are to be used.

Section H. One third of the members of the County Committee in office at the time of the meeting shall constitute a quorum for that meeting. Any business conducted at any meeting shall require the vote of a majority of the members present.

Section I. At each meeting of the County Committee, the Credentials Committee shall review and verify the credentials of all committee persons, proxy carriers, and other voting members of the County Committee and present a verbal report to the Chair and the entire County Committee announcing whether a quorum is present. Appeals to verify any decision by the Credentials Committee may be made by an affirmative motion of the majority of the present members at which time three representatives shall be elected by majority vote to review and report on the existence of a quorum.

Section J. Meetings of the County Committee shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of procedure laid down in Robert's Rules of Order.

Section K. No member shall have more than one vote.

Section L. Every committeeperson and every member and officer of the County Executive Board must support those candidates who have been duly nominated in a

Democratic Primary Election and are prohibited from actively working in a General Election against any nominated Democratic candidate and are further prohibited from supporting or working in favor of any candidate opposing a nominated Democratic Candidate, except as follows:

1. When a candidate is nominated on the Democratic ballot who is not a member of the Democratic Party, an endorsement may be given by the appropriate Democratic organization represented by the office but the endorsement is discretionary, not mandatory.
2. In the case of any office where cross filing is permitted, when a candidate is nominated on the Democratic ballot who is not a member of the Democratic Party and a Democrat is nominated on the Republican ballot, an endorsement may be given to the Democrat nominated on the Republican ballot by the appropriate Democratic organization represented by the office but the endorsement is discretionary, not mandatory.
3. When a write-in candidate is nominated on the Democratic ballot who has not been previously endorsed, an endorsement may be given by the appropriate Democratic organization represented by the office but the endorsement is discretionary, not mandatory.
4. In cases of personal conflict over a duly nominated Democratic candidate, the member or officer may file a formal written letter of abstention that is to be presented to the Executive Board within three (3) weeks after the Primary where the candidate was nominated.. The County Chairperson then has the power to appoint an acting committee member who will conduct the necessary duties in the given area of responsibility for the duration of the campaign. This shall not constitute a violation of the bylaws on the part of the individual abstaining unless he or she actively works for the opposition.

Section M. Any person who violates Section L of Rule I shall be prohibited from serving as a member or officer of the Democratic County Committee for a period of two (2) years from the date of violation unless some other penalty is assessed in accordance with these rules.

Any person accused of such a violation, may, at his or her request, have a hearing before the County Arbitration Board. If a majority of the members of the Arbitration Board find that the person accused did, in fact, violate Section L of Rule 1, that person's position shall be declared vacant and the County Chairperson shall then proceed to fill the vacancy in accordance with these rules.

Section N. The County Arbitration Board shall consist of five (5) members elected by the County Executive Board at the time of their initial reorganization meeting.

Vacancies occurring on the Arbitration Board shall be filled in the same manner as the original election.

The Arbitration Board shall organize by electing one person as Chairperson, one Vice Chairperson, and one Secretary and may appoint temporary members to assist with case overloads as needed subject to the approval of the chair of the Bucks County Democratic Committee.

Any member of the Democratic Party may file a complaint bringing a matter of by-law violation before the Board. The Board will have censorship power only in matters concerning Committee members. In all other cases, its role shall be solely one of arbitration. All parties involved will be requested to appear before the Board in cases involving possible censorship. Refusal of the accused to appear will warrant censorship automatically. Refusal of the complainant to appear will warrant dismissal of the charges. A record of all proceedings shall be kept.

All matters that come before the arbitration board under this Section N shall be finalized within four (4) months of the filing of the complaint and a final report presented to the Executive Board.

The Board shall have the responsibility of deciding on the proper punishment within the limits of the by-laws of the Democratic State Committee and the Democratic Party of Bucks County. The Board shall not apply censorship of any type upon any individual for more than two (2) years.

In cases of personal involvement of an Arbitration Board member, the County Chairperson may appoint a temporary replacement to hear the case.

Section O. The manner of voting at meetings of the County Committee may be prescribed by the County Chairperson.

Section P. Any individual or candidate who circulates or causes to have circulated any campaign literature or sample ballot designed to imply an endorsement by the Bucks County Democratic Committee or any local Democratic Committee, when such endorsement has not been given or has been given to another candidate, shall be removed from any party office for a period equivalent to the term of office sought and further may not receive an endorsement or support for any office for the same period of time.

Additionally, should such a candidate win a primary victory, the County Committee shall be under no obligation to support such a candidate in the general election.

Specifically, this section precludes unendorsed candidates from using goldenrod colored sample ballots and from using the words "Official Democratic Sample Ballot" or "Officially Endorsed" or "Democratic Sample Ballot" or any other construction and appearance that would clearly mislead the public into believing a candidate was endorsed

when he or she was not endorsed by the County Committee or an authorized local Democratic Committee. Candidates who are not endorsed by the Democratic Party, and who choose to distribute sample ballots, must distribute sample ballots which are distinct and separate in size, color, and design layout from the official Democratic sample ballot.

Local Democratic committees may circulate local goldenrod sample ballots with the prior permission of the County Chairperson.

Any purported violation of this section shall be referred to the County Arbitration Board which shall conduct a hearing and report to the County Executive Board which shall, by majority vote of the members present, apply the above stated sanctions or dismiss the complaint. Under this Section P, the Arbitration Board shall file the required report within four (4) months of the filing of the complaint.

RULE II

COUNTY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section A. The County Executive Board shall consist of:

1. The County Chairperson, who shall be Chairperson thereof, the Vice Chairperson, the Secretary, the Treasurer, , the Comptroller, and the immediate past County Chairperson.
2. The members of the State Committee from Bucks County and the members of the State Executive Committee residing in Bucks County, if any.
3. The Chairpersons of the assembly district organizations and two other persons elected by each of those organizations and the chairpersons of the municipal organizations
4. Additional representatives elected by each township or borough having more than two thousand (2,000) registered Democratic electors as of the last preceding primary election. These municipalities shall be entitled to one representative for every two thousand (2,000) registered Democratic electors.
5. Additional representatives from the municipalities within each assembly district organization that do not individually have more than two thousand (2,000) registered Democratic voters as of the last preceding primary election. These municipalities shall be entitled to one member for every two thousand (2,000) such voters in proportion to the combined total of registered Democratic voters within such municipalities.

6. All elected federal, state, or county officials elected from Bucks County.

7. The following shall serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Board and may attend and speak at all meetings of the Executive Board and may vote on matters which come before the Executive Board:

- a. The president of any Democratic Women's Club in the County,
- b. The president of the Young Democrats organization,
- c. Two representatives from organized labor, subject to the approval of the Board,
- d. Deputy Chair people appointed by the Chairperson in accordance with these rules and such additional persons as may be selected from time to time by the Board.

The members designated in Section A 4 and A 5 above shall be elected at meetings of the Committeepeople of the areas involved held within sixty (60) days after the primary election in the year that the Governor is elected by a majority vote if the person so elected is approved by the County Chairperson or by two-thirds vote if he is not so approved. At these meetings only committee people elected at the preceding Primary Election or their proxies shall be allowed to vote, and a majority of the elected committee people then in office in the area shall constitute a quorum. Persons elected to the County Executive Board need not be County Committee Persons.

Section B. Vacancies happening at any time in the elected membership of the County Executive Board shall be filled by a vote of the members of the County Committee from the district, township, or borough in which the vacancy occurs at a special meeting to be called by the County Chairperson for that purpose in accordance with the voting procedures set forth in Section A of Rule II. Said meeting shall be held upon ten (10) days written or emailed (according to the recipient's preference) notice.

Section C. The County Executive Board 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 at least six (6) times per year or at the call of any twelve (12) members of the Committee. One third (1/3) of its members shall constitute a quorum. No member shall have more than one vote.

Section D. The County Chairperson shall, with the advice of the County Executive Board, be responsible for the conduct of all county campaigns.

He or she may, at his or her own discretion, appoint no more than three Deputy Chairpersons who shall be responsible for specific duties as assigned by the Chairperson, and who shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Board.

Section E. A member of the Executive Board who is unable to attend in person a meeting of that body may appoint a registered Democratic resident in Bucks County who shall have the power to attend the meeting and vote at it as his or her representative. If the member was elected or appointed from a particular municipality or assembly district organization, his or her representative shall also be a resident of the municipality or assembly district from which he or she was elected. The form of proxies for the purposes of attendance and voting at meetings of the Executive Board may be prescribed by the County Chairperson..

A proxy shall be an instrument in writing signifying the intention of the member of the Executive Board who is unable to attend a specified meeting that the holder shall have the authority to attend the specified meeting and vote as his or her representative.

Section F. Written notice of all meetings of the Executive Board shall be given at least one day for regular meetings and at least five (5) days for special meetings. Notice may be made by mail or email according to the recipient's preference.

Section G. If an elected member is absent from and is not represented by a proxy at four (4) consecutive meetings without explanation or, alternatively, is absent from any sixteen (16) of the Board meetings during a four year term even though he or she had been represented by a proxy at some of the meetings, the County Chairperson may declare the seat vacant, and an election shall forthwith be held to choose a successor.

Section H. The members of the County Executive Board are subject to and included within the terms pertaining to Rule I, Sections L through N inclusive.

RULE III

VACANCIES ON THE DEMOCRATIC TICKET

Section A. The County Executive Board shall have power to fill all vacancies occurring 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 cannot be filled at a Primary Election under the law, and shall have the authority to make and certify a nomination. If a vacancy exists following the executive board meeting that precedes the deadline for submitting a replacement candidate to the board of elections, then the County Chairperson shall have the authority to fill the vacancy.

Section B. Vacancies happening or existing on a city, borough, township, ward or election district ticket, by reason of death, withdrawal, failure to nominate at the Primary Election, or other cause, and which cannot be filled at a Primary Election under law, in cities, boroughs or townships, shall be filled by the Executive Board which shall have

authority to make and certify a nomination upon the recommendation of the members of the committee from the city, borough, township, ward or election district concerned. If a vacancy exists following the executive board meeting that precedes the deadline for submitting a replacement candidate to the board of elections, then the County Chairperson shall have the authority to fill the vacancy.

RULE IV

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

Section A. No later than the first Wednesday in February of each year, the County Committee shall hold a screening meeting at the call of the County Chairperson for the purpose of receiving suggestions concerning candidates to be recommended by the County Committee to the Democratic offices for which nominations are to be made thereat in the county at large, or in any congressional or state senatorial district within the county or for State Committeeman or State Committeewoman, or for delegate to a Democratic National Convention.

Any assembly district organization, township or borough committee, Democratic club or organization, or any committeeperson may make such suggestions to the County Committee. No final endorsement of any candidates shall be made at this initial meeting, but the members of the Committee may interview prospective candidates and hear presentations on their behalf as the members see fit. More than one screening meeting may be held prior to the endorsement meeting. There shall be no quorum requirement for these screening meetings.

Section B. In addition to one or more screening meetings, an endorsement meeting shall be called by the County Chairperson at which the County Committee may endorse candidates. One third of the members of the County Committee then holding office and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum. No endorsement shall be made unless the prospective candidate receives the votes of at least 60% of those present who are entitled to vote for that office. The manner of voting at meetings of the County Committee may be prescribed by the County Chairperson except that no vote shall be taken by secret ballot.

Section C. Other than for a state-wide offices, when a district from which an official is to be elected lies partly in Bucks and partly in another county, screening meetings and endorsement meetings shall be held in the manner set forth in Sections A and B above. The Committeepople from both counties who reside in that district must be invited to the meeting. The quorum and minimum vote requirements shall be the same as in Sections A and B above.

Section D. Endorsements for representatives to the General Assembly, magisterial district justices, school directors and local offices shall not be voted upon by persons living outside of the area from which the official is to be elected. Endorsements

for representatives to the General Assembly may be made by members of the County Committee from the respective Assembly Districts.

Vacancies for the offices enumerated in Section D above shall be filled by the County Executive Board after consultation with the members of the County Committee from the district, municipality or other area concerned.

RULE V

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS

Section A. To provide for effective communication between Committeepeople in neighboring municipalities, to permit closer liaison between Committeepeople on the one hand and the County Executive Board on the other, and to better promote election of Democrats to State Assembly seats, the members of the County Committee shall be grouped into Assembly District Organizations. The boundaries of these organizations shall be coterminous with the districts set up by the House of Representatives of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, except that where the boundary of a district set up for assembly election purposes bisects a municipality, all the election districts within the municipality shall belong to the organization in which the majority of election districts in that municipality are located. The boundaries of the organizations shall automatically be changed whenever the boundaries of the districts for assembly election purposes are changed by the Commonwealth.

Section B. The Committeepeople from each of the assembly district organizations shall elect the officers of the respective organizations and the members of the County Executive Board from that organization. For this purpose, they shall meet at the time specified in the by-laws of the respective organization, but no later than sixty (60) days after the primary election of the year that the Governor is elected. Any duly registered and enrolled Democratic elector resident in the district shall be eligible to election as an officer of the district organization or member of the County Executive Board.

Only Committeepeople elected at the preceding primary election or their proxies shall be allowed to vote at this meeting. A majority of the elected members of the County Committee then in office in the district shall constitute a quorum for this purpose.

Section C. Certification or decertification of municipal organizations shall be by a 60% vote of the Executive Board where a quorum is present.

RULE VI

STANDING COMMITTEES

Section A. The following Standing Committees of the Bucks County Executive Board are hereby established, whose duties shall be provided by the Bucks County

Democratic Executive Board and whose membership shall be appointed by the County Chairperson:

- 1) Legal Committee whose Chairperson shall be designated as Counsel,
- 2) Finance Committee,
- 3) Voter Registration Committee
- 4) By-Laws Committee

Section B. There shall be a standing credentials committee consisting of three members, elected by the Executive Board at the first meeting following the Presidential Primary and whose members shall serve until the Executive Board meeting following the next Presidential Primary.

Section C. The Chairman shall have the authority to create and dissolve such special committees as he or she deems necessary and shall have the authority to appoint members of said committees.

RULE VII

FISCAL AFFAIRS

Section A. The books and records of the Treasurer shall be audited at least once a year, and at such times as may be directed by the Executive Board, by an Auditing Committee consisting of at least three (3) members, to be appointed for that purpose by the County Chairperson. Such auditing Committee shall make a full and complete report of each audit to the Executive Board which shall thereupon either accept such report, or reject it and appoint another committee to re-audit the books and records aforesaid.

Section B. The treasurer shall, before assuming the duties of his or her office, file with the Secretary a Bond, with one or more sureties or one corporate surety, for the faithful accounting for and proper disposition of all funds of the County Committee coming into his or her custody. The form and amount of such bond, and the sufficiency of the surety or sureties thereon, shall be as fixed or approved by the Executive Board. The premium for any such bond shall be paid with funds of the County Committee.

RULE VIII

AMENDMENT OF RULES

Section A. These rules may be amended at any meeting of the County Committee by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members attending a meeting where a quorum is present provided written notice of such proposed amendments was mailed or emailed (according to the recipient's preference) to all the members at least ten (10) days before the meeting at which action is to be taken.

Section B. All proposed amendments must be presented to the Executive Board prior to being presented to the County Committee

As amended February 1, 1979;

March 1, 1979;
March 5, 1983;
March 14, 1987;
March 14, 1990;
June 6, 1990;
March 23, 1991;
February 15, 1992;
February 26, 2005;
March 4, 2006;
January 24, 2007:

by action of the Bucks County Democratic Committee. Certified by

John F. Cordisco
County Chairman

Jordan Yeager,
Solicitor