

Constitution of the Poweshiek County Democratic Party

ARTICLE I – NAME

The organization hereby constituted shall be called the Poweshiek County Democratic Party.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSES AND GENERAL AUTHORITY

Sec. 1. Purpose. The purposes of the Poweshiek County Democratic Party shall be:

- A. To function as an integral part of the Iowa Democratic Party;
- B. To establish and perpetuate a representative, effective, and responsible party organization;
- C. To help advance the interests of the Democratic Party in Poweshiek County, Iowa, in the First Congressional District of Iowa, in the State of Iowa, and nationally;
- D. To sustain and advance principles of social justice and democracy; and
- E. To uphold civil rights, civil liberties, and constitutional government generally.

Sec. 2. General Authority. The Poweshiek County Democratic Party is authorized to adopt such by-laws, resolutions, or other measures otherwise consistent with this Constitution as may be necessary and proper to carry out those purposes articulated in Section 1 of the Article.

ARTICLE III – PARTY STRUCTURE

Sec. 1. Constitution of the Iowa Democratic Party. The Poweshiek County Democratic Party shall be bound by the Constitution of the Iowa Democratic Party.

Sec. 2. Biennial convention. In accordance with the call of the Iowa Democratic Party Chair, there will be a biennial Poweshiek County Democratic convention, which will be the supreme governing body of the Poweshiek County Democratic Party. A delegate or alternate to a Poweshiek County Democratic convention shall not be charged a fee or asked to sign a fee waiver. A convention delegate or alternate may be asked to make a voluntary contribution to defray convention expenses as long as such a contribution is clearly labeled as voluntary, not referred to as a fee, and not requested until after the delegate or alternate is fully registered at the convention.

Sec. 3. Central Committee. When the biennial Poweshiek County Democratic Convention is in adjournment, the Poweshiek County Democratic Central Committee shall be the governing body of the Democratic Party of Poweshiek County, Iowa, provided that it shall function in accord with this Constitution and with the express policies of the Poweshiek County Democratic Convention.

ARTICLE IV – CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1. Voting Members. Every even-numbered year, each Poweshiek County precinct, meeting in caucus, shall elect three voting members to the Poweshiek County Democratic Central Committee, each to serve until the precinct caucus during the next even-numbered year.

Sec. 2. Attendance at Committee Meetings. Central Committee members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled Central Committee meetings. Infrequent absences may be excused if the member notifies the Secretary or the Chair that said member will be unable to attend a regularly scheduled meeting.

Sec. 3. Removal from Central Committee Membership. The Central Committee may remove any member or officer of the Central Committee from membership for non-residency, inattention to duty, incompetence, or support of a candidate for public office who is running against a candidate nominated by the county, state, or national Democratic Party. Procedures for removal from membership shall be as provided in the Bylaws.

Sec. 4. Vacancies filled by Central Committee. If a vacancy occurs on the Central Committee the position shall be filled by an Alternate Central Committee Member as per Article II, Section 3, Subsection B of the Constitution of the Iowa Democratic Party, or, in the event there is no Alternate, as soon as possible by a majority vote of the Central Committee at a properly called meeting. Notice of the meeting shall state that vacancies of the Poweshiek County Democratic Central Committee may be filled. Any person elected to a vacancy by the Central Committee shall serve until the precinct caucuses during the next even-numbered year.

ARTICLE V – SELECTION OF OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND COUNTY CONVENTION CHAIRS

Sec 1. Officers. The officers of the Poweshiek County Democratic Party shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Sec 2. Executive Committee. The Officers of the Poweshiek County Democratic Party, along with the Chairs of the Standing Committees specified in this Constitution, shall constitute the voting members of the Executive Committee. The President or Chair of any College Democrats organization in Poweshiek County shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 3. Election of Officers. The Poweshiek County Democratic Central Committee shall meet and organize at the biennial organizational meeting, which shall be held within the month of March in odd-number years, or as specified in the Constitution of the Iowa Democratic Party or in appropriate state statute. The exact date shall be set by the Chair with the approval of the Central Committee. Notice of this meeting shall be provided to the Central Committee members no later than 10 days before the meeting using meeting notice procedures as specified in the Bylaws.

The first order of business of this meeting shall be the adoption of rules governing the election of officers, following which shall be the election of officers by majority vote. Officers shall take office immediately upon election. Following election of officers, the Central Committee shall next elect one or more Chairs of each Standing Committee by majority vote, except as specified in Sections 4 and 5 of this Article.

Upon ratification of this section by the Poweshiek County Convention, all Officers previously elected by the Central Committee shall continue to serve in their positions until the next Poweshiek County Convention.

Sec. 4. Affirmative Action Chair. The Poweshiek County Democratic Convention shall elect one or more Affirmative Action Chairs by majority vote of the Delegates present and voting at the Convention.

Sec. 5. Platform Chair. The County Convention Platform Chair shall serve as Chair of the Platform Standing Committee of the Poweshiek County Democratic Central Committee.

Sec 6. Parliamentarian. The Chair shall appoint a Parliamentarian, who need not be a voting member of the Central Committee, who shall provide guidance to the Chair on all matters of parliamentary procedure. The Parliamentarian shall attend all Executive Committee and Central Committee meetings, but shall not be a voting member of the Executive Committee.

Sec 7. Co-Chairs. If more than one person is elected as Co-Chair of any Standing Committee, the Co-Chairs shall determine among themselves which shall be the voting member on the Executive Committee as specified in this Article. Any other Co-Chair shall serve on the Executive Committee as a non-voting member.

Sec. 8. Qualifications. Officers and Standing Committee Chairs elected under this Article need not be members of the Central Committee; however, they shall be registered members of the Poweshiek County Democratic Party.

Sec. 9. Term of Office. The term of office for each Officer and Standing Committee Chair elected under this article shall begin immediately upon election by the Poweshiek County Democratic Central Committee, and shall continue until the next biennial organizational meeting of the Central Committee, and until the successor is elected and qualified; unless he or she is sooner removed by the 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 county, state, or national Democratic Party. Procedures for removal of Officers and Standing Committee Chairs shall be as provided in the Bylaws. Vacancies on the Executive Committee shall be filled as by majority vote as specified in the Bylaws. Any person so elected to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee shall serve the remainder of the term of the officer replaced.

Sec. 10. District and State Central Committee Members. Elected members of the District and State Democratic Central Committees who reside in Poweshiek County shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee, without vote, except that the members of the District Democratic Central Committee who reside in Poweshiek County shall choose one person from among their number who shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 11. Elected Officials. Any Democratic Party officeholder in Poweshiek County shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee without vote.

ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1. Duties of Chair. The Chair shall serve as Chief Executive Officer. The Chair shall chair meetings of the Central Committee and of the Executive committee. The Chair shall, with the approval of the Central Committee, appoint ad-hoc committees as deemed necessary. Between meetings of the Central Committee, the Chair may approve expenditures in accordance with the Bylaws.

Sec. 2. Operational Plan. No later than June 1 of each odd-numbered year, the Chair shall provide to the Central Committee a two-year operational plan for the Poweshiek County Democratic Party prepared with the input of the Executive Committee. This plan shall become effective upon adoption by a majority vote of the Central Committee.

Sec. 3. Duties of the Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair in the event of the Chair's absence and shall otherwise assist the Chair in the performance of his or her duties.

Sec. 4. Duties of Secretary. The Secretary shall be responsible for all minutes of meetings, mailings, files and records except those specifically required to be in the possession of the Treasurer. The Secretary shall prepare and maintain such minutes, documents, files and records as may be necessary to the operation of the Central Committee, and in accordance with the Bylaws. The Secretary shall maintain accurate lists of Central Committee members which shall be transferred in good condition to the Secretary's successor in office.

Sec. 5. Duties of Treasurer. The Treasurer shall maintain records of assets, liabilities, income and expenditures of the Central Committee, and shall make reports as provided in the Bylaws. The Treasurer, with the approval of the Central Committee, shall determine who shall have custody of the funds of the Party that are within control of the Central Committee. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the maintenance of all records and for the completion of a filing of all reports required by the State of Iowa. The Treasurer shall provide to each biennial County Convention written accounts for all receipts and disbursements occurring since the last biennial convention. The Treasurer shall work with the Budget Committee to prepare a biennial budget for the Party.

Sec. 6. Additional Duties of Officers. Officers shall perform other duties as prescribed in the Bylaws or assigned by the Central Committee.

ARTICLE VII – STANDING COMMITTEES

Sec. 1. Establishment of Standing Committees. Standing Committees shall be established to manage the following functions:

- A. Affirmative Action
- B. Candidate Development
- C. Community Events
- D. Fundraising
- E. Platform

Upon ratification of this section by the Poweshiek County Convention in March 2006, existing elected Committee Chairs shall become Chairs of the Standing Committees in this section as follows:

Except as otherwise specified, all other Standing Committee Chair positions shall be filled by election by the Central Committee at the first meeting immediately following the Convention at which this section is ratified.

Sec. 2. Inclusiveness. To the maximum extent possible, all committees shall include men, women, persons of various age groups, persons of different races, persons with disabilities, persons with different sexual orientations, and economically disadvantaged persons in reasonable

relationship to the proportional membership of these groups in the Poweshiek County Democratic Party.

Sec. 3. Duties and Responsibilities. The duties and responsibilities of the standing committees shall be as specified in the Bylaws. The responsibilities and powers of the Affirmative Action Committee shall be as provided in the Constitution of the Iowa Democratic Party.

ARTICLE VIII – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DUTIES

Sec. 1. Executive Committee Meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet for the purpose of carrying out the business of the Central Committee between regular meetings of the Central Committee, in accordance with the Bylaws.

Sec. 2. Authority of Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Central Committee between meetings of the Central Committee; however, if it is impractical for the Executive Committee to meet for such purpose, the Chair shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Executive Committee. No event, activity, function, or statement shall be represented as offered by or on behalf of the Central Committee without the consent of the Central Committee. The Central Committee shall have the authority to overrule the Executive Committee or the Chair by majority vote in any properly convened meeting.

Sec. 3. Lists. The Executive Committee may authorize the use of any lists maintained by the Poweshiek County Democratic Party by individuals and organizations, but shall not be required to do so. Any authorization of the use of lists shall be consistent with any provisions made in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX – ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Sec. 1. Associate Members. The following persons shall be Associate Members of the Poweshiek County Democratic Central Committee:

- A. All registered Democrats holding a state or county elected public office.
- B. All persons elected at the precinct caucuses in even-numbered years to be delegates to the county convention.
- C. All participants in precinct caucuses in even-numbered years placing their names on a list of persons willing to assist in activities supporting Democratic candidates in general elections.
- D. Other registered Democrats placing their names on a list of persons willing to assist in activities supporting Democratic candidates in general elections.

Sec. 2. Rights of Associate Members. Associate Members are entitled (but not obligated) to attend and speak at all meetings of the Poweshiek County Democratic Central Committee, but they do not have a right to vote.

ARTICLE X – CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Sec. 1. Regular Meetings. The Poweshiek County Democratic Central Committee shall hold regular meetings as provided in the Bylaws. A meeting shall be held at least once every three months.

Sec. 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called as provided in the Bylaws.

Sec. 3. Notice of Meetings. Notice of meetings, and the proceedings of any meeting, shall be as provided in the Bylaws.

Sec. 4. Open Meetings. All meetings of the Poweshiek County Democratic Party Central Committee shall be open to the public in the same manner as the meetings of a State of Iowa government agency.

ARTICLE XI – ELECTED OFFICIALS

Any state or county elected official who is a registered Democrat (or any registered Democrat filling a state or county partisan office by appointment) representing part of all of Poweshiek County who runs as a candidate against or supports another candidate for elective office who is running against a candidate nominated by the county, state, or national Democratic Party may be sent a public letter of reprimand from the Chair. Procedures for such letters shall be provided in the bylaws.

ARTICLE XII - ENDORSEMENTS

Sec. 1. Non-Partisan Elections. The Central Committee may endorse candidates for non-partisan office as prescribed in the Bylaws.

Sec. 2. Ballot Issues/Bond Referenda. The Central Committee may endorse a vote for or against a ballot issue or bond referendum as prescribed in the Bylaws, provided that any such endorsement is not contrary to provisions of the current Poweshiek County Democratic Platform.

Sec. 3. Partisan Primaries. The Central Committee shall not endorse any candidate in any partisan primary election.

ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any County Convention by a majority of the accredited delegates so assembled. All proposed amendments must be submitted to the Convention in writing, and must be delivered to the Chair of the Poweshiek County Democratic Party at least 14 days prior to the County Convention.