

# **Constitution of the Portage County, Ohio Democratic Party**

The members of the Central Committee of the Portage County Democratic Party hereby adopt this constitution and make provisions for by-laws for the organization of the Portage County Democratic Party.

## **Article One. Name.**

The name of this organization shall be the Portage County Democratic Party. In this constitution and its attendant by-laws the term "County Party" shall mean the Portage County, Ohio Democratic Party.

## **Article Two. Statement of Purpose.**

The Portage County Democratic Party exists to advance the principles of democracy, to uphold human and civil rights and constitutional government, and to organize a representative, effective and responsible structure for doing so. The Portage County Democratic Party affiliates with, and advances the interest of, the Democratic Party in the State of Ohio and United States of America.

## **Article Three. Membership.**

### **Section 1. Requirements for Membership.**

Membership in this Party shall be open to all residents of Portage County who support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Portage County Democratic Party, and who are not members of any other political party.

### **Section 2. Central Committee Members.**

Any person elected or appointed as a member of the Portage County Democratic Party Central Committee is a member of the Committee with full rights and privileges.

Any person elected or nominated to countywide or district office in Portage County as a Democrat is an *ad hoc* member of the Portage County Democratic Party Central Committee for the duration of their term of office or candidacy. *Ad hoc* members shall not possess voting privileges, nor count toward quorum.

### **Section 3. Eligibility for County Party Office.**

The Chair, First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be members of the County Central Committee. Any person who meets the membership requirements of Article 3, Section 1, is eligible to serve in other offices.

#### **Section 4. Procedure for Determining Membership Requirements.**

In the event of a question as to whether any person meets the requirements of Article 3, Section 1, the procedure set out in Ohio Revised Code Section 3513.19.

### **Article Four. County Central Committee.**

#### **Section 1. Election of Members.**

The County Central Committee shall be made up of one person elected from each precinct in the County as provided by Ohio Revised Code Section 3517.02. The members of the County Central Committee shall be elected in the primary election in years in which the candidate for Governor is elected, and shall serve for a term of four years. In this constitution the term "Central Committee" shall mean the Portage County Democratic Central Committee. The Central Committee shall elect an Executive Committee, which shall have such powers as are granted by this constitution and the Party's by-laws.

#### **Section 2. Vacancies.**

Any vacancy in the office of member of the Central Committee for any precinct shall be announced by the Chair at the next meeting of the Central Committee following the occurrence of such vacancy. Any resident of such precinct who meets the requirements of Article 3, Section 1 may apply for appointment to fill such vacancy by letter or email to the Chair or to the Secretary of the Central Committee within 30 days of the announcement of the vacancy. Notice of all such applications shall be announced to the members of the Central Committee at the next meeting of the Central Committee following the announcement of the vacancy by the Chair. If there is only one application for a particular vacancy, the Central Committee may vote on whether to appoint the applicant to the position either by a show of hands or by standing.

A majority vote of the members of the Central Committee attending such meeting shall be sufficient to approve the appointment. If there is more than one application for a particular vacancy, the members of the Central Committee shall vote for an individual applicant by written ballot showing the candidate's name and the Central Committee member's signature and printed name, or by roll call vote recorded electronically. When an individual applicant receives a majority vote of the members of the Central Committee in attendance, that individual shall be appointed to fill the vacancy.

#### **Section 3. Organizational Meeting, Election of Statutory Officers, Parliamentarian, County Executive Committee.**

a. The members of the County Central Committee shall meet for an organizational meeting after the certification of the election of the members by the County Board of Elections, as provided by Ohio Revised Code Section 3517.04.

b. At the organizational meeting, the members of the Central Committee shall elect the statutory officers - Chair, Vice-Chairs, Treasurer, and Secretary - by majority vote. Vote shall be by

written ballot showing the candidate's name and the Central Committee member's signature and printed name, or by roll call vote recorded electronically. The statutory officers shall serve for a term of four years, until the organizational meeting following the next election of members of the Central Committee.

c. At the organizational meeting, the members of the Central Committee shall also elect a Parliamentarian. Vote shall be by written ballot showing the candidate's name, the signature of the Central Committee member along with their printed legible name on each ballot. This officer shall serve for a term of four years, until the organizational meeting following the next election of members of the Central Committee.

d. The members of the Central Committee shall adopt a resolution declaring the Central Committee in its entirety to be the Executive Committee so as to comply with Ohio Revised Code Section 3517.03. Throughout this constitution, in all references to actions required by statute to be taken by the Executive Committee, the phrase "Central Committee" shall include the meaning "Executive Committee."

#### **Section 4. Regular Meetings.**

The members of the Central Committee shall meet not less than three (3) times in each calendar year at a place within Portage County. The schedule for regular meetings shall take into account the requirement for making a recommendation for appointment of a member of the County Board of Elections as described in Article 4, Section 10. Notice of regular meetings of the Central Committee shall be given to members of the Central Committee as provided in Article 4, Section 6.

#### **Section 5. Special Meetings.**

A special meeting of the Central Committee may be called by the Chair at any time, upon notice to the members of the Central Committee as provided in Article 4, Section 6. A special meeting of the Central Committee may also be called by a written request of at least twenty members of the Central Committee delivered to the Chair or to the Secretary of the Central Committee. Upon receipt of such written request by the Chair or by the Secretary, notice shall be given to the members of the Central Committee as provided in Article 4, Section 6.

#### **Section 6. Notice of Meetings.**

Notice of any meeting of the Central Committee shall specify the time and place of such meeting and, if a special meeting or if otherwise required by statute, shall state the purpose of the meeting. Notice shall be sent via email, or United States Postal Service upon written request from a member, not less than seven (7) days in advance of the meeting unless otherwise provided by law.

Members of the Central Committee may also receive notice of meetings via first-class mail where required by Ohio law. Notices shall be sent by the Secretary, or, in the absence of the Secretary, by another member of the Central Committee appointed by the Chair. Where required by law, notice with a copy of the proposed agenda of the meeting shall be posted on the website

of the County Democratic Party, and notice shall be sent to the local newspaper and to any other news media organizations which have previously requested notification in writing, not less than seven (7) days in advance of the meeting, unless otherwise provided by law.

**Section 7. Quorum for Official Business.**

One-third the total number of voting members of the Central Committee shall constitute a quorum for conducting any business of the Central Committee unless otherwise provided by statute.

**Section 8. Meeting Procedure.**

Any matters of procedure in any meeting of the Central Committee, which are not specifically provided by statute or in this constitution, shall be governed by the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order. The Parliamentarian shall make the final decision on any question of procedure.

**Section 9. Vacancy in County Public Office.**

As provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 305.02, the Central Committee shall appoint a person to fill a vacancy in County elective public office when the person holding such office prior to such vacancy was affiliated with the Democratic Party, or when a person elected to a County Elective office as a candidate of the Democratic Party is unable to take such office.

Any person who wishes to be considered by the Central Committee for appointment to such vacancy may deliver a written application for appointment to the Chair or to the Secretary of the Central Committee. The Chair may appoint a Candidate Committee to review applications, interview applicants, and make a report to the Central Committee. The Chair shall permit all of the applicants to address the special meeting of the Central Committee with equal time limitations. The vote of the Central Committee shall be by written ballot showing the candidate's name and the Central Committee member's signature and printed name, or by roll call vote recorded electronically.

A majority vote of the members of the Central Committee attending the special meeting shall be required to fill the vacancy. If no applicant receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the applicant with the lowest vote total shall be removed from consideration and a new vote taken. Applicants with the lowest vote totals shall be removed in each subsequent round of voting until one applicant receives a majority. In the event of a tie vote between the final two candidates, after a second tie vote the appointment shall be decided by coin flip conducted by the Chair.

**Section 10. Recommendation of Member of County Board of Elections; Vacancy.**

As provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 3501.07, in even-numbered years no later than February 13th of such year, the County Central Committee shall make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for the appointment of a member of the Portage County Board of Elections. For purposes of this recommendation, the Central Committee shall act as the Executive Committee. If a vacancy in such office occurs, a special meeting of the Central Committee shall be called no sooner than five days and no later than fifteen days from the occurrence of such vacancy for the purpose of recommending a person to fill such vacancy.

**Section 11. Other authorities and duties of the County Central Committee.**

- a. The Central Committee shall have custody of the funds of the Portage County Democratic Party, shall have the authority to expend such funds, and shall have the duty to account for such funds.
- b. The Central Committee shall have the duty to keep a record of all official acts of the Central Committee and of the County Party, and to make that record available to members of the Party.
- c. The Central Committee shall have authority to hire employees; to contract for services including technical services, communications, and publicity; to purchase supplies and equipment; and to acquire office space and pay expenses of such office for the County Party.
- d. The Central Committee shall have the authority to raise funds in the name of the County Party. Such authorities and duties may be delegated to officers and/or sub-committees of the Central Committee consistent with this constitution and the Party's by-laws.

**Section 12. Ballots and Voting.**

No secret ballots shall be permitted. Elections of members of the Executive Committee, recommendations to the Secretary of State for members of the Board of Elections, endorsements of candidates, and appointments of precinct committee members with two or more applicants for the same vacant precinct, shall be by written ballot showing the candidate's name and the Central Committee member's signature and printed name, or by roll call vote recorded electronically. All other actions requiring a vote by the Central Committee may, at the discretion of the Chair, be either by a show of hands or by standing. Written ballots will be retained by the Secretary for a period of 60 days and may be reviewed upon receipt of a written request.

No voting shall be conducted via unit rule, proxy, or slate.

**Article Five. Officers.**

**Section 1. Statutory Officers of the County Central Committee.**

Ohio Revised Code requires that the members of the Central Committee shall elect the Chair, Vice-Chairs, Treasurer, and Secretary, at the Organizational Meeting of the County Central Committee. These officers of the Central Committee shall serve as the officers of the Portage County Democratic Party during the term of each such officer as an officer of the Central Committee.

**Section 2. Oath of Office.**

As required by the By-Laws of the Ohio Democratic Party, Chapter 13, all officers of the Portage County Democratic Party and of the Central Committee shall, upon election, take an oath of office to support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Constitution, By-Laws, and principles of the Ohio Democratic Party, and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Portage County Democratic Party, and to faithfully, honestly, and impartially discharge the duties of their respective office.

### **Section 3. Chair.**

The Chair is the chief executive officer of the Portage County Democratic Party. The Chair shall preside at meetings of the County Party and at meetings of the County Central Committee. The Chair shall appoint or remove members of the standing committees and designate the chair of such committees. The Chair may appoint *ad hoc* committees or designate individuals to perform particular responsibilities, except those responsibilities specifically allocated by statute or by this constitution to the Secretary, Treasurer or to standing committees. The Chair shall approve any communications issued on behalf of the County Party to the public media. The Chair shall have the authority to execute contracts on behalf of the County Party upon the approval of the Central Committee as set out in Article 4, Section 11. The Chair shall facilitate communication and cooperation with the Democratic National Committee, the Ohio Democratic Party, other county and local Democratic Party organizations, other organizations engaged in political campaign activities, and with public officials and candidates for public office.

The Chair may transmit to the Secretary a written declaration that they are unable to temporarily discharge the powers, duties and responsibilities of the office of Chair. During such temporary absence Article 5, Section 4 shall control as to the succession of office. The Chair shall submit a written declaration of their return to the office of the Chair to the Secretary, at which point they shall resume their duties effective immediately.

### **Section 4. Vice-Chairs.**

There shall be two Vice-Chairs, designated as First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair. The First Vice-Chair shall serve as the Acting Chair in case of the death, resignation, incapacity, removal, ineligibility or absence of the Chair, and shall, in such event, have the same powers, duties and responsibilities as the Chair and shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

The Second Vice Chair shall serve as the First Vice-chair in case of death, resignation, incapacity, removal, ineligibility, absence, or promotion of the First Vice-Chair. Whenever the First Vice-Chair transmits to the Secretary a written declaration that they are unable or unwilling to discharge the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Chair during such absence, the Second Vice-Chair shall serve as the Acting Chair for the remainder of the unexpired term. The Chair may delegate other responsibilities to the Vice-Chairs in the discretion of the Chair.

The Vice-Chairs shall be of different gender identities in accordance with the rules set forth in the Charter of the Democratic National Committee.

### **Section 5. Secretary.**

The Secretary shall have custody of all official records of the Portage County Democratic Party and of the Central Committee, other than financial records required to be kept by the Treasurer. These records specifically include the record of members and officers of the Central Committee, the minutes of all meetings, and records of notices of all meetings sent to the members of the Central Committee. The Secretary shall notify the Board of Elections and the Secretary of State

of the current membership and statutory officers of the Central Committee and any changes in that membership or officers, as required by Ohio Revised Code Sections 3517.02 and 3517.06.

Copies of the record of membership and minutes of meetings shall be available for inspection by members of the County Party and available to the public and news media upon reasonable notice. The original records and minutes shall be maintained by the Secretary and, at the conclusion of any Secretary's term in office, immediately delivered to the successor Secretary for which proper receipt shall be acknowledged. The Secretary shall maintain a record of all correspondence with the Democratic National Committee, Ohio Democratic Party, other county and local Democratic Party organizations, other organizations involved in political campaign activities, and with public officials and candidates for public office. With the approval of the Chair, an assistant Secretary may be designated to manage correspondence other than that reporting which is required of the Secretary by statute.

#### **Section 6. Treasurer.**

The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds and financial records of the Portage County Democratic Party and of the Central Committee, and shall make a report of the current funds and financial records at each meeting of the Central Committee. The Treasurer shall keep an account of all receipts and expenditures of the County Party and of the Central Committee. The Treasurer shall prepare and file with the Board of Elections such reports of contributions and expenditures of the County Party as are required by Ohio Revised Code Section 3517.10. Copies of such reports shall be available for inspection by members of the County Party and available to the public and news media upon reasonable notice.

The Treasurer and any other party officer or employee responsible for the handling of party funds shall post a bond for the proper performance of the duties of such office, in an amount twice the amount of all funds in the County Party accounts as of December 31st of the previous year. The premium for such bond shall be paid from the treasury of the Portage County Democratic Party. Alternatively, to the extent allowable by Ohio law, the Treasurer shall secure directors and officers insurance for the same, paid from the treasury of the Party.

The Treasurer shall cooperate with the Audit Committee in the performance of the annual audit. The original records of receipts and expenditures shall be maintained by the Treasurer and, at the conclusion of the Treasurer's term in office, immediately delivered to the Audit Committee for end-of-term audit prior to delivery of said records to the successor Treasurer, for which proper receipt shall be acknowledged. With the approval of the Chair, an assistant Treasurer may be designated to assist with the financial records of the Portage County Democratic Party other than that reporting which is required of the Treasurer by statute.

#### **Section 7. Parliamentarian.**

The Parliamentarian shall be elected by majority vote of the members of the Central Committee present and voting at the organizational meeting and shall serve until the next succeeding

organizational meeting. The Parliamentarian shall decide any question of order or procedure, which arises during a meeting of the County Party, or of the Central Committee.

**Section 8. Audit Committee.**

The Audit Committee is a standing committee of the Portage County Democratic Party. The Audit Committee shall consist of three or more members (not officers) appointed by the Chair of the County Party with the approval by a majority vote of the Central Committee members present.

The Audit Committee shall audit the financial records of the County Party at the end of each calendar year and at the end of each term of the Treasurer, and make a report of each such audit to the Central Committee within sixty days of the end of each such audit period. The report of the Audit Committee may be a written report delivered to the Chair or to the Secretary if there is not a meeting of the Central Committee held during such time period. The Audit Committee shall make such other audits as the Chair of the County Party or any member of the Audit Committee may request.

**Section 9. Finance Committee.**

The Finance Committee is a standing committee of the Portage County Democratic Party. The Finance Committee shall consist of three or more members appointed by the Chair of the County Party with the approval by a majority vote of the Central Committee members present. One of these members may be the Chair of the County Party.

The Finance Committee shall organize fundraising activities for the County Party. The Finance Committee may be authorized by the Chair of the County Party to cooperate with other organizations or with candidate campaign committees in organizing joint fundraising events. The Finance Committee shall coordinate scheduling of fundraising events with other organizations and with candidate campaign committees so as to avoid conflicts and maximize fundraising opportunities. The Finance Committee shall compile a calendar of fundraising events and publicize such calendar to the members of the County Party and to the public, including publicity through the County Party website.

**Section 10. Volunteer Committee.**

The Volunteer Committee is a standing committee of the Portage County Democratic Party. The Volunteer Committee shall consist of three or more members appointed by the Chair of the County Party with the approval of a majority vote of the Central Committee members present. In addition to the three or more members, the First Vice Chair of the County Party shall be the chairperson of the Volunteer Committee.

The Volunteer Committee shall organize volunteers for County Democratic Party sponsored tents or booths at events within Portage County. Those events should include, but are not limited to, the Kent Heritage Festival, Streetsboro Family Days, Garrettsville Summerfest, Ravenna Balloon-A-Fair, and the Portage County Randolph Fair. The Volunteer Committee may be

authorized by the Chair of the County Party to cooperate with other organizations or with candidate campaign committees to avoid conflicts and maximize the County Party's presence at events throughout Portage County. The Volunteer Committee shall compile a calendar of events and publicize that calendar to the members of the County Party, candidate campaign committees, and other Democratic-aligned organizations.

### **Section 11. Membership Committee.**

The Membership Committee is a standing committee of the Portage County Democratic Party. The Membership Committee shall consist of three or more members (not officers) appointed by the Chair with the approval of a majority vote of the Central Committee members present.

The Membership Committee shall exist to support the continued education of Central Committee members, to assist the Chair in identifying candidates to fill vacancies on the Central Committee, and to maintain and recommend changes to the Central Committee Member Job Description Handbook. The Membership Committee shall prepare and execute training materials and resources for members of the Central Committee throughout the year.

### **Section 12. *Ad Hoc* Committees.**

The Chair may appoint such *ad hoc* committees or delegate responsibilities to individual members as the Chair shall deem appropriate to further the purposes of the County Party as set forth in Article 2.

### **Section 13. Vacancies.**

In the event of a vacancy in any of the County Party offices, other than the Chair or First Vice-Chair, that vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as referred to in Article 4, Section 2 for filling a vacancy in the Central Committee.

### **Section 14. Removal of Officers.**

Any officer may be removed from office before the end of the term to which that officer was elected by a vote of the majority of the total number of members of the Central Committee, at a regular or special meeting of the Central Committee. A vote on the removal of an officer may be called by the Chair, or by the written request of at least twenty members of the Central Committee. When a vote on the removal of an officer is to be taken, an announcement that such a vote will be taken must be included in the Notice of Meeting sent to the members of the Central Committee of the meeting at which the vote is to be taken. The Chair shall call a vote on the removal of an officer on the occurrence of any of the following:

1. Failure of an officer to attend three consecutive meetings of the Central Committee without excuse.
2. Failure of an officer to make available to the members of the Central Committee any records of the Central Committee which this Article requires that officer make available within a reasonable period of time.

3. Failure of an officer to cooperate with the Audit Committee in the completion of an audit required by Section 8 of this Article.

4. A report of the Audit Committee that the financial records have not been approved by the Audit Committee at an audit required by Section 8 of this Article.

## **Article Six. Conformance to Ohio Democratic Party Constitution and By-Laws.**

### **Section 1. Party Operations.**

The operations of the Portage County Democratic Party and the Central Committee shall be conducted in conformance to the requirements of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Ohio Democratic Party.

### **Section 2. State Convention Delegates.**

Delegates from Portage County to the State Convention of the Ohio Democratic Party shall be designated by the Chair as soon as practicable after notification of the County Party by the Ohio Democratic Party of the number of delegates apportioned to Portage County.

In the event the Executive Committee of the Ohio Democratic Party adopts a procedure for selection of delegates from counties pursuant to the By-Laws of the Ohio Democratic Party, Chapter 5, Section 2, and communicates that procedure to the County Party, such procedure shall be followed by the County Party to the extent practicable. In the absence of a specific procedure adopted by the Ohio Democratic Party, the Chair of the County Party shall designate delegates who are members of the County Party, in accordance with the principles of delegate selection contained in the national guidelines for selection of delegates to the Democratic National Committee.

Delegates shall be divided between men and women as equally as possible.

### **Section 3. Assessments by Ohio Democratic Party.**

The County Party shall pay such assessment as may be levied by the Finance Committee of the Ohio Democratic Party as required by the By-Laws of the Ohio Democratic Party, Chapter 10, Section 2.

## **Article Seven. Endorsements.**

### **Section 1. Statewide Candidates, Primary Elections.**

In any Democratic primary election for statewide office in which the Executive Committee of the Ohio Democratic Party has made an endorsement of a candidate, the County Party shall support such endorsed candidate. In a Democratic primary election for statewide office in which the Executive Committee of the Ohio Democratic Party has met pursuant to the By-Laws of the

Ohio Democratic Party, Chapter 9, and has not endorsed a candidate, the Central Committee may consider an endorsement as provided in Article 7, Section 4.

**Section 2. District Candidates, County Candidates, Primary Elections.**

In any Democratic primary election for district office, which district includes Portage County, and in any Democratic primary election for countywide or municipal office in Portage County, the Central Committee may make an endorsement as provided in Article 7, Section 4.

**Section 3. Local Candidates or Issues, Non-partisan General Elections.**

In any non-partisan general election for countywide, municipal, township, or other local office or issue, within Portage County, the Central Committee may make an endorsement as provided in Article 7, Section 4.

**Section 4. Procedure for Endorsement.**

a. A special meeting for the purpose of considering endorsements may be called by the Chair or by written request of members as set out in Article 4, Section 5, with notice to the members of the Central Committee as set out in Article 4, Section 6.

b. Any candidate or issue committee seeking the endorsement of the Portage County Democratic Party may deliver a written request for such endorsement to the Chair or to the Secretary of the Central Committee. The Chair may appoint a Candidate and Issue Committee to review such applications, interview such applicants, and make a report to the Central Committee.

c. The Chair shall, pursuant to the By-Laws of the Ohio Democratic Party, Chapter 7, Section 5, permit all of the candidates or issue representatives to address the special meeting of the Central Committee. The Central Committee may endorse one or more of said candidates upon the affirmative vote of 60% of the members of the Committee present and voting on the question. The question to be submitted to the County Central Committee shall be whether such candidate or issue shall be endorsed by the Portage County Democratic Party. Any member of the County Central Committee may vote in the affirmative for as many candidates for the nomination as desired.

d. The vote of the Central Committee shall be by written ballot showing the candidate's name and the Central Committee member's signature and printed name, or by roll call vote recorded electronically. If a special meeting is called for the purpose of considering endorsements and fewer than one-half the total number of members of the Central Committee attend such meeting, no vote shall be held on the question of endorsements.

e. Any candidate receiving the vote of 60% of the members of the Committee present and voting on the question shall be considered to be endorsed, and a public announcement of said endorsement shall be issued forthwith.

f. An endorsement may be withdrawn at any properly organized meeting of the Central Committee at any time for good cause by a vote of sixty (60%) percent of the members present and voting on the withdrawal of the endorsement

## **Article Eight. Adoption of by-laws; Amendment of Constitution; Conflicts; Supremacy.**

**Section 1.** This constitution may be amended by a vote of 60% of the members of the Central Committee present at a meeting called for that purpose. All proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Chair or Secretary of the County Central Committee at least ten days in advance of the meeting at which the proposed amendments are to be considered, and copies of all proposed amendments shall be sent to each member of the Central Committee with the notice of meeting as provided in Article 4, Section 6.

Any amendment shall be effective immediately upon approval. Notice of the approval of any amendment to this constitution shall be reported to the Chair of the State Executive Committee of the Ohio Democratic Party as required by the by-laws of the Ohio Democratic Party, and to the Secretary of State where required by statute.

**Section 2.** The Central Committee may adopt proposed by-laws by majority vote of members attending a meeting. No by-law may be adopted which conflicts with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Ohio Democratic Party or with this constitution, as stated in Section 2. All proposed by-laws must be submitted in writing to the Chair or Secretary of the Central Committee at least ten days in advance of the meeting at which the proposed by-laws are to be considered, and copies of all proposed by-laws shall be sent to each member of the Central Committee with the notice of meeting as provided in Article 4, Section 6. Any by-law shall be effective immediately upon approval by the Central Committee.

**Section 3.** Nothing herein shall conflict with the Constitution of the United States of America, the Laws of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Laws of the State of Ohio and the Charter and By-Laws of the Ohio Democratic Party or Democratic National Committee. Any matter which conflicts with any of the aforesaid shall be of no force and effect. All constitutional provisions and laws of the United States of America and of the State of Ohio are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part hereof. Each clause of this constitution shall be considered separately and the illegality or enforceability of any one clause shall not affect any other clause.

**Section 4.** This constitution supersedes any and all other constitutions of the Portage County Democratic Party and shall take effect immediately upon adoption.