

Constitution of the Buffalo County Democratic Party

Article 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Buffalo County Democratic Party, dba the Buffalo County Dems & Friends, hereinafter referred to as the County Party.

Article 2: Purpose

The mission of the County Party is to promote and enact the platform of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and resolutions of the State and County Parties. We do this primarily by electing Democrats to public office who support our platform. We also advocate for issues included in, or related to, the platform and resolutions and work with other groups who have similar goals.

It shall be the responsibility of the County Party to:

- Develop the fullest possible membership in the county.
- Hold regularly scheduled meetings.
- Encourage candidates for all elected offices in Buffalo County.
- Form and maintain an effective campaign organization.
- Make recommendations to the Party platform.
- Promote the interests of the Democratic Party and progressive values in the county.

Article 3: Membership

Any resident of Buffalo County, at least 14 years of age, who subscribes to the principles of the Democratic Party is eligible for membership. They shall become a member upon payment of dues and receipt of such dues by the county party treasurer or the DPW. Membership automatically includes membership in a county party, the DPW and Congressional District in which the person resides.

Article 4: Organization

Section 1 (a) - The elected officers of the county shall include a chair, a vice-chair, a secretary, and a treasurer. The office of secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person. They shall be elected for a 2-year term at the annual meeting to be held in November or December of even number years.

Section 1 (b) - In addition the county party may provide for such additional officers as it desires. Such officers shall serve for a term to be set at the time of appointment or election.

Section 2 - Nomination for county party office may be made by a nominating committee and/or from the floor by a member. Any nomination must have prior consent of the nominee. Failure to obtain such prior consent shall invalidate the election of a person so nominated.

Section 3 - Election of a county party officer shall require a majority of those members present and voting. If two or more candidates are nominated for an office, election shall be by secret ballot when requested by any member. If a secret ballot is requested, the votes shall be tallied by a committee appointed by the chair and shall include one representative chosen by each candidate for the office in question.

Section 4 - The chair shall be the presiding officer at all meetings and shall act as administrative head of the organization. The chair shall have the power to appoint special project chairs, with the consent of the Executive Committee. Such special project chairs shall serve until the project is completed or the county chair's term of office expires.

Section 5 - The vice-chair shall be responsible for the executive direction of the county party in the event of the chair's absence or incapacitation.

Section 6 - The secretary shall maintain records of the organization, and ensure meeting notices are issued.

Section 7 - The treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the organization, shall make financial reports in writing at each county meeting and shall expend funds only in accordance with the directives of either the Executive Committee or the majority vote of the members. The treasurer shall also prepare such financial statements as are required by law and forward them to the proper county and/or state officials. The treasurer's books shall be submitted for review annually, before the annual meeting, to an auditor or to an auditing committee appointed by the chair.

Section 8 - In addition to the customary duties of the treasurer, that officer shall keep a record of all paid memberships.

Article 5: Executive Committee

Section 1 - The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of the county party, and such appointed party members as the Executive Committee shall ask to serve. In addition, the outgoing chair shall serve on the Executive Committee for two years.

Section 2 - The chair of the county party shall be the chair of the Executive Committee.

Section 3 - The Executive Committee may meet between county party meetings as needed and may be scheduled by any Executive Committee member. The support of a majority of committee members is needed to pass any actions concerning expenditure of funds or commitment of member time or county party resources. At least 3 elected officers or 50% of the committee members, whichever is less, will constitute a quorum for other business matters.

Section 4 - Concerning any matter needing timely action, the Executive Committee may act on behalf of the county party.

Section 5 - Decisions made by the Executive Committee shall be submitted to the next membership meeting for review. Modification, approval or reversal of such decisions, when feasible, may be done at that meeting.

Article 6: Dues and Finances

Section 1 - Membership dues shall be determined by the DPW Administrative Committee.

Section 2 - Funds for the county party treasury may be solicited from sources other than membership dues.

Article 7: Meetings

Section 1 - Upon a request by any member present, Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for meeting agenda items or business actions or motions. Otherwise actions and discussion will follow normal generally accepted meeting practices.

Section 2 - Unless otherwise scheduled, meetings shall be held at least quarterly. Notice of meetings should be given at least seven days in advance.

Section 3 - When three months elapse without a meeting of the county party, ten percent of the total members may petition the chair of the DPW, who shall call a membership meeting of the county party with at least ten (10) days' written notice first provided to the members.

Section 4 - The Annual Meeting for the purpose of electing officers and other business shall be held not earlier than November 1, nor later than the following December 31. At least ten days notice of such election must be given to each member entitled to vote and to the DPW. Such written notice may be in the form of electronic e-mail or U.S. postal mail. At any such election meeting, only members whose dues are paid and their membership dates cover such meeting date shall be eligible to vote. In the event the county chair shall fail to call such an election meeting within the period specified herein, the chair of the DPW shall be authorized to call such an election meeting as soon as practicable, providing that the provisions within this section with respect to notice shall be observed by the chair of the DPW.

Section 5 - Special meetings may be called by the chair or by the Executive Committee, or upon the written request of any ten members. Written notice of a special meeting shall be sent at least seven days before such meeting and shall contain a notice of the purpose of the meeting.

Section 6 - Five members or 25% of the county party's general membership, whichever is smaller, shall constitute a quorum for conducting business at any meeting.

Section 7 - The order of business shall be determined by the chair and new business shall be in order at every general membership meeting.

Article 8: Endorsements

The county party may endorse or support any candidate for any elective office in any election in accordance with the bylaws of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

Article 9: Amendments

Section 1 - This constitution shall be amended only at a regularly called meeting by a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting, provided there is a quorum.

Section 2 - This constitution and amendments hereto shall be sent to the DPW Constitution Committee before becoming effective.

Article 10: Constitutional Precedence

Section 1 - This constitution shall supersede any previous rules to the contrary made by the county party.

Section 2 - If and when it shall appear that this Constitution is in conflict with the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, the latter shall prevail.

Adopted at the annual meeting of the Buffalo County Democratic Party on December 20, 2025.

Terry Schoonover
County Chair

Jen Brand
County Secretary