

# SCHUYLER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

## WATKINS GLEN, NEW YORK

### Constitution & By-Laws

Adopted: Aug. 23, 1930

Revised: July 5, 1962

Amended: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Article I - Name and Purpose:

Section 1. The organization of the Democratic Party in Schuyler County shall be known as the "Democratic Committee of Schuyler County, New York".

Section 2. The purpose of this organization shall be the advancement of the Democratic Party in Schuyler County, New York

#### Article II - Membership:

Section 1. Biennially, in each even numbered year, in the primaries for each election district, there shall be two members elected by each election district in the County who shall be residents of that district and enrolled Democrats at the time of the election and throughout their term of office.

Section 2. As far as practicable, the members shall be equally divided between the sexes.

Section 3. The members shall be elected to the County Committee in the manner provided by law.

#### Article III - Organization and meetings:

Section 1. The elected members of the County Committee shall meet within the time limited and organize in the manner provided by law.

Section 2. The chairman of the last County Committee shall fix the time and place for the organization meeting as provided by law, and shall notify each member of said County Committee by mail. The notice of the meeting must be in the hands of the County Committee members five (5) days before the meeting.

Section 3. At the organization meeting the Secretary of the last County Committee or one designated by the chairman shall preside, call the roll of the elected members, and preside over the election of a chairman. Immediately upon the election of the chairman the meeting shall be turned over to the chairman who shall preside over the election of a vice-chairman, a secretary and a treasurer.

Section 4. The County Committee may appoint such other officers as it may deem advisable.

Section 5. Each of the officers of the County Committee shall be enrolled Democrats, but need not be members of the committee.

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Section 6. The officers, elected or appointed shall discharge the usual duties attached to their respective offices, and only such other duties which the County Committee or the Chairman of the County Committee shall direct.

Section 7. The terms of office of each officer and each member of the County Committee shall be as provided by law, and said officers shall hold office until their successors are elected and duly organized. Emergency action may be taken by the Executive Committee hereinafter mentioned.

Section 8. Meetings of the County Committee may be called at any time by the chairman, and shall be called upon the request of twenty (20) members in writing to the chairman, and notices of said meeting shall be given as in Section 2 of Article 3 of these laws.

A. There shall be two roll call meetings, at which regular business may be conducted, of the County Committee during each calendar year. The County Chairman will be responsible for setting the date, time and place of the meeting.

1. The secretary shall be responsible for notifying ~~all~~ all committee members and officers. The notice must be in writing and reach the committee members five days before the date of the meeting. Failure on the part of the chairman to call such meetings shall constitute neglect of duty and just cause for removal as provided in Section 1, Article 9. Such meeting shall, and must, commence any time between the hours of 7 and 9 p.m.

Section 9. With the one exception of the General Meeting as provided in Article IV, Section 1 (e-5), a quorum to conduct any meeting pursuant to these rules shall consist of a majority of the members present, in person or by written proxy presented at the proper time and form as herein provided.

Section 10. Voting shall be by ayes and nays unless a member present requests a roll call, or ballot vote, in which event the voting power of each member shall be in proportion to the party vote in his district as cast for governor in the last preceding gubernatorial election.

Section 11. A committeeman may be represented by a designated proxy in writing signed by such committeeman, which proxy shall be filed with the secretary or the chairman of the county committee before the opening of the meeting for which, the proxy is given. No such proxy shall be valid which designates as proxy one who does not reside in the district represented by the issuing committee member and who is not an enrolled Democrat appearing as such in the last available County party registration roll. No individual will be permitted to serve as more than one proxy. And the proxy will be valid for only one meeting or occasion. In addition the proxy will be submitted in the form provided and approved by the County Committee in order to be valid.

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## Article IV - Committees:

Section I. There shall be an executive committee consisting of the County Chairman, one member of the Democratic State Committee, and six (6) members to be appointed by the County Chairman as follows: one (1) Democrat member from the Schuyler County Board of Supervisors, if any; and five members at large. At least three (3) members thereof shall be women, two of which will be recommended by the Democratic Women's Organization of Schuyler County. One member shall be such a person to be a representative of small business throughout the County. The remaining two members shall represent Labor and Farm and if possible will be selected from the official staff of a labor union and farm organization. All members of the Democratic executive Committee shall be registered Democrats so designated by the last available County party registration roll.

(a) A quorum for an Executive Committee meeting shall consist of five (5) members present in person.

(b) Proxies shall not be used for an Executive Committee meeting.

(c) The Executive Committee may be called into session by the chairman or at the request of three (3) members thereof in writing to the Chairman.

(d) The Executive Committee shall, when the County Committee is not in session, have the same powers and perform the same and all duties of the County Committee that are not contrary to law.

(e) In the absence of a nominating committee the Executive Committee will be responsible for the nomination of candidates on the County, State and National level in the following manner.

1. The County Committee will be notified as provided in Section 2, Article III of a General Meeting at least sixty (60) days before the Primary Election for the purpose of nominating candidates to appear on the Primary Ballot, petitions or General Election ballot or in the case of a National or State Convention a letter of recommendation to the delegates to said conventions, whatever the case.

2. The meeting will be open to all registered Democrats and it will be the duty of Committee members to see that Democrats from their respective districts are notified or alerted of the General Meeting.

3. Any Democrat registered as such in the last available County registration book will have a right to be recognized and make nominations.

4. The County Committee members will serve as delegates and will vote as provided by Section 10, Article III. Proxies may be used as provided in Section 11, Article III.

5. The quorum to conduct this meeting shall consist of a majority of the members of the County Committee in person or by written proxy presented at the proper time and form as designated by the County Committee.

6. In the event that less than a majority of the County Committee is present as provided in Article IV Section 1, (e-5) a majority of the Executive Committee must approve the action or motions of the County Committee.

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- (f) The meeting will be presided over by the Chairman and the secretary will keep a record of the proceedings. Other members of the Executive Committee will serve as officers of the meeting and may be directed in their duties by the chairman.
- (g) Any person selected at such meeting will be the party's choice to appear on the petition, primary ballot, general election ballot or recommended to delegates to conventions whichever is the case.
- (h) Members of the Executive Committee may be removed as provided by Section 1, Article IX.

Section 2. The members of the Executive Committee shall elect the members of the Assembly Judicial, Congressional and Senatorial District Committees, or may constitute or act as such committees.

Section 3. The members of the County Committee elected by the Election Districts of the several towns of the County, or the several Villages of the County shall constitute, respectively, the Democratic Town and Village Committees for all purposes required by Statute or otherwise.

## Article V: Duties of Committees:

Section 1. The Village and Town committees shall call all required primaries or caucuses for the nomination of officers in their respective Townships or Municipalities. In the event said Committee fails to call such primaries or caucuses, or in the event that there is no member of such committee available to make such call, then said primaries or caucuses shall be called by the chairman of the County Committee. The County Committee Secretary will be responsible for notifying at least one Committee member from each Township of the particulars and necessary forms to be filed pertaining to the primaries or caucuses. In turn the committee member notified will be responsible for notifying all other committee members in the Township or Municipality and he/she will be responsible for the organization of the primaries or caucuses and of alerting registered Democrats of such primaries or caucuses. In the case of the caucus same will not be valid unless attended by at least five (5) per cent of the registered Democrats of the Township or Municipality as listed in the last available registration roll.

## Article VI - Town and Village Primaries or Caucuses:

### Section 1.

(a) All Town and Village primaries shall be called for some hour between two o'clock p.m. and eight o'clock p.m. as the committee shall determine in making the call therefor.

(b) The chairman of the Village or Town Committee or one designated by the committee to order when it shall be organized by the selection of a chairman and secretary elected by a majority of all persons present, entitled to vote at such primary and the primary shall be held open at least fifteen minutes after the organization thereof. No person shall be entitled to vote at such primary unless his name appears upon the last available enrollment book as a registered Democrat.

Section 2. In case five Democratic electors qualified to vote at the primary to be held in the district shall serve notice upon the Secretary

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or Chairman of the primary a written demand stating that they shall require the following additional requirements, or so many of them as may be specified in such demand shall be complied with.

- (1) The Chairman and other officers shall take the Constitutional oath of office.
- (2) Candidates and delegates and officers of the organization or committee shall be chosen by ballot.
- (3) The meeting shall be held open not less than one hour for the voting thereat.
- (4) The teller shall keep a poll list of the names and residences of each person voting and assist the Secretary in the canvass of votes.
- (5) The elector shall be appointed watcher for each candidate or set of candidates or delegates requesting the same.
- (6) The Secretary shall publicly announce the number of votes cast for each candidate and the result of the canvass at the completion thereof, and shall file a statement of such result and the oaths taken at such Primary or caucus and the poll list kept thereat in the office of the Town Clerk of the Town, and the papers so filed shall be public records and open to inspection and examination by any voter of the State.

### **Article VII - Special Elections:**

Section 1. Party nominations for an office to be voted for at special election shall be made by the party committee representing the unit of representation for which said office is to be filled. Viz: Village or Town members of the County Committee within their respective Village of Town limits.

### **Article VIII - Designation of Candidates:**

Section 1. Designation of candidates for party positions shall be made as directed by law and as herein stated.

### **Article IX - Removal of Members of Committee and Officers of Committee:**

Section 1. A member or officer of the party committee may be removed by such committee for disloyalty to the party, or corruption or neglect of duty in office after notice and hearing upon written charges to be heard by the committee or sub-committee thereof appointed for that purpose by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Secretary or by provisions of Article III, Section 8. This committee or sub-committee shall report its findings to the County Committee or to the Executive Committee of the County Committee. The action of any committee in removing a member thereof, or officer thereof, as herein provided for may be reviewed in a summary proceeding before the Supreme Court, or Justice thereof, upon petition of the person so removed. Removal of a committee member or an officer in accordance of this provision shall also constitute automatic removal from any other office held in the Democratic Party.

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## Article X - Vacancies:

Section 1. Where a vacancy occurs in the County Committee or office of that committee, such vacancy shall be filled by the remaining members of said committee or by the Executive Committee of the County Committee by the selection of an enrolled voter of the party qualified for election from the unit of representation as to which said vacancy shall occur. In case of an emergency, or in the absence of a meeting of the aforementioned committee temporary appointments may be made by the Chairman and confirmed or made permanent by a later meeting of such committee.

## Article XI - Amendment of Rules:

Section 1. ~~These~~ rules may be amended from time to time by a majority vote of the County Committee as provided by law, or by the Executive Committee upon a request of the County Chairman, or by a majority vote of committee members present at a roll call meeting of the County Committee.

Article ~~XII~~ - These rules as herein revised will become effective as of 12:01 a.m. on Sept. 15, 1962.

Submitted by the Constitutional Revision Committee  
George F. Scaptura, chairman

Approved by resolution by unanimous vote of the Schuyler County Democratic Committee on July 5, 1962.

Dated Sept 6, 1962

George F. Scaptura  
Acting Chairman

Attested:

Edna E. Schultz  
Secretary

I, Edna E. Schultz, secretary of the Schuyler County Democratic Committee, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the document adopted as the constitution and by-laws of the Schuyler County Democratic Committee at a meeting held the 5th day of July, 1962. I further certify that same constitutes amendments to the original rules of the Schuyler County Democratic Committee.

Edna E. Schultz  
Edna E. Schultz